

Curriculum Vitae for Jayson Otto

40 Holland Ave NE | Grand Rapids MI 49503

616-970-9149 | ottojays@msu.edu

Education

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, MS, Ecological Food and Farming Systems, 2011
Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI, BS, Anthropology, Magna Cum Laude, 2005
Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids, MI, Associate's in Arts, 2001

Professional Academic Appointments

Teaching Assistant, Michigan State University, 2020-Present

- ❖ IAH 206: Technology, Self, and Society, Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Dr. Rich Bellon.
- ❖ IAH 201: US and the World, Spring 2023, Spring 2021 & Spring 2022, Dr. Dean Rehberger.
- ❖ ISS 210: Society and the Individual, Fall 2022, Dr. Sharon Leon
- ❖ ISS 325: War and Revolution, Michigan State University, Fall 2020, Dr. Sean Forner.

Adjunct Instructor: Aquinas College & Grand Valley State University, 2011-2020; Muskegon Community College, 2011

Courses Taught: Cultural Anthropology [over 35 sections In-Person, Hybrid, Online, & Dual-Enrollment at secondary schools], Sociology of Food, Food Matters, The Idea of Nature.

Research Assistant

- ❖ Michigan State University, History Department under Michael Stamm, 2022 to present.
- ❖ Michigan State University, Dept. Of Community, Agriculture, Recreation, and Resources Studies (now Community Sustainability) under Phil Howard, Report: Annotated Bibliography of Food Environments published online by Harvard Library, 2009.
- ❖ Grand Valley State University Dept. of Anthropology under Russell Rhoads, Report: "Local Food as a Distinction of Taste," awarded first place in undergraduate paper contest at 31st Annual Central States Anthropological Association Meeting, 2002.

Program Coordinator

- ❖ Michigan State University, Center for Regional Food Systems, Outreach Coordinator, 2014
- ❖ Grand Valley State University, Anthropology Department, Ethnographic Field School, Volunteer Coordinator, 2011

Academic Publications

Book Reviews:

Review of Dolan, Kathryn, *Cattle Country: Livestock in the Cultural Imagination*.
Agricultural History. 96(4). 2022.

Review of Bryan L. McDonald, *Food Power: The Rise and Fall of the Postwar American Food System*. *Agricultural History*. 93(2). 2019.

Review of Amy Trubek, *The Taste of Place: A Cultural Journey into Terroir*. *Journal of Rural Social Sciences*. 25(2): 186-188. [Co-Authored with Stacia Falat]. 2010.

Other:

“The Establishment of Gardening Programs and Farmers Markets by Grand Rapids Women’s Clubs in the Early Twentieth Century.” In Alfonso Morales and Julie Dawson, *Cities of Farmers: Problems, Possibilities and Processes of Producing Food in Cities*. University of Iowa Press. 2017.

“Broadening the Concept of Civic Agriculture: The History of Civic Food Systems in Progressive Era Grand Rapids, Michigan.” Master’s Thesis, Michigan State University, 2011.

Historical Conference Papers

“Apples, Peaches, and Berries, Oh My! The History of the Fruit Ridge,” Michigan History Conference, Roscommon MI. 2023.

"Children’s Recreation as a Defense Measure: The Case of Grand Rapids, Michigan," Midwestern History Conference, Grand Rapids MI. 2018.

“Saving the ‘Defective’ Child and the Poor Housewife: Public Gardening Programs of Women’s Clubs During the Progressive Era in Grand Rapids, Michigan.,” *Agricultural History Society*, Grand Rapids MI. 2017.

“Backyard Patriots: Municipal Housekeepers and Government in Grand Rapids, Michigan,” Midwestern History Conference, Grand Rapids MI. 2017.

“Politics and Food: Women in the History of Civic Agriculture,” March 2012. Great Lakes History Conference, Grand Rapids MI. 2012.

“Women and Civic Agriculture in the Progressive Era: Public Retail Farmers Markets in Grand Rapids, Michigan,” *Agricultural History Society*, Springfield IL. 2011.

