

CURRICULUM VITAE

VERENA SEUFERT

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EDUCATION

- 2010 - 2016 **Doctor of Philosophy in Geography**, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.
- 2004 – 2009 **Diploma in Biology**, Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg, Germany.
- 1992 - 2004 **European Baccalaureate**, European School of Varese, Italy.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Since 2016 **Postdoctoral Fellow** at the *Liu Institute for Global Issues*, and the *Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES)*, *University of British Columbia*, Vancouver, Canada.
- 2010-2016 **PhD thesis & graduate research assistant** at the *Dept. of Geography, McGill University*, examining the contribution of organic agriculture to global sustainable food security. Supervisor: Navin Ramankutty. Supervisory committee: Madhav Badami, Elena Bennett, Sarah Turner.
- 2009 **Diploma thesis** at the *Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)* about the role of nitrogen in crop productivity and its implementation into a model of the managed planetary land surface. Supervisors: Christoph Müller, Wolfgang Cramer (PIK) and Werner Kaiser (University Würzburg).
- 2007 **Research project** on seed dispersal by Sykes monkeys in South Africa, investigating the quality of seed treatment by Sykes monkeys and the secondary fate of seeds spat. Supervisor: Frauke Fischer (University Würzburg).
- 2007 Employment as **research assistant** collecting pollen and examining its composition in the project *Biodiversity Exploratories, Invertebrates II* in the team of Nico Blüthgen, Department of Tropical Biology and Animal Ecology, University of Würzburg.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2017 **Instructor, Future Global Leaders program** – *Global Food Security: Challenges, Claims and Solutions*, University of British Columbia, July 16-29, 2017.
Instructor, One Day @ UBC course – *Separating the wheat from the chaff - what do we know about how best to produce our food?*, University of British Columbia, March 11, 2017.
- 2016 **Guest lecture** on ‘Contribution of organic agriculture to global sustainable food security’ in RMES 500T – *Global Food Security and Sustainability*, IRES, University of British Columbia.
- 2013 **Lecturer** GEOG 360 - *Analyzing Sustainability*. Dept. Geography, McGill University.
- 2012 **Guest lecturer and Teaching assistant** GEOG 360 – *Analyzing Sustainability*, Dept. Geography, McGill University.
- 2011 & 2012 **Guest lecture** on ‘Organic agriculture and soils’ in GEOG 305 – *Soils and Environment*, Dept. Geography, McGill University.
- 2010 **Teaching assistant** GEOG 200 – *Geographical Perspectives on World Environmental Problems*, Dept. Geography, McGill University.
- 2006 & 2007 **Teaching assistant** in laboratory courses on *Photobiology* and *Cytology and Anatomy of Plants*, Dept. Molecular Plant Physiology and Biophysics, University of Würzburg.

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- 2012 **Participation in winter school** ‘Limits to Growth Revisited’, organized by the Volkswagen Foundation, Visselhoevede, Germany.
- 2008 **Internship** at press office of *German Federal Environmental Agency (Umweltbundesamt)*, Dessau, contributing to everyday work of the press office, writing press releases and organizing public events.
Participation in the 14th **International Summer Academy** “Childhood and youth are changing! Environmental

education too?” in Ostritz-St. Marienthal organized by the *German Federal Environmental Organization* (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, DBU).

Participation in the ‘Plaza of Diversity’ **side event to COP9** of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) organized by the *Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt* (DBU) in Bonn, Germany.

Participation in the Greek **Summer School** „Introduction to Conservation Biology“ in Papingo, Greece, organized by the *European Section of the Society for Conservation Biology*.

2007-2008 **Internship** in the *Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania*, working in the context of the black rhino monitoring program.

2006 **Internship** at the “GEO-biodiversity day” of the *GEO magazine*, Hamburg, working in environmental education and public relations.

2005 **Internship** and subsequent **freelance work** for the newspaper *Mainpost*, Würzburg, Germany, writing articles for the regional page and the youth section.

2004 **Study trip** to Galicia, Spain, investigating the consequences of a tanker accident for land and people supported by the *zis Foundation for Travel Grants*.

