MARÍA ALEJANDRA GARCÍA, Ph.D.

Education

Ph.D. in Community Sustainability. Michigan State University, USA. **2024**
- *Graduate Specialization:* Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems.
- *Graduate Specialization:* Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change.

M.S. in Sociology. Universidad del Valle, Colombia. **2016**
B.S. in Sociology (Meritorious Mention). Universidad del Valle, Colombia. **2012**

Research and Professional Experience

Postdoctoral Researcher. Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, Sweden. **2024- present**
Research Assistant. Department of Community Sustainability, Michigan State University, USA. **2018-2023**
Research Assistant. Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Colombia. **2014-2018**
Research Assistant. Department of Social Sciences. Universidad del Valle, Colombia. **2015**
Analyst. Family Compensation Fund – Comfandi, Colombia. **2012-2014**
Professional in Evaluation. Viviendo NGO, Colombia. **Spring -Summer 2012**

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant (Instructor). ISB201L: Insects, Globalization & Sustainability Laboratory. Center for Integrative Studies in General Science, Michigan State University, USA. **Spring 2024**
Teaching Assistant (Instructor). ISB208L: Applications in Biological Sciences Laboratory. Center for Integrative Studies in General Science, Michigan State University, USA. **Fall 2023**
Instructor of record. CSUS215: International Development and Sustainability. Department of Community Sustainability, Michigan State University, USA **Fall 2022**

Publications

Articles in peer-reviewed journals in English

10. Correa-Salazar, C., Marin, I., **García, M.A**., Fox, K., and Chilton, M. 2024. Earth Rights for the Advancement of a Planetary Health Agenda. *Health Education & Behavior*, 51(6):787-795. https://doi.org/10.1177/10901981241232642
9. **García, M.A**., Mayer, A., Cavallini-Johansen, I., Lopez, M.C., and Moran, E. 2024 Spatial injustice to energy access in the shadow of hydropower in Brazil. *World Development*, 178. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2024.106570
8. Castro-Diaz, L., **García, M.A**., Villamayor-Tomas, S., and Lopez, M. C. 2023. Impacts on Locals' Livelihoods of Hydropower Development in the Global South. *World Development*, 169. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2023.106285
7. Moran, E.F., Lopez, M.C., Mourãoc, R., Brown, E., McCright, A.M., Walgren, J., Bortoleto, A.N., Mayer, A., Cavallini-Johansen, I., Ramos, K.N., Castro-Diaz, L., **García, M.A**., Cavalcanti Lembi, R., and Mueller, N. 2022. Advancing Convergence Research: Renewable Energy Solutions for Off-Grid Communities. *The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, 119 (46):1-12. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2207754119
6. Mayer, A., **García, M.A**., Castro-Diaz, L., Lopez, M.C., and Moran, E.F. 2022. Pretend Participation: Procedural Injustices in the Madeira Hydroelectric Complex. *Global Environmental Change*, 75:1-14. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2022.102524
5. **García, M.A.,** Castro-Díaz, L., Villamayor-Tomas, S., and Lopez, M.C. 2021. Are Large-scale Hydroelectric Dams Inherently Undemocratic? *Global Environmental Change*, 71:1-14. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2021.102395
4. Correa-Salazar, C., Marin, I., and **García, M.A**. 2021. The Role of Violence in Planetary Health (Commentary article). *The Lancet Planetary Health*, 5(3):e113-114. https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(21)00006-1
3. Marin, D., Orrego-Varona, M., Yanez, F., Mendoza, L., **García, M.A**., Twyman, J., Andrade, R., and Labarta, R. 2018. Household Survey Data of Adoption of Improved Varieties and Management Practices in Rice Production, Ecuador. *Data in Brief*, 18: 1252-1256. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2018.04.019
2. Chirinda, N., Arenas, L., Loaiza, S., Trujillo, C., Katto, M., Chaparro, P., Nuñez, J., Arango, A., Martinez-Baron, D., Loboguerrero, A.M., Becerra Lopez-Lavalle, L.A., Avila, I., Guzmán, M., Peters, M., Twyman, J., **García, M.A.**, Serna, L., Escobar, D., Arora, D., Tapasco, J., Mazabel, l., (…) Barahona, R., 2017. Novel Technological and Management Options for Accelerating Transformational Changes in Rice and Livestock System. *Sustainability*, 9: 1-16. https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/9/11/1891

