

# Levi Van Sant

## Assistant Professor

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### EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of Georgia, Geography and Integrative Conservation, May 2016  
Dissertation: *Plantation Geographies: Agriculture, Race, and Science in the South Carolina Lowcountry*  
Supervised by Dr. Nik Heynen

M.A., University of Georgia, History, with graduate certificate, Conservation Ecology, May 2009  
Thesis: *Representing Nature, Reordering Society: Eugene Odum, Ecosystem Ecology, and Environmental Politics*  
Supervised by Dr. Paul S. Sutter

B.A., University of Georgia, History and Political Science, May 2004

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental governance, Agriculture and land-use, Racial capitalism, Critical theory

### GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, and AWARDS

2017	<i>Human Geography</i> Journal Research Grant (with Dean Hardy)	\$4,991
2015	AAG Rural Geography Specialty Group Student Research Award	\$750
2014	National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant	\$14,335
2014	UGA Graduate School Dean's Award	\$1,000
2013	Harvard History Project Research Grant	\$3,000
2013	Association of American Geographers Dissertation Research Award	\$500
2013	Harvard Center for the Study of Capitalism Research Fellowship	\$2,000

### PUBLICATIONS

#### *Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles*

Van Sant, L. (2018). Glacial History and the Plantation Present. Special Forum, *Progress in Human Geography*. DOI: 10.1177/0309132518799595

Van Sant, L., Hennessy, E., and Domosh, M., eds. (2018) Historical Geographies of, and for, the Present. Special Forum, *Progress in Human Geography*. DOI: 10.1177/0309132518799595

Van Sant, L. (2018). "The Long-Time Requirements of the Nation": The US Cooperative Soil Survey and the Political Ecologies of Improvement. *Antipode*. DOI: 10.1111/anti.12460

Van Sant, L. and Bosworth, K. (2017). Race, Rurality, and Radical Geography in the US. *Antipode*. Available at: [antipodefoundation.org/2017/09/14/race-rurality-and-radical-geography](http://antipodefoundation.org/2017/09/14/race-rurality-and-radical-geography).

Van Sant, L. (2016). "Into the Hands of Negroes": Reproducing Plantation Geographies in the South Carolina Lowcountry. *Geoforum*, 77,196-205.

Van Sant, L. (2016). When Local Comes to Town: Governing Local Agriculture in the South Carolina Lowcountry. *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, 28(2), 64-83.

Van Sant, L. (2015). Lowcountry Visions: Foodways and Race in Coastal South Carolina. *Gastronomica: The Journal of Critical Food Studies*, 15(4), 18-26.

R. Vercoe, N. Heynen, D. Hardy, J. Demoss, S. Bonney, K. Allen, P. Brosius, D. Charles, B. Crawford, S. Heisel, R. de Jesús-Crespo, N. Nibbelink, L. Parker, C. Pringle, A. Shaw, **L. Van Sant**, M. Welch-Devine. (2014). Acknowledging Trade-offs and Understanding Complexity: Exurbanization Issues in Macon County, North Carolina. *Ecology and Society*, 19(1), 23-34.

### *Special Issues Guest-Edited*

Van Sant, L., Milligan, R., and Mollett, S. (2019). Political Ecologies of Race: Settler Colonialism and Environmental Racism in Canada and the US. *Antipode* (Forthcoming).

### *Book Chapters*

Engel-Di Mauro, S. and **Van Sant, L.**, "Soil as Commodity and Dirt: Alienation, Value, and Care," in *Thinking with Soils: Material Politics and Social Theory*, Bloomsbury: London (Forthcoming).

Davis, J., A. Moulton, **L. Van Sant**, and B. Williams, "Grounding Racial Capitalism: Land and the Black Freedom Struggle in the American Colonial Present," in *The Handbook of Historical Geography*, New York: Routledge, (Forthcoming).

Heynen, N. and **Van Sant, L.**, (2015) "Political Ecologies of Activism and Direct Action Politics," in *The Handbook of Political Ecology*, London: Sage, pp. 169-178.

### *Book Reviews*

Gabe Rosenberg, *The 4-H Harvest: Sexuality and the State in Rural America*, in *Human Geography*, vol. 10, no. 2, 2017.

Salvatore Engel-Di Mauro, *Ecology, Soils, and the Left: An Eco-Social Approach*, in *Journal of Political Ecology*, Spring 2015.

John Warren, et al., *The Agri-Environment*, in *Agricultural History*, Winter 2010.

### *Policy Papers*

Brown, T., L. German, A. Jagadish, D. Read, J. Weger, K. Williams, **L. Van Sant**, L. Pope, and E. Urban. (2017) "The Success of Oconee County and the Challenges of Implementing USDA Agricultural Land Easements in Georgia," *Food First* Online.

Read, D., L. German, J. Weger, A. Jagadish, U. Kalita and **L. Van Sant** (2016) A method for identifying "best bet" counties for advancing equitable access to USDA programs: The case of agricultural land easements. *Land Notes* 4. Available at: [//iglab.uga.edu/landnotes.html](http://iglab.uga.edu/landnotes.html)

### *Public Writing*

Van Sant, L., "Land Reform and the Green New Deal," *Dissent*, Fall 2019.

