Mallory Rose Cerkleski

mallory.cerkleski@sns.it–savoringtheages.owlstown.net/

EDUCATION

PhD: History — November 2023-Present
Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa
Thesis: *From Scarcity to Selectivity: A People's History of Food Rationing in Kerala, 1939–1997*

MA: Food History and Anthropology — September 2022-March 2023
University of Gastronomic Sciences
Thesis: Multifaceted Memories: Oral history of Cuban Citizens on Food, Justice, and Future Imaginaries
(Dr. Gabriele Proglio, Modern and Contemporary History)

BA: Sustainable Food Systems — August 2016-May 2020
Guilford College
Thesis: Political Strategies for Controlling Food Aid in Kenya and Malawi
(Dr. Sonalini Sapra-Center for Principle Problem Solving and Bronwyn Tucker-Sustainable Food Systems)

BA: Political Science — August 2016-May 2020
Guilford College
Thesis: Political Strategies for Controlling Food Aid in Kenya and Malawi
(Dr. Maria Rosales-Political Science)

Supplementary Training & Field Programs

Cuba International Field Program — May 2022-August 2022
Reconceiving Citizenship, Race, Gender, Environment, Urban Infrastructure, and Neoliberalism
The New School/Casa de las Américas
(Dr. Gabriele Vignoli)

International Honors Program: Food Systems: Ecuador, Malawi, Italy — August 2018-January 2019
School for International Training
(Dr. Joseph Lanning, University of Georgia and Dr. Jennifer Wallace, University of Maryland)

Permaculture Design Certification — August 2019-December 2019
Sow Permaculture
(Dr. Alyssa Mckim, North Carolina Agriculture & Technology State University)

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

Researcher, BertaLab, *Oral History Collective on Social Movements for Land and Water*(PI: Dr. Gabriele Proglio) September 2025-present
Member of the research team contributing to the development and coordination of the Oral History Collective.

Global Intern Researcher, *Feeding City Project*, University of Toronto — February 2025–present
Dr. Jo Sharma

Visiting Scholar, University of Heidelberg, South Asian Institute, History Department — April 2025-Present
Dr. Kama Maclean

Visiting Scholar, Center for Development Studies, JNU, History Department — February 2025-April 2025
Dr. J. Devika

Invited Lectures

"Toddy, Tea, and Tapioca: Food, Famine, and the Moral Reordering of Public Space in Kerala, India, 1900-1965." Garden of the Senses: A Sensory History of Indian Art (Dialogue 3: *Making Sense: On Tastes, Touch, and Labour*), Impart × MAP Symposium, Museum of Art & Photography (MAP), Online (Zoom), 26 June 2026.

Teaching/Guest Lectures

University of Toronto, Canada
Guest Lecturer, "Rice, Biodiversity, and Everyday Life in Kerala, India", October 23, 2025
Delivered a guest lecture on the cultural and ecological significance of rice in Kerala, India, for the course *Foods that Changed the World* (FSTA01).

University of Padova, Italy
Adjunct Professor, Italian Food and Wine History
2024–2025
Created and taught a course on Italian food and wine history, spanning from Ancient Rome to the present.

University of Gastronomic Sciences, Italy
Guest *Lecturer, New Frontiers of Gastronomy, 2022*
Presented fieldwork on Cuban gastronomy for the course on emerging trends in global food systems.

University of Gastronomic Sciences, Italy
Guest *Lecturer, Food Sovereignty in Africa, 2023*
Delivered a course based on fieldwork in Malawi, addressing food sovereignty and the impact of global food aid.

Workshops/Trainings
The Last Word: An Editing Workshop, Dr. L. Sasha Gora, July–August 2025. Intensive three-day workshop on academic editing, manuscript revision, and dissertation writing.
Academic Writing Workshop, Dr. L. Sasha Gora, October 2025, December 2025, and February 2026. Advanced training in scholarly writing, argument development, and revision for academic publication.

Archives Consulted
British Library, London, England (June 2026)
Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (March 2026)
Kerala State Archives, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala (February-April 2025)
Hennessy Collection, Nottingham, UK (May 2024)
Cuban Heritage Collection, University of Miami, Miami, FL, USA (November 18–22, 2024)

Other
Lead Editor — August 2024-Present
Graduate Journal for Food Studies (GJFS)

Board Member — June 2024-Present
Graduate Association for Food Studies (GAFS)

Board Member: Student Representative — April 2024-Present
The Research Network for Postsocialist Cultural Studies (SOYUZ)

Manuscript Peer Reviewer — November 2023-Present
Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development

Organizer and Editor — December 2023-Present
Culinary Chronicles: A Feast of Generations, Tasting Roots through Mobility, Rediscovery, and Oral History
Initiated, organized, and led 'Culinary Chronicles,' a collaborative project exploring cultural heritage through food, guiding participants from concept creation to final presentation.