1. Twyman J., Muriel J., and **García, M.A**. 2015. Identifying Women Farmers: Informal Gender Norms as Institutional Barriers to Recognizing Women´s Contributions to Agriculture. *Journal of Gender, Agriculture and Food Security*, 1 (2): 1-17. https://agrigender.org/views/recognizing-women-contributions-to-agriculture-JGAFS-122015-1.php

Articles in peer-reviewed journals in Spanish

2. **García, M.A**., and Ibarra-Melo, M.E. 2017. Detrás de las cifras de violencia contra las mujeres en Colombia. *Sociedad y Economía*, 32: 41-64. https://doi.org/10.25100/sye.v0i32.3877
1. Ibarra, M.E., and **García, M.A**. 2012. La violencia contra las mujeres: un asunto público. *La Manzana de la Discordia*, 7 (2): 23-33. http://hdl.handle.net/10893/11610

Articles submitted

1. Gerard, A., **García, M.A.,** Lopez, M.C., Bizoza, A., and Vuguziga, B. Understanding female household heads' barriers to profiting from coffee in Southern Rwanda. S*ubmitted to the Journal of Eastern African Studies on February 25th, 2024.*

Non-peer-reviewed working papers in English and Spanish

7. **García, M.A.**, Godek W., and Twyman, J. 2021. Joint decision-making and Women's Agency on Small-scale Farms in Colombia and Nicaragua. CIAT Publication No. 521. International Center for Tropical Agriculture. Cali, Colombia. 24p. https://alliancebioversityciat.org/es/node/47350
6. **García, M.A.,** Orentlicher, N., Twyman, J., Eitzinger, A., and Bonilla, O. 2019. Reflection on the Use of Mobile Phones for Monitoring Gender Indicators Related to Climate-smart Agriculture Practices. Working Paper. CIAT Publication No. 487. International Center for Tropical Agriculture. Cali, Colombia. 24 p. https://hdl.handle.net/10568/106120
5. Godek, W., and **García, M.A**. 2018. Unpacking Intra-Household Decision-making on Smallholder Farms in Colombia and Nicaragua to Foster Climate Change Adaptation. In: Congress of the Latin American Studies Association. Barcelona, Spain, May 23 -May 26, 2018. 26p. https://hdl.handle.net/10568/99830
4. **García, M.A.,** Godek, W., and Twyman, J. 2017. A Mixed-methods Approach to Unpacking Joint Decisions about Agricultural Production in Nicaragua and Colombia. International Center for Tropical Agriculture. Cali. Colombia. 81p. https://hdl.handle.net/10568/91722
3. **García, M.A**., Katto M.C., Twyman, J., La Hue, G., and Chirinda, N. 2016. How Might the Gender Roles Affect the Implementation of a New Water-saving Technique for Colombian Rice Production?: Report of Gender Dimensions in Colombian Rice Production. CIAT publication No. 437. International Center for Tropical Agriculture. Cali, Colombia. 37p. https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/81594
2. Muriel, J., **García, M.A**., and Twyman, J. 2016. Construcción de indicadores de empoderamiento de las mujeres. Un estudio sobre hogares productores de arroz en Ecuador. CIAT Publication No. 435. International Center for Tropical Agriculture. Cali, Colombia. 21p. https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/80210
1. **García, M.A**. 2015. Desmonte de viuda. Una exploración cualitativa sobre los roles de las mujeres en la producción de arroz en Ecuador. CIAT publication No. 410. International Center for Tropical Agriculture. Cali, Colombia. 48p. https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/70609