Huff, A. and **L. Van Sant**, "Authoritarianism, populism, and political ecology," Entitleblog.org, November 2018.

Van Sant, L., "A redneck revolt? Radical responses to Trumpism in the rural US," [opendemocracy.net](http://opendemocracy.net), April 2018.

Van Sant, L., "Immigration and Agribusiness in Georgia," *Flagpole Magazine*, Athens, GA., June 2011.

Athens Urban Food Collective, "Repurposing Public Space to Meet Local Food Needs," *Flagpole Magazine*, Athens, GA., December 2010.

### **INVITED LECTURES**

"Geographies of Land Reform and the Green New Deal"  
Yi-Fu Tuan Lecture, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fall 2019

"Researching the Plantation Present in the South Carolina Lowcountry"  
Oral History Workshop (for undergraduate researchers), College of Charleston, Summer 2018.

"Plantation Geographies: Race, Agriculture, and Science in the South Carolina Lowcountry,"  
History and Philosophy of Science Seminar, University of Texas-Austin, Fall 2015.

"Sustainability, Social Justice, and Local Food Systems,"  
UGA Center for Integrative Conservation Research, Fall 2012.

"Ecology and Epistemology," UGA Odum School of Ecology, Fall 2009.

### **INVITED WORKSHOPS**

2019 Dartmouth College, NH  
Ruralities: Culture, History, Politics

2019 University of Vermont, VT  
9<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial UK-US-Canadian Rural Geography Workshop

2018 International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, Netherlands  
Authoritarian Populism and the Rural World

2017 University of Sheffield, United Kingdom  
Rediscovering Soils: Knowledge and Care in the World of Soils

2016 Rutgers University, NJ  
Workshop on the History of Environment, Agriculture, Technology, and Science

2015 Chicago, IL  
AAG Pre-conference on Critical Physical Geography

2015 Cardiff University, United Kingdom  
8th Quadrennial UK-US-Canadian Rural Geography Workshop

2013 Emory University Postcolonial Studies Workshop, GA  
Class Analysis and the Politics of the People

#### **PAPERS PRESENTED AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS**

Van Sant, L. "Conserving What? Conservation Easements and Environmental Justice in the Coastal US South," 9th Quadrennial UK-US-Canadian Rural Geography Conference, Vermont, US; July 17, 2019.

Van Sant, L. "Glacial History and the Plantation Present," 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, New Orleans, LA, April 12, 2018.

Van Sant, L. "Plantation Geographies: Governing Land and Race in the British (Post)colonies," 113th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Boston, MA, April 5, 2017.

Van Sant, L. "Plantation Geographies: Agriculture, Race, and Science in the South Carolina Lowcountry, 1865-Present," 112th Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, San Francisco, CA, March 27, 2016.

Van Sant, L. "Plantation Geographies: Racial and Agricultural Governance in the South Carolina Lowcountry," 6th Annual Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, Lexington, KY; February 26, 2016.

Van Sant, L. "Plantation Geographies: Racial Politics and Agricultural Governance in the South Carolina Lowcountry." 8th Quadrennial UK-US-Canadian Rural Geography Conference, Wales, UK; July 8, 2015.

Van Sant, L. "Political Ecology and Colonialism." 111th Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Chicago, IL; April 24, 2015.

Van Sant, L. "Plantation Geographies: Agricultural Governance in the South Carolina Lowcountry." 5th Annual Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, Lexington, KY; February, 21, 2015.

Van Sant, L. "Towards a Renewed Political Ecology of Soil: Race and Agricultural Surveys in the South Carolina Lowcountry." 110th Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Tampa, FL; April 2014.

Van Sant, L. "Towards a Renewed Political Ecology of Soil: The 1971 Charleston County Soil Survey," 4th Annual Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, Lexington, KY; February, 21, 2014.

Van Sant, L. "When Local Comes to Town: Towards a Political Ecology of the Urban-Rural Rift," 109th Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Los Angeles, CA; April 2013.

Van Sant, L. "Geographies of Food and Agriculture: Towards a Theory of Urban-Rural Rift." 3rd Annual Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, Lexington, KY; February, 18, 2013.

Van Sant, L. "Reading Wendell Berry as Critical Theory: Political Ecology, Environmental History, and Agrarianism." 2nd Annual Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, Lexington, KY; April, 12, 2012.

Van Sant, L. "Eugene Odum, Ecosystem Ecology, and the Fallacy of Placeless Knowledge." 1st Annual Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, Lexington, KY; February, 21, 2011.

Van Sant, L. "Southern Regions Revisited: Eugene Odum, Ecological Research, and the Fallacy of Placeless Knowledge" Network in Canadian History and Environment "Place and Placelessness" Workshop, November 2010.

Van Sant, L. "Eugene Odum, Coastal Conservation, and the Politics of Place" Agricultural, Rural and Environmental History, University of South Carolina, April 2010.