2002 **Internship** in the Wadden Sea National Park with the *Society for the Protection of the Wadden Sea (Schutzstation Wattenmeer)*, Germany, doing environmental education and wildlife monitoring.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2016 Young Researcher Best Oral Presentation, Global Land Project (GLP), 3rd Open Science Meeting, Beijing.

2015 Dissertation Writing Stipend, Department of Geography, McGill University (\$4,160).

2014 Dissertation Writing Stipend, Department of Geography, McGill University (\$3,000).

2013 Heller Family Fellowship in Arts and Sciences (\$5,000).

2012 McGill Institute for the Study of International Development (ISID) Research to Practice Graduate Student Fellowship in Development Studies (\$2,000).

Global Environmental and Climate Change Centre (GEC3) Graduate Student Stipend (\$2,000).

2011 GEC3 Student Travel Award (\$1,000).

GEC3 Graduate Student Stipend (\$4,000).

2010 Principal’s Graduate Fellowship, McGill University (\$5,000).

Graduate Enrolment and Recruitment Initiative Fellowship, McGill University (\$10,000).

2007 Short Internship Scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for a research project on seed dispersal by Sykes monkeys in South Africa (800€).

2004 Liane-Wuttig prize from the *zis Foundation for Travel Grants* for the study project “Galicias black trauma – the consequences of the Prestige accident for land and people” (250€).

Travel grant from the *zis Foundation* for a study trip to Galicia, Spain investigating the consequences of a tanker accident for land and people (500€).

SCIENCE OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

2016 **TV interview** with Steve Paikin, *The Agenda, TV Ontario*, May 2, 2016, <http://tvo.org/video/programs/the-agenda-with-steve-paikin/verena-seufert-harnessing-organic-agriculture>

2015 **Blog post** about mental health in grad school, March 23, 2015, <http://chanslabviews.blogspot.ca/2015/03/harder-than-rocket-science-fumbling.html>

2014 **Interview** with journalist Sarah Elton, and coverage of my research in her book “*Consumed: Food for a Finite Planet?*” (The University of Chicago Press).

2012 **Interviews** with journalists on study comparing organic and conventional yields published in *Nature*, coverage in numerous online, radio and print media (e.g. *CNN International, Scientific American, BBC, CBC, ABC, Süddeutsche, ORF, Voice of America, The Guardian, NY Times, LA Times, La Presse, Le Devoir*).

Live radio interview with Marc Montgomery, The Link, Radio Canada International, May 1, 2012.

Contribution to The Conversation, scientific news website: *There is nothing black or white about organic agriculture*, May 21, 2012, <http://theconversation.edu.au/theres-nothing-black-or-white-about-organic-agriculture-6687>

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Member of Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, Bund Naturschutz in Bayern e.V.

2005–
2009 **Involvement in municipal politics**, e.g. board member of the Würzburg section of the German Green Party (Kreisverband Würzburg Stadt, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen) and chairwoman of the Young Greens (Grüne Jugend) Würzburg.

Involvement in university politics, e.g. member of different committees (extended senate, student parliament, different commissions) at the University of Würzburg and Member in the Green campus group (Grüne Hochschulgruppe) Würzburg.

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Peer reviewer for *African Journal of Ecology*, *Biological Reviews*, *BioScience*, *Earth System Dynamics*, *Food Security*, *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, *Global Environmental Change*, *Global Food Security*, *Landscape and Urban Planning*, *Nature*, *Nature Communications*, *PeerJ*, *PLOS ONE*, *Trends in Plant Science*.

Reviewer profile: <https://publons.com/author/1204336/verena-seufert#profile>

Peer reviewer for a Swiss granting agency.

Member of American Geophysical Union (AGU), Association of American Geographers (AAG), Ecological Society of America (ESA).