Policy briefs and info-notes in English and Spanish

6. Gerard, A., Lopez, M.C., **García, M.A**., Bizoza, A.R., and Vuguziga, B. 2020. Challenges in Accessing Coffee Pesticide for Female Household Heads in Rwanda. Policy Research Brief 123. Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy. Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. 4p. https://www.canr.msu.edu/fsp/publications/policy-research-briefs/PB_123.pdf
5. Arora, D., and **García, M.A**. 2019. Use of Discrete Choice Experiments in Gendered Participatory Breeding and Varietal Selection. A Case Study of Biofortified Rice Varietal Selection in Bolivar, Colombia. InfoNote. CIAT publication. International Center for Tropical Agriculture. Cali, Colombia. 7p. https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/103661/Arora%20%20García_Infonote.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
4. Orrego-Varón, M., **García, M.A**., Marín, D., Twyman, J., Labarta R., Mendoza, L., and Yáñez, F. 2017. Entendiendo la dinámica del sector arrocero en Ecuador: Resultados de un estudio colaborativo. InfoNote. International Center for Tropical Agriculture. Cali. Colombia. 4p. https://hdl.handle.net/10568/79910
3. **García, M.A.**, Twyman, J., Katto, M.C., and Chirinda, N. 2016. Reconociendo a las mujeres del arroz en Colombia: Un paso para las tecnologías de mitigación al cambio climático. Resultados de un estudio socioeconómico con perspectiva de género. Infonote. International Center for Tropical Agriculture. Cali, Colombia. 6p. https://hdl.handle.net/10568/79975

2. Tafur-Rueda, M., **García, M. A.,** and Twyman, J. 2015. ¿Quién es productor de arroz en América Latina? La importancia de integrar intereses y necesidades de mujeres y hombres en la formulación de políticas. CCAFS Policy Brief. CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), Copenhagen.4p. https://hdl.handle.net/10568/69378
1. Tafur-Rueda, M., **García M. A**., Muñoz, L. A., and Twyman, J. 2015. El rol de las mujeres en la producción de arroz en Nicaragua. Una reflexión sobre los datos desagregados por sexo. CCAFS Policy Brief. CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), Copenhagen. 6p. https://hdl.handle.net/10568/69379

Blogs in English and Spanish

3. **Grupo de investigación de Genero en CIAT,** and Fundación Ecohabitats. 2017. Socialización de resultados de investigación en género, agricultura y cambio climático, en el marco de la actualización de la Política Pública de la Mujer en el Cauca. CIAT, Blog. https://blog.ciat.cgiar.org/es/socializacion-de-resultados-de-investigacion-en-genero-agricultura-y-cambio-climatico-en-el-marco-de-la-actualizacion-de-la-politica-publica-de-la-mujer-en-el-cauca/
2. **García, M.A.,** and Katto, C. 2016. Gender and AWD. A study in progress with rice farmers in Colombia. CIAT, Blog. https://blog.ciat.cgiar.org/gender-and-awd-a-study-in-progress-with-rice-farmers-in-colombia/
1. Twyman, J., **García, M.A.,** and Muriel, J. 2015. Are women rice farmers in Latin America? Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM) led by IFPRI. Blog. https://pim.cgiar.org/2015/06/15/are-women-rice-farmers-in-latin-america/

Contribution to Open-access Datasets

4. **CIAT**, and IFPRI. 2017. CCAFS Gender Survey – Nicaragua Climate Smart Village. https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/UZTB3O
3. Labarta, R., Orrego, M., Marin, D., **García, M.A.**, Twyman, J., Andrade, R., Yanez, F., Mendoza, L. 2017. Adoption of improved modern rice varieties and management practices in Ecuador. https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/DX3F4T
2. **García, M.A**, Twyman, J., Bermúdez, H.F. 2016. Estudio cualitativo sobre roles de género en la producción de arroz en Ecuador. https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/3KD5IL
1. **García, M.A**, Katto, M.C., Chirinda, N., LaHue, G., and Twyman, J. 2016. Socioeconomic survey with gender perspective for AWD in Colombia. https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/OTL14B