Public History

Invited Speaking Engagements:

“Fresh Air, Thrift, and Innocent Delight: School Gardening Programs in Progressive Era Grand Rapids” Grand Rapids Public Library, *History Detectives*, Grand Rapids MI. 2019

“Farmers Markets as Public Services in Progressive Era Grand Rapids, Michigan,” Michigan Heritage Park, Whitehall MI. 2015.

"WWI, Women, and the Rise of Grand Rapids Farmers Markets," Greater Grand Rapids Women’s History Council and Grand Rapids Historical Society at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, Grand Rapids MI. 2012.

- ❖ Session Chair, “An Army of Women:” A Diverse Midwest in World War I Women’s Registration Cards,” Midwestern History Conference. 2022.
- ❖ Guest Columns, “Eva McCall Hamilton, Centennial Senator,” *Women’s Lifestyle Magazine, Her Legacy*, January Issue. 2021; “Emily Chamberlin, Municipal Housekeeper,” *Women’s Lifestyle Magazine, Her Legacy*, November Issue. 2019.
- ❖ Board Member and Research Committee, Greater Grand Rapids Women’s History Council. 2019-2020.

- ❖ Panelist, “Food and Place-Making in Grand Rapids”, Kutsche Office of Local History (GVSU) Annual Roundtable, Grand Rapids MI. 2015.
- ❖ Historical Research Volunteer. Midtown Neighborhood Association. Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative. Neighborhood Sub-Section Histories. Grand Rapids MI. 2004.

Other Professional Experience

- ❖ Data Specialist, Covenant House Academy Grand Rapids. 2015-2016.
- ❖ Farm Inspector, Fulton Street Farmers Market, Grand Rapids MI. 2007-2016.
- ❖ Market Manager, Fulton Street Farmers Market, Grand Rapids MI. 2005-2007.
- ❖ Short Order and Line Cook at various independent Italian, New Mexican, and pub restaurants in Albuquerque, New Mexico. 1995-1999.
- ❖ Volunteer Coordinator, National Relief Network, Davenport IA, New Bern NC, Newark NJ. 2000-2001.

Community Engagement

- ❖ Tuition Pool Manager/Steward, Graduate Employees Union, Michigan State University. 2022-present.
- ❖ Committee Member, César E. Chávez Farmers Market, Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association, Grand Rapids MI. 2017-2022.
- ❖ Panelist, “Fair Trade Coffee. Is it Really Fair?” Aquinas College Economics Club, February 2019 & “What Is Going on at Standing Rock?” Aquinas College Department of Residence Life, Native American Heritage Celebration. 2016.
- ❖ Peer-Review Panel Member, Community Food Project Grants, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Washington DC. 2014-2015.
- ❖ Founding Member, Grand Rapids Urban Growers Group. 2014.
- ❖ Committee Member, Midtown Neighborhood Association, Neighborhood Improvement, Grand Rapids MI. 2012-2015.
- ❖ Committee Member, Midtown Neighborhood Association, Fulton Street Farmers Market Redevelopment, Grand Rapids MI. 2009-2012.
- ❖ Panelist, “Involving Students to Grow Your Market,” Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable, and Farm Market Expo, Grand Rapids MI. 2006.
- ❖ Board Member, Greater Grand Rapids Food Systems Council. 2005.
- ❖ Member, East Fulton Business Association, Grand Rapids MI. 2005-2007.
- ❖ Executive Board Member, Midtown Neighborhood Association, Grand Rapids MI. 2001-2004.

Awards and Certificates

- ❖ Departmental Research Grant, Michigan State University, History Department, 2023
- ❖ Immersive Visualization Institute Fellowship, Michigan State University, 2022.
- ❖ Jeff Rooney Endowed Seminar Paper Award, Michigan State University History Department 2022.
- ❖ Online/Hybrid Instruction Certification, Grand Valley State University. 2018.

- ❖ Graduate Office Fellowship Fund Award, Michigan State University, Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation, and Resource Studies. 2011.
- ❖ Richard E. Flanders Scholarship. Grand Valley State University, 2003.
- ❖ Outstanding Senior Scholar in Anthropology, Grand Valley State University, 2003.