Project Lead, Kerala Dalit Oral History Project — September 2025-June 2026
-Hired and led a team of 2 research assistants in oral history training and fieldwork.
-Oversaw the collection of 10 oral history interviews in Malayalam across Kerala.

Project Lead, Kerala Food Oral Histories — November 2024-June 2025
-Managed a team of 5 research assistants.
-Oversaw the collection of 65+ oral history interviews across Kerala.

Researcher and Food Justice Writer — January 2021-June 2021
National Farm Worker Ministry—Raleigh, NC, USA (remote)
Research and gather information on food security, food justice and food sovereignty relevant to farmworkers in the United States to create relevant content for the Harvest of Justice campaign 2021 themed Food Justice

Mobile Market Manager and Head Research Coordinator — May 2017-October 2020
Veggie Van Study at Mobile Oasis Farmers Market—Greensboro, NC, USA
Led Mobile Oasis Farmers Market, secured $50,000 grant from University of Buffalo Veggie Van Study to expand and study mobile markets' impact on produce consumption in food apartheid areas. Collaborated with the community for project growth.

Food Justice Lead Researcher and Educator — August 2017-May 2020
Bonner Center—Greensboro, NC, USA
Researched, outlined, and mediated weekly meetings about topics such as farm workers' rights, organic versus conventional agriculture, GMOs, food policy, food apartheid, and more as well as organizing events to gather researchers together on topics such as an annual food justice (150+ attendees)

Head Researcher — August 2019-May 2020
Use of Varying Cover Cropping Mixes to Ensure Soil Biological Activity —Guilford College Farm, Greensboro, NC, USA
Collaborated with Guilford College farmer on a .25-acre project to boost soil health. Conducted pre-soil tests, planted diverse crops, and evaluated changes by comparing post-soil samples after plowing.

Securing Our Food Fellow Researcher May 2019-August 2019
Undergraduate Research Fellowship—Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA, USA
Performed research on soybean genetics and soil fertility

PUBLICATIONS:

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Chapters

Cerkleski, Mallory. 2023a. "Multifaceted Memories: Oral History of Cuban Citizens on Food, Justice, and Future Imaginaries." Pollenzo, Italy: Universtiy of Gastronomic Sciences. https://www.unisg.it/en/journal/multifaceted-memories-oral-history-of-cuban-citizens-on-food-justice-and-future-imaginaries/.

———. 2023c. "Resolver and Rebusque: The State of Cuban Land and Food Sovereignty in 2022." In *Food Sovereignty and Land Grabbing*, edited by Gabriele Proglio. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

———. 2024a. "Food, Memory, and Cuban Society: Unraveling Trauma, Traditions, and Future Imaginaries in Havana." *Technological University Dublin*. https://doi.org/10.21427/1VS8-F754.

Cerkleski, Mallory. 2025. "Cultivating Liberation: Gardens as Agents of Connection and Empowerment in Havana, Cuba." In *Gardens, Flowers, and Fruit: Proceedings of the Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery 2024*, edited by Mark McWilliams. Prospect Books.

FORTHCOMING August 2026: Cerkleski, Mallory., ed. 2026. *Culinary Chronicles: Oral Histories of Food, Mobility, and Belonging.* New York: Berghahn Books.

Cerkleski, Mallory. "Toddy, Tea, and Tapioca: Food, Famine, and the Moral Reordering of Public Space in Kerala, India 1900–1965." *Technological University Dublin*, 2026. https://arrow.tudublin.ie/dgs/2026.

Book Reviews

———. 2024b. "Harvesting Perspectives: A Comprehensive Review of Two Pivotal Works on Indian Agrarian Transformation." *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, February, 1–4. https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2024.132.003.

———. 2024c. "Rajagopalan Sudha. Journeys of Soviet Things: Cold War as Lived Experience in Cuba and India." *International Journal of Cuban Studies* 16 (1). https://doi.org/10.13169/intejcubastud.16.1.0143.

———. 2023b. "Nourishing Hope: Unraveling the Path to Justice in the Global Food System." *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, August, 1–3. https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2023.124.019.

Creative Writing

"Food as Memoir: My Body's Journey Through Taste and Memory." *Roots/Routes Journal* (2023).

CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS:

26th Annual Comparative Literature Conference: Global Food Studies; *March 29-30, 2024*; Location: University of South Carolina; Presentation Title: "A Taste of Revolution: Culinary Materiality in Post-Colonial Cuba and Kerala (India)"

ECPR-COSMOS Summer School on Methods for the Study of Political Participation and Mobilisation; *May 16-17, 2024*; Presentation: "Exploring Alternative Forms of Political Participation: Decentralized Food Distribution Systems in Kerala and Cuba"

Dublin Gastronomy Symposium 2024; *May 28-29, 2024*; Presentation Title: "Food, Memory, and Cuban Society: Unraveling Trauma, Traditions, and Future Imaginaries in Havana"

The Umbra Institute's Biennial Food Conference 2024; *June 13-16, 2024*; Panel Presentation 1: "Hybridity in Cuban Recipes: Navigating the Intersection of Creole Fusion and Socioeconomic Dynamics"; Panel Presentation 2: "Culinary Crossroads: Exploring Cultural Hybridity in Rice Dishes of Kerala and Cuba"

Public History Summer School: The Historical Institute of the University of Wrocław, Poland; *June 17-21, 2024*; Presentation: "Exploring Collective Memory and Oral Histories in Public Food Distribution in Cuba and Kerala"

Oxford Food Symposium 2024; *July 5-7, 2024*; "Cultivating Liberation: Gardens as Agents of Connection and Empowerment in Havana, Cuba"

Culinary Histories and Cultures: Insights from South Asia; IIT Gandhinagar (online); *October 8-9th 2024*, Presentation: "Culinary Narratives and Cultural Identity in Kerala: A Comparative Analysis of Onam in a Nighty and The Covenant of Water"

Cuban Research Forum Conference; *September 9-12, 2024*; Location: Hybrid/Havana. Presentation: "Cultural Cravings: Rice and Pork in the Contemporary Cuban Psyche"

Alimentación e imperios en la edad moderna y contemporánea; *September 12-13, 2024*; Location: Seville, Spain. Presentation: "The Legacy of Empire: Food Security, Rice, and Pork in Post-1959 Cuba"

Global Foodscapes: Transnational Pathways of Food and Migration In and Out of Asia; *March 10-12, 2025*; Location: National University Singapore. Presentation: "Remittances, Mobility, and Food Practices: The Impact of Gulf Migration on Malayali Food Cultures in Post-Pandemic Kerala"

Gather and Ground: Oral Histories of Food Workshop, *March 29 & April 12, 2025,* Location: Neighbour Terrace, Kesavadasapuram, Thiruvananthapuram; Conducted a three-part workshop focused on preserving food histories through oral storytelling; Participants learned oral history methods, conducted interviews with family members, and shared personal food stories during a community potluck event.

Tenth International Conference on Food and Drink Studies; *June 11th-13th 2025*; Location: European Institute for the History and Cultures of Food, Tours, France. Presentation: "From Toddy to Tea: Food, Famine, and the Moral Reordering of Public Space in 1940s Malabar"

IHR Food History Lecture Series; *June 12th, 2025*; Location: (Online) Institute of History Research, School of Advanced Study; University of London. Presentation: Food as Relationship Building: Unveiling Memories Through Food-Centered Oral History Collection

International Oral History Conference; *September 16–19, 2025;* Location: Krakow, Poland; Presentation Title: "Inclusive Histories: A Collaborative Approach to Malayalam Oral Histories"

Dublin Gastronomy Symposium 2026; May 26-28 2026; Presentation Title: *Toddy, Tea, and Tapioca: Food, Famine, and the Moral Reordering of Public Space in Kerala, India, 1900–1965*

LANGUAGES:

English: Native
Italian: Upper-intermediate (B1–B2)
Spanish: Elementary (A1–A2)
Malayalam: Beginner

RESEARCH GROUPS/PROJECTS:

Social Movements and Cultural Memory Project, with Dr. Gabriele Proglio, October 2025-present
Reading Kerala: Kerala Studies Research Group June 2024-Present
Contemporary Food History Research Group December 2023-Present
Food Sovereignty and Land Grabbing Research Group January 2021-January 2022

FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

Erasmus+ Traineeship Grants (2 awards), European Union, 2024–2026.
-Twelve months of funded international research mobility; total funding exceeding €10,000.
Thomas Marchione Food as a Human Right Award, Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition (SAFN), 2026.
-Competitive award recognizing doctoral research on food rationing, welfare, and the right to food in Kerala, India (750$)
BertaLab Research Grant, 2026, 700 euros
-Funding awarded for the design and implementation of an independent oral history collection on the Dalit Oral History Project
PNRR Doctoral Fellowship, Scuola Normale Superiore (€19,000/year, 2023–present)
Presidential Scholarship, Guilford College ($16,000/year, 2016–2020)
Fondo Giovani Research Grant, Scuola Normale Superiore (€2,500, 2024)
Erasmus+ Traineeship Grant, Jan–July 2026 (€3,000+)
Hege Library Thesis Research Award, Guilford College (2020)
Environmental Science & Studies Distinguished Scholars Award, Guilford College (2018)
University of Buffalo Veggie Van Study Grant ($50,000, 2019)