Honors and Awards

Outreach and Community Engagement Award. Michigan State University. 2023.
The Rose Graduate Fellowship in Water Research. Michigan State University. 2023. $1,800USD.
Travel Funds. Graduate School. Michigan State University. 2023. $600USD.
Graduate Office Fellowship. Michigan State University. 2023. $500USD.
Anthropology Fellowship Award. Michigan State University. 2022. $2.000USD.
Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems Travel Grant. Michigan State University. 2022. $800USD.
George and Nancy Axinn International Scholarship. Michigan State University. 2022. $2,500USD.
Research Enhancement Award. Graduate School. Michigan State University. 2022. $1,000 USD.
Graduate Office Fellowship. Michigan State University. 2022. $2,700 USD.
Malcolm and Ann Kerr Award for Excellence in Scholarship Endowed Award. Department of Community Sustainability. Michigan State University. 2022.
Dissertation Research Fellowship. The Center for Gender in Global Context and the Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change (GJEC). Michigan State University. 2021. $10,000USD.
Milton H. Steinmueller Fellowship in Natural Resources and Environmental Policy. Michigan State University. 2021. $7,000USD.
Tinker Field Research Grant. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS). Michigan State University. 2020. $2,000USD.
Colciencias-Fulbright Scholarship. Laspau-administered scholarship to pursue a doctoral degree in the U.S, 2018-2022. $96,694USD ($373,100,000 COP).
Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Borlaug Fellowship Program from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Fellowship in the International Programs of the College on Agriculture and Environmental Sciences of the University of California, Davis (UCD). September-December 2016.
Graduate Excellence Scholarship. Universidad del Valle, Colombia. January- December 2013.
Undergraduate Excellence Scholarship. Universidad del Valle, Colombia. January 2008-December 2010.

Funded Research Projects

National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC). University of Maryland. Graduate Pursuit Program. Proposal: "Impacts of Wildfire on Farmworker Respiratory Health in the Western USA." 2021-2022. $2,000USD. https://www.sesync.org/research/wildfires-and-farmworkers

Oral Presentations in Academic Conferences

11. Desarrollo rural y comunitario en Colombia. Guest Speaker. I Congreso Internacional de Medio Ambiente, Sostenibilidad y Desarrollo Agrícola de la Sociedad de Doctores e Investigadores de Colombia SoPhIC. August 21st -23rd, 2024 (Online).
10. Women's Empowerment in Colombia. The Royal Geographical Society Annual International Conference. August 29th – September 3rd, 2023. (Online).
9. Women's participation in farm decisions. The case of cashew small-scale producers in Honduras. The 85th Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society. August 2nd -6th, 2023. University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, US.
8. Rural Women's Empowerment in a Nation-wide Entrepreneurship Program in Colombia. Development Studies Association. June 28th -30th, 2023. Hybrid at the University of Reading. London, England.
7. Spatial Injustice to Energy Access in the Shadow of a Mega-Project in Brazil. International Association for Society & Natural Resources. June 11th-15th, 2023. Portland, Maine, US.
6. Energy Access in the Shadow of Hydropower Megaprojects. Sustainability and Development Conference. University of Michigan. January 24th, 2022. (Online).
5. Injusticias procesales en el complejo hidroeléctrico Madeira, Brasil. Primer congreso virtual latinoamericano, International Association for the Studies of the Commons (IASC). June 1st, 2021. (Online).
4. Activism, Social-political Conditions and Social-ecological Impacts of Large Hydroelectric Dams in the Global South. Sustainability and Development Conference. University of Michigan. October 12th-14th, 2019. Ann Arbor, Michigan, US.
3. Activism, Social-political Conditions and Social-ecological Impacts of Large Hydroelectric Dams in the Global South. XVIIth Global Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons. Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. July 1st -2nd, 2019. Lima, Perú.
2. Unpacking Intra-household Decision-making on Small-holder Farms in Colombia and Nicaragua to Foster Climate Change Adaption. LASA2018 Congress. May 23rd -26th, 2018. Barcelona, Spain.
1. The Violence Against Women as a Public Issue in Colombia: A Description of the Intervention of the State. Second International Sociological Association Forum. Universidad de Buenos Aires. August 1st – 4th, 2012. Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Oral Presentations in Seminars and Panels

