

## **EEE Research Seminar**

Date: September 19, 2023, at 10:30 AM

Location: POTR 234 (Fu Room)

### **Andrew Flachs, Ph.D.**

#### **Associate Professor**

Department of Anthropology  
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## **Better small farm metrics for a diverse, political ecology of agrarian change**

### **Abstract**

Although farms are living spaces that anchor diverse economies, the challenge of feeding the world is dominated by narrow questions of yield, efficiency, and cost-benefit analysis. Combining streams from World Ecology, Critical Agrarian Studies, and Diverse Economies thinkers, I discuss anthropological case studies from India, Bosnia, and the US Midwest to ask how small-scale agriculture supports living communities in place: feeding the world as if people mattered. This analysis both helps to re-value the rippling benefits of local farm systems and illuminate the profound damage of overproductive commercial plantations.

### **Bio**

Dr. Andrew Flachs researches food and agriculture systems, exploring genetically modified crops, heirloom seeds, and our own microbiomes. An associate professor of anthropology, his work among farmers in North America, the Balkans, and South India investigates small farm livelihoods from Cleveland urban gardens and Indian GM cotton fields. Andrew's research has been supported by public and private institutions including the Department of Education, the National Geographic Society, the American Institute of Indian Studies, and the Social Science Research Council, while his writing on agricultural development has been featured in numerous peer-reviewed publications as well as public venues including Sapiens, Salon, and the National Geographic magazine. Andrew's work has been recognized by eight international awards, including most recently as a finalist for the Society for Economic Anthropology Kate Browne Creativity in Research Award and the International Convention of Asia Scholars' Book Prize shortlist.