Van Sant, L. "Searching for the Fundamentals of Ecology: Eugene Odum, Ecosystem Ecology, and Environmental Politics." Annual Meeting of the American Society for Environmental History Conference Tallahassee, FL; April 2009.

Van Sant, L. "A Tale of Two Cities: Towards a Thick Integration of Geography and History" Southern Forum on Agricultural, Rural, and Environmental History, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC; September 2009.

Van Sant, L. "Ecosystem Ecology: A Southern Science?" Southern Regional History of Science and Technology (HoST) Conference, Emory University; November 2008.

Van Sant, L. "Backlashes, both Environmental and Social: Ecology and Agriculture in the Age of Environmentalism" Mississippi State University; March 2008.

## **PANELS ORGANIZED AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS**

2019 Association of American Geographers Annual Conference,  
"Towards a Global Geography of the Plantation, I and II"

2018 Association of American Geographers Annual Conference,  
“Emancipatory Rural Politics, I and II”

2018 Association of American Geographers Annual Conference,  
“Historical Methods and Critical Geography”

2016 Association of American Geographers Annual Conference,  
“Race and the Agrarian Question, I-IV”

2016 Dimensions of Political Ecology, University of Kentucky,  
“The Racial Politics of Agriculture”

2015 Association of American Geographers Annual Conference,  
“Political Ecology and Race, I-III”

2015 Dimensions of Political Ecology, University of Kentucky,  
“Agriculture and the Colonial Present, I-II”

2014 Association of American Geographers Annual Conference,  
"Political Ecology and Race, I-III”

2014 Dimensions of Political Ecology, University of Kentucky,  
"State, Nature, and Race"

2013 Association of American Geographers Annual Conference,  
“Fragments of an Anarchist Geography: A Conversation”

2009 American Society for Environmental History Conference,  
“Science and Health at the Dawn of American Environmentalism”

### **PANELS, SERVED AS DISCUSSANT**

“Political Ecology and Methodology,” 112th Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, San Francisco, CA, March 27, 2016.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

George Mason University

Environmental Justice, Fall 2019

Georgia Southern University

Graduate Seminar in Political Ecology, Fall 2018

Cultural Geography, Fall 2016, 2017, 2018

Economic Geography, Fall 2016, 2017

World Regional Geography, Fall 2016, 2017, 2018; Spring 2017, 2018, 2019

Geography of Africa, Spring 2017

Introduction to Human Geography, Spring 2017, 2019

Political Geography, Spring 2018

Geography of Latin America, Spring 2018

Geographies of the US South, Spring 2019

College of Charleston

Graduate Seminar on Nature, Culture, and Power, Spring 2015

World Regional Geography, Fall 2014/Spring 2016

University of Georgia

Introduction to Human Geography, Summer 2014

**GRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISION**

*M.A. Committee Member*

Chapman Lindstrom (Georgia Southern University, Applied Geography)  
“Assessing Gentrification related to the Atlanta Beltline”

Zachary Steinkoenig (College of Charleston, Environmental Studies)  
“Local Fisherman’s Knowledge and Perceptions of Marine Protected Areas in the Phillipines”

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Summer 2017, participant  
Student-Centered Pedagogy Workshop, Georgia Southern University

August 2016-present, committee chair  
Georgia Southern University, Geology and Geography Department Seminar Series

April 2014-present, board member,  
AAG Geography of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group

2014-2015, historian,  
AAG Graduate Student Affinity Group

Fall 2011-Spring 2014, graduate school assistantship, UGA Center for Integrative Conservation

Fall 2010-Spring 2011, teaching assistant, UGA Department of Geography

2009, archival project manager, UGA Hargrett Library

2008, research assistant under Dr. Shane Hamilton's NSF Scholar's Award

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY ACADEMIC INITIATIVES**

UGA Food and Agriculture Discussion Group,  
Founder, Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Workshop.

Political Ecology and STS Working Group,  
Co-convener, UGA Geography Department.

“Food, Agriculture, and the Future” Research Node,  
Co-convener, UGA Center for Integrative Conservation.

## **ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS FACILITATED**

*National Climate Assessment - Rural Communities Workshop*,  
Rapporteur, February 13-14, 2012.

## **COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS (CO-) ORGANIZED AND/OR FACILITATED**

*Athens Food Activist Networking Session* (with Craig Page of *Promoting Local Agriculture and Cultural Experience* (P.L.A.C.E), and the Athens Urban Food Collective (AUFC))

## **REVIEWER**

*Annals of the American Association of Geographers*

*Antipode*

*Environment and Planning: E*

*Geoforum*

*Journal of Peasant Studies*

National Science Foundation – Geography and Spatial Sciences Program

## **CURRENT PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Association of Geographers,

Specialty Groups: Geography of Food and Agriculture (Board Member);

Political and Cultural Ecology; Critical Geography; Black Geographies; Indigenous Peoples

## **REFEREES**

*Nik Heynen*

nheynen@uga.edu (Professor of Geography, University of Georgia)

*Vinay Gidwani*

gidwa002@umn.edu (Professor of Geography, University of Minnesota)