10. Rural Women's Empowerment in Colombia. CLACS Graduate Student Research Conference. Michigan State University. February 24th, 2023. East Lansing, Michigan, US.
9. Women's Agency and the Negative Side of Power in Agriculture and Rural Development: Two Case Studies in Colombia and Honduras. GenCenColloquia Series MSU. Grad Student Gender Research Colloquium. Michigan State University. November 22nd, 2022. East Lansing, Michigan, USA.
8. Género y poder en contextos rurales en Colombia y Honduras. Panel. Department of Social Sciences, Universidad del Valle. June 10th, 2022. Cali, Colombia.
7. Gender and Development in Colombia. Sustainable Development Goal 5 and Gender in Global Development and Research Panel. Michigan State University. March 24th, 2022. (Online).
6. Are Large-Hydroelectric Dams Inherently Undemocratic? 7th Annual Duck Family Graduate Workshop in Environmental Politics and Governance, University of Washington. May 13th-May 14th, 2021. (Online).
5. Integrating Women's Empowerment Theory into the Literature of Gender and Social-ecological Resilience. Speed talk. The Resilience Alliance Science meeting. October 19th -October 21st, 2020. (Online).
4. Political Conditions and Resettlement Policies in Large Hydroelectric Dams in the Global South. CLACS Graduate Student Research Conference. Michigan State University. February 21st, 2020. East Lansing, Michigan, US.
3. Unpacking Gendered Intra-Household Decision-making on Smallholder Farms in Colombia and Nicaragua. CLACS Graduate Student Research Conference. Michigan State University. February 22nd, 2019. East Lansing, Michigan, US.
2. La respuesta institucional para la violencia contra las mujeres: entre cifras y ficciones. Panel. Law School, Universidad de los Andes. April 21st,2016. Bogotá, Colombia.
1. La construcción de las cifras de la violencia contra las mujeres en Colombia. Seminar on feminicides and gender-based violence. Universidad del Valle. November 25th, 2015. Cali, Colombia.

Service to the Profession

Thematic editor of the journal Ciencias y Technologia Agropecuaria of Agrosavia, Colombia. 2018-present.

Journal peer reviewer of the following journals: Manzana de la Discordia, Journal of Mixed Methods Research, Population and Environment, Energy Strategy Reviews, International Journal of the Commons, Environmental Research: Health, Agriculture MDPI, and Sustainability MDPI.

Member of the research group of Collective Action and Social Change, Universidad del Valle. 2012-2014.

Service to the University and Department

Graduate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Liaison, Graduate Student Organization, Department of Community Sustainability. Michigan State University. 2023-2024.

Graduate Affairs and Curriculum Committee (GACC) Liaison, Graduate Student Organization, Department of Community Sustainability. Michigan State University. 2021-2022.

International Student Liaison, Graduate Student Organization, Department of Community Sustainability. Michigan State University. 2019-2020.

Service to the Community

Support curriculum development on environmental issues in Latin America for K-12 education in Michigan. Center for Latin American and Caribbeans Studies. Michigan State University. May 19-present.

Theses Outsider Evaluator

Stephania Recalde. "Cambios y continuidades en el orden de género en la comunidad Wounaan Nonam desplazada en el municipio de Yumbo, Valle del Cauca." Master in Sociology. Universidad del Valle. Colombia. Outsider Evaluator. December 6th, 2022.

Trainings

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Socio-Environmental Synthesis workshop. National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC). University of Maryland. July 28th- September 15th, 2020. (Online).

MSU Knight Center for Environmental Journalism's Science Communication Workshop. Michigan State University. August 2020. (Online).

Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) Workshop. University of California & Southern California University. March 28th - 30th, 2019. Irvine, California, USA.

Workshop on Right approach and gender equality in policies, programs, and projects. 6th edition. Organization of America States (OAS). June 24th-August 25th, 2015 (Online).

Workshop on Gender and Masculinities. Organización Multidisciplinaria Latinoamericana de Estudios de masculinidades y Asociación Civ. Pablo Besson: Centro de desarrollo e información social. February 20th – May 15th, 2011 (Online).

Languages

English - full professional fluency.

Spanish - native language.

Social Media

Video. Comprehensive Empowerment of Women in Rural Colombia. Michigan State University. Center for Latin American and Caribbeans Studies. May 2nd, 2023. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6A7SfCK7Q8&t=25s

Facebook live. Toma de decisiones conjuntas y agencias de mujeres en finca de pequeña escala en Colombia y Nicaragua. Red Egresados de Sociología de la Universidad del Valle. December 2nd, 2020.

Podcast. Maria Alejandra García - CGIAR, Rural Women, World Food Day & Ending Poverty through Agriculture. In: Doing good podcast. October 15th, 2016. https://amranaidoo.com/doing-good-podcast/cgiar-gender-rural-women