

Nurcan Atalan Helicke
Environmental Studies and Sciences
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Education

Ph.D. The Ohio State University, Department of Geography. 2011.

Fields: Human-environment relations, political ecology, development, social science research methods

M.A., Bilkent University, Institute of Economic and Social Sciences, International Relations, Ankara, Turkey. 2001.

B.A., Middle East Technical University, International Relations, Ankara, 1999

Academic Appointments

Director, Environmental Studies and Sciences Program, 2020-2022

Associate Professor, Environmental Studies and Sciences Program, Skidmore College, 2018- present

Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies and Sciences Program, Skidmore College, 2012-2018

Visiting Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies and Sciences Program, Skidmore College, 2011- 2012

Lecturer, The Ohio State University, Geography, Spring 2011

Graduate Teaching Associate/ Instructor, The Ohio State University, Geography, 2008-2010

Graduating Teaching Associate: The Ohio State University, Geography, 2005-2008

Research

Refereed Articles

- 2026 Manzanares, A.*, L. Horne, E. Royse, C. B. Azzarello*, M. Jarchow, D. Druckenbrod, N. Babin, N. Atalan Helicke, S. Vincent, S. Anderson, C. Romulo. Undergraduate students' knowledge about the relationships between climate change and the Food-Energy-Water Nexus. *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*
- 2025 Horne, L.*, Manzanares, A*., Atalan-Helicke, N., Vincent, S., Anderson, S., & Romulo, C. An exploratory study of drawing as a tool to evaluate student understanding of the Food-Energy-Water (FEW) Nexus. *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13412-024-00929-x>
- 2024 Atalan-Helicke, N. Wheat Landraces, Small Farmers and Urban Consumers: Revival of Einkorn in Turkey. *Journal of Critical Global Issues* 1(1), Article 6.
<https://digitalcollections.sit.edu/jcgi/vol1/iss1/6/>
- 2023 Winkler*, L., T. Goodell*, S. Blumenthal*, S. Nizamuddin* and N. Atalan-Helicke. The COVID-19 Pandemic and Food Assistance Organizations' Responses in New York's Capital District, *Agriculture and Human Values*. 40 (3), 1003-1017.
- 2021 Atalan-Helicke, N., & Abiral, B*. Alternative food distribution networks, resilience, and urban food security in Turkey during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 10(2), 89-104.
- 2020 Abiral, B.* and N. Atalan-Helicke. Trusting Food Supply Chains During the Pandemic: Reflections from Turkey and the US. *Food and Foodways*, 28 (3), 226- 236.
- 2020 Eroğlu, D. And N. Atalan-Helicke. Vulnerability and Marginalisation of Snail Harvesting Rural Gypsy Families in Turkey. *International Journal of Social and Humanities Sciences (IJSHS)*, 4(3), 107-136.
- 2020 Atalan-Helicke, N. Sustainable Halal? The Intersection of Halal, Organic and Genetically Engineered Food in Turkey. *Sociology of Islam* 8 (3-4), 343-363.
- 2019 Atalan-Helicke, N. Markets and Collective Action: A Case Study of Traditional Wheat Varieties in Turkey. *Journal of Economy, Culture and Society*, 59(1), 13-30.

- 2018 Atalan-Helicke, N. You Can Never Give Up Siyez If You Taste it Once: Local Taste, Global Markets and Conservation of Ancient Wheat Einkorn. *Gastronomica: Critical Journal of Food Studies*, 18(2), 33-45.
- 2015 Atalan-Helicke, N. Seed Exchange Networks and the Resilience of the Food System in the U.S. *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*. 5(4): 636-649.
- 2015 Marten, G. and N. Atalan-Helicke. Introduction to the Symposium on American Food Resilience. *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*. 5(3): 308-320.
- 2015 Marten, G. and N. Atalan-Helicke. Introduction to the second issue. *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences* 5 (4): 537-542.
- 2015 Atalan-Helicke, N. The Halal Paradox: Negotiating Identity, Religious Values and Genetically-Engineered Food in Turkey" *Agriculture and Human Values* 32 (4): 663-674.
- 2014 Atalan-Helicke, N. Learning and Promoting Urban Sustainability in Place: Service Learning in an Undergraduate Environmental Studies Curriculum" *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences* 4(4): 294-300.
- 2012 Atalan-Helicke, N. and B. Mansfield. Seed Governance at the Intersection of Multiple Global and Nation-State Priorities: Modernizing Seeds in Turkey *Global Environmental Politics*. 12 (4): 125-146.

