



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

**Doctor of Philosophy**  
**Julia (Chrissie) Bausch**

Will defend her prospectus

**Agricultural Governance for Sustainable Urban Development  
in Mexico City, Mexico**

**Abstract**

Agriculture has historically been governed by federal agencies as a rural activity and economic sector. However, agriculture has always been present in and near cities, and is increasingly recognized as part of a suite of strategies for sustainable urban development. In megacities such as Mexico City, some urban policy makers are now considering how to use agriculture to address challenges associated with urban expansion and climate change. Nevertheless, as outsiders to urban political processes and institutions, or governance, farmers can be at a political disadvantage in urban decision-making processes and policies regarding priorities for development and resource use. The processes of urbanization and decentralization, and the rise of sustainable development initiatives draw attention to the complexity of agricultural governance and the agency of farmers in and near cities.

In my doctoral research, I will conduct an in-depth analysis of the governance of agriculture in Magdalena Contreras, a borough in the southwest part of Mexico City. Using ethnographic methods, semi-structured interviews, social network analysis, and Q analysis, I ask: how is agriculture understood as an asset or a problem in urban policies and decision-making processes? Who participates in decision-making processes affecting peri-urban agriculture, and how do they promote their agendas? Who gains, and who loses under different governance arrangements? My research contributes to current debates on the future of smallholder agriculture in Mexico, agriculture at the rural-urban interface, as well as to the theorization of urban social ecological systems (SESs) and the conceptualization of governance for urban sustainable development.

Monday, March 31, 2014  
3:00pm  
Wrigley Hall, 323

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:  
Dr. Hallie Eakin (Chair)  
Dr. David Manuel-Navarrete (Member)  
Dr. Charles L. Redman (Member)