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (citations from Google Scholar, excluding self-citations)

- 8 **Seufert, V.**, Ramankutty, N., Austin, S., Turner, S. & Badami, M. (*In review*). Organic Agriculture in Kerala, India: Motivations and Livelihood Outcomes of Different Farmer Types. *World Development*.
- 7 **Seufert, V.**, Mehrabi, Z., Gabriel, D. & Benton, T. (*In review*). Current and potential contribution of organic agriculture to the diversification of the food production system. In: *Agro-ecosystem Diversity: Reconciling contemporary agriculture and environmental quality* edited by Lemaire, G., Carvalho, P., Kronberg, S. & Recous, S. (Invited book chapter).
- 6 **Seufert, V.** & Ramankutty, N. (*In press*). Many shades of grey - The context-dependent performance of organic agriculture. *Science Advances*.
- 5 **Seufert, V.**, Ramankutty, N. & Mayerhofer, T. (2017). What is this thing called organic? - How organic farming is codified in regulations. *Food Policy* 68, 10-20.
- 4 Erb, K.-H., Luyssaert, S., Meyfroidt, P., Pongratz, J., Don, A., Kloster, S., Kuemmerle, T., Fetzel, T., Fuchs, R., Herold, M., Haberl, H., Jones, C. D., Marín Spiotta, E., McCallum, I., Robertson, E., **Seufert, V.**, Fritz, S., Valade, A., Wiltshire, A., Dolman, A. J. (*In press*). Land management: data availability and process understanding for global change studies. *Global Change Biology*, doi: 10.1111/gcb.13443.
- 3 Martellozzo, F., Landry, J.-S., Plouffe, D., **Seufert, V.**, Rowhani, P., Ramankutty, N. (2014). Urban agriculture: a global analysis of the space constraints to meet urban vegetable demand. *Environmental Research Letters* 9, 064025.
Citations: 23
- 2 **Seufert, V.**, Ramankutty, N. & Foley, J. A. (2012). Comparing the yields of organic and conventional agriculture. *Nature* 485, 229-232.
Citations: 565
- 1 **Seufert, V.**, Linden, B. & Fischer, F. (2010). Revealing secondary seed removers: results from camera trapping. *African Journal of Ecology* 48, 914-922.
Citations: 19

Forthcoming

- i Cattell Noll, L., Leach, A., **Seufert, V.**, Galloway, J., Atwell, B., Erisman, J. W. & Shade, J. How does consuming organic products affect my nitrogen footprint? *Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment* (to be submitted by January 2017).
- ii **Seufert, V.**, Granath, G. & Müller, C. Nitrogen and crop photosynthesis – I. A meta-analysis of crop response patterns to N limitation. *Global Change Biology* (to be submitted by February 2017).
- iii **Seufert, V.** & Müller, C. Nitrogen and crop photosynthesis – I. A meta-regression analysis of the A_{\max} - N_L

relationship. *Global Change Biology* (to be submitted by February 2017).

- iv **Seufert, V.**, Ramankutty, N., Reid, A., Wood, S., Haberman, D., Rhemtulla, J., Gonzalez, A., Benton, T. & Gabriel, D. Landscape context controls the biodiversity benefits of organic agriculture. *Landscape Ecology* (to be submitted by March 2017).
- v **Seufert, V.**, Rowhani, P., Nicholas, K., Leip, A. & Ramankutty, N. Mapping European Agromes – management characteristics, environmental outcomes and food production. *Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment* (to be submitted by April 2016).
- vi **Seufert, V.**, Jarvis, L. & Ramankutty, N. Agromes – mapping farming systems of the world. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* (to be submitted by April 2017).

INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

- 2017 **Seufert, V.**, Panel discussion on 'Is a 100% Organic World Environmentally Sustainable?'. *Food, The Future, And You Symposium, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, January 26, 2017.*
- 2016 **Seufert, V.**, Agromes – mapping the Agricultural Biomes of the world. *Global Land Project Open Science Meeting, Beijing, China, October 23-27, 2016.*
Future Child Health and World Human Population. Participation in *Peter Wall International Research Roundtable, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, April 19-20, 2016.*
- 2015 **Seufert, V.** Organic agriculture – a more environmentally friendly farming system? IRES Seminar Series, *Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES), University of British Columbia, Vancouver, February 10, 2015.*
- 2014 **Seufert, V.** The potential contribution of organic agriculture to global sustainable food security, *Land and Food Systems, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, November 12, 2014.*
Seufert, V. The potential contribution of organic farming to global sustainable food security. Departmental seminar series, *Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, April 17, 2014.*
- 2013 Land management datasets: status and requirements for Earth System Models (ESMs). Workshop participation at *Institute of Social Ecology, Vienna, Austria, April 15-16 2013, sponsored by TERRABITES (The Terrestrial Biosphere in the Earth System) European COST action.*
- 2012 **Seufert, V.** Organic agriculture as an opportunity for sustainable agricultural development. Invited student presentation at *McGill Conference on Global Food Security, Montreal, October 17, 2012.*
Seufert, V. The yield performance of organic agriculture. Invited keynote speaker at *VIIIth International Conference on Life Cycle Analysis in the Agri-Food Sector, Saint-Malo, France, October 02, 2012.*
- 2011 **Seufert, V.** Can organic agriculture meet nutrition needs? *Global Landscapes Initiative meeting, Institute on the Environment, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, January 31, 2011.*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2016 **Seufert, V.**, What is this thing called organic? – How organic farming is codified in regulations. *XIV World Congress of Rural Sociology, International Rural Sociology Association (IRSA), Toronto, August 10-14, 2016 (oral presentation).*
Seufert, V., Success of organic farming depends on who adopts it and why. *XIV World Congress of Rural Sociology, International Rural Sociology Association (IRSA), Toronto, August 10-14, 2016 (oral presentation).*
Seufert, V., Organic agriculture – a more environmentally friendly farming system? *Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, April 1, 2016 (oral presentation).*
- 2014 **Seufert, V.**, Wood, S., Reid, A., Gonzalez, A., Rhemtulla, J. & Ramankutty, N. Biodiversity in organic farmland – How does landscape context influence species diversity in organic vs. conventional agricultural fields? *American Geophysical Union (AGU) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, December 15, 2014 (poster presentation).*
Seufert, V., Gerber, J. & Ramankutty, N. Food vs. Fuel – Competing demands for land, bioenergy, and environmental services. *Global Challenges: Achieving Sustainability, LARU Sustainability Science Congress, Copenhagen, Denmark, October 23, 2014 (oral presentation).*
Seufert, V., Jarvis, L. & Ramankutty, N. Agromes – a global assessment of agricultural land use intensity. *Global*

Land Project Open Science Meeting, Berlin, Germany, March 19-21, 2014 (oral presentation).

2013 Ramankutty, N. & **Seufert, V.** Ecosystem service trade-offs associated with land sparing versus land sharing. Keynote presentation at *Global Food Security Conference*, Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands, October 1, 2013 (oral presentation).

2011 **Seufert, V.** & Ramankutty, N. Shedding light on the organic yield debate: a meta-analysis. *American Geophysical Union (AGU) Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, December 7, 2011 (oral presentation).

Seufert, V. & Ramankutty, N. Can organic agriculture feed the world? – A re-analysis of Badgley *et al.* (2007). *European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly*, Vienna, April 8, 2011 (oral presentation).

Seufert, V. & Müller, C. Meta-analysis of the response of crop photosynthesis to nitrogen limitation. *European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly*, Vienna, April 6, 2011 (oral presentation).

STUDENT SUPERVISION (at McGill University if not otherwise specified)

Graduate research assistants	Johanna Bleecker, Morgan Boenke, Susanna Klassen, Kimberly Milligan, Andrea Reid, Natasha Salter (UBC), Matt Strimas-Mackey (UBC), Qorvette Wafford
Undergraduate research assistants	Aneeta Antony (UBC), Brenton Chookolingo (UBC), Daniel Haberman, Taylor Hinds (UBC), Corey Lesk, Zelda Moran, Melinda Yogendran (UBC)
Undergraduate honours students	Stephanie Austin
Undergraduate independent research students	Miriam Aczel, Lauren Mechak
Internship students	Rebekka Gerlach, Tabea Mayerhofer
Field assistants	Stephanie Austin, Haseena Kadiri, Vishnu Satheesan

LANGUAGES

English (advanced), German (native), Italian (fluent), Spanish (intermediate), French (basic).