Book Chapters

- 2023 Atalan-Helicke, N. Halal Certification in the United States and Expansion of Halal Markets." In R. Turaeva and M. Brose (Editors), *Religious Economies in Secular Context: Halal Markets, Practices and Landscapes*. (pp. 21-55) Cham: Springer International Publishing.
- 2023 Atalan-Helicke, N. Sustainable Halal? The Intersection of Halal, Organic and Genetically Engineered Food in Turkey. In R. Turaeva and M. Brose (Editors), *Religious Economies in Secular Context: Halal Markets, Practices and Landscapes*. (pp. 21-55) Cham: Springer International Publishing. (originally published in *Sociology of Islam* in 2020, revised as a book chapter)
- 2021 Atalan-Helicke, N., A. Schneller, H. Alemayehu Mebrate*, C. Gonzalez*, C. Lois.* (2021) Seed Libraries in the U.S.: Regulations, Seed Saving, Seed Sharing and Seed Sovereignty. In A. B. Hoflund, J.C. Jones and M. C. Pautz (Editors) *Administering and Managing the U.S. Food System: Revisiting Food Policy and Politics*. (pp. 163-181). New York: Lexington Books
- 2020 Atalan-Helicke, N. Access to Healthy and Clean Food in Turkey: Food Activism and Mothers' Concerns about Shopping for Change." In N. Ungar, R. Jaremko Bromwich, N. Richards, M. Younger, and M. Symons. (Editors) *Environmental Activism and the Maternal: Mothers and Mother Earth in Activism and Discourse*. (pp. 99-132). Bradford: Ontario, Demeter Press.

Research In Preparation

Monograph

Ancient Wheats in Turkey: Agricultural Biodiversity and Sustainable Production. (Under revision for submission to Edinburgh University Press, Food and Foodways in the Middle East and North Africa series)

(*denotes undergraduate/ graduate student co-authors)

Other publications/ consultancy reports

- 2023 Atalan-Helicke, N. Conversation with Preeti Arya, Juan Hinestroza and Alissa Sandra Baier-Lentz. "The Future of Textiles and Sustainability" in Rebecca McNamara (Editor) *Radical Fiber: Threads Connecting Art and Science*. The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum, October 2023
- 2023 Conversation with Nurcan Atalan-Helicke. (2023) In Sophie Hamacher and Jessica Hankey (Editors), *Supervision: On Motherhood and Surveillance*. (pp.101-105). The MIT Press.
- 2020 Atalan-Helicke, N. A Constant Commodity with Flexible Forms. In Rachel Seligman and Sarah Goodwin (Editors) *Like Sugar, Exhibit Catalog*. The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum. (co-curator of the exhibit, invited to contribute)
- 2020 Atalan-Helicke, N., McNamara, R. Exhibiting and Teaching Challenging Material. In (Ian Berry, Mimim Hellman and Rachel Seligman (Editors) *Teaching and Learning with Museum Exhibitions: An Inter-Institutional Approach*. The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum.
- 2019 Atalan-Helicke, N. Wheat Landraces and Gender Perspectives in Turkey: Consumer Expectations, Concerns and Willingness to Pay." A consultancy report for CIMMYT (The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center), November 2019.
- 2019 Atalan-Helicke, N. Value Chain Analysis for Four Wheat Landraces (Karakılçık, Sarı Bursa, Sarı Buğday, Üveyik) in Turkey" A consultancy report for CIMMYT (The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center), November 2019.
- 2019 Agroheritage Curriculum Development for agricultural engineer students in higher educations in Turkey, Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria, (Agroheritage Project, 2019-1-TR01-KA203-075715), Funded by the European Commission, Erasmus+ (modules for "Agriculture from neolithic age to today," "Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems," " Discoveries in the new era," "Conservation: International efforts and regulation," project information: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/project-result-content/a1649a59-c3a0-4cd2-8d7d4ae5bda89/brochure-AGROHERITAGE.pdf>
- 2013 Atalan-Helicke, N. Dissertation Review. Remaking Nature in Iran: Environmentalism, Science and the Nation, by Satoshi Abe, University of Arizona, 2013. Degree in Anthropology. Dissertation Reviews: Iran and Persian Studies <http://dissertationreviews.org/?s=satoshi+abe>
- 2012 Atalan-Helicke, N. Book review. *Food Policy for Developing Countries: The Role of Government in Global, National, and Local Food Systems*, by Per Pinstrup-Andersen and Derrill D. Watson II. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. 2011 400 pp. *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 53 (5- 6): 480-482. 2012.
- 2012 Atalan-Helicke, N. "Conserving Diversity at the Dinner Table: Plants, Food Security and Gene Banks" *Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective*. Volume 5 Issue 4 (January 2012). an online monthly history journal. <http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/origins/article.cfm?articleid=64> 2012.
- 2007 Atalan, N. "Transboundary Waters" In *Encyclopedia of Environment and Society*. Edited by P. Robbins, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage (pp.1764-1766). 2007.

Grants/Awards/Fellowships

- 2023 Skidmore College, Faculty Development Grant "Traditional recipes, sustainable diets and conservation of agricultural biodiversity" (\$1,800)
- 2023 Skidmore College, Presidential Discretionary Funds. "Ancient Wheats, Modern Revival" (\$1,800)

- 2022 University of Massachusetts, Northeast Climate Justice Research Collaborative. “Seeds and Climate Justice in the Northeast” (\$9,680) (2022-2023)
- 2021 Henry David Thoreau Foundation, Food Systems Initiative (\$38,000), Faculty leader/PI (2021-2022)
- 2020 National Science Foundation Award # 2013373, Developing a Next Generation Concept Inver to Help Environmental Programs Evaluate Student Knowledge of Complex Food-Energy-Water Systems, PI: University of Northern Colorado, Chelsie Romulo (\$1,077,241) (Skidmore College, Co-PI, 2020-2023; received about \$27,000, participated in IRB survey approvals, and survey implementations)
- 2019 Association of American Colleges and Universities, Capital Region Campus-Community Hub (with Siena College and five other higher education partners) (\$7,000) (2019-2020)
- 2018 Skidmore College MDOCS Storytellers Institute, Summer Faculty Fellow
- 2017 Periclean Faculty Leadership Award, Academic Civic Engagement, ES 224 Political Ecology course (\$3,500) (2017-2018)
- 2017 Skidmore College, Faculty Development Grant, SIT faculty travel to Tunisia “Arab Spring” (\$3,350)
- 2016 Jewish National Fund, Faculty Fellowship to Israel, (travel seminar)
- 2015 Skidmore College, Faculty Development Grant with Dr. Hope Casto "Hydraulic Fracturing and Education in boom-towns in Pennsylvania" (\$1,656)
- 2015 Skidmore College, Faculty Development Grant, “Mother citizens: Religiously proper food choic genetically engineered world” (\$3,000)
- 2015 Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa, “Mother citizens” (\$1,500) **Turned it do due to conditions attached
- 2013 Skidmore College, International Faculty Development Seminar Grant, (\$3,000)** The program Chile was cancelled
- 2012 Skidmore College, Faculty Development Grant (\$1,703)
- 2009 The Ohio State University, Dpt. Of Geography, Robert M. Thomas Award (\$4,400)
- 2008 National Science Foundation (NSF), Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (\$12, (2008-2010)
- 2007 The Ohio State University, Environmental Policy Initiative, Summer Fellowship (\$3,600)

Select Conferences, Presentations and Invited Lectures

- 2025 (forthcoming) Presentation “Keeping the Fires Burning: Maintaining and Growing PFL Course discussion facilitation, Project Pericles Directors’ Meeting, Skidmore College, October 28, 2025 (invited presenter).
- 2025 Co-organizer of Slow Wheat Urfa international meeting with Slow Food Turkiye and Sanliurfa Municipality, June 13-15, 2025, Sanliurfa, Turkiye;
Presenter, “Small Producers in the Farm-to-Table Value Chain, June 14, 2025;
Facilitator of workshop, “small producers forum”, June 14, 2025.
- 2024 Wheat Landraces, Small Farmers and Urban Consumers: Revival of Einkorn in Turkey,” (Invited Panelist) Agri-Food Politics in Turkey: Defining the Alternative among Alternatives, Middle East Studies Association 2024 Annual Meeting, *November 12, 2024.*
- 2023 Starting Conversations on Israel-Palestine, Skidmore College, November 29, 2023 (coordinated panel with four other faculty).

- 2023 “Feeding the family healthy food” Cornell University Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), Silver Bay YMCA, October 25, 2023 (Invited lecture).
- 2023 Global Health and Well-Being Roundtable, presenter, *Journal of Critical Global Issues* special issue, May 15, 2023.
- 2022 Organizing committee member and workshop facilitator, Engage for Change, regional civic engagement conference, Siena College, NY, May 2022.
- 2022 “Landraces and Collective Action” Panel, Izmir Economy University, Department of Sociology, April 22, 2022 (Invited panelist).
- 2022 “Workshop facilitator, Radical Fiber: Connecting Art and Science conference, Skidmore College Tang Teaching Museum, January 28, 2022 (Invited facilitator).
- 2021 “Community based Food systems scholarship during Covid-19” paper presented at the annual meeting of Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, June 28-July 1, 2021.
- 2020 “Covid-19: Ecological and Economic Perspectives,” Erbakan University, Turkey, Political Science Department, April 28, 2020 (Invited panelist).
- 2019 Marketing of wheat landraces in Turkey: Actors and models. Paper presented at the International Wheat Diversity and Human Health conference. October 23-24, 2019 (conference co- organizer).
- 2019 “Atalık buğday ve temiz gıda” (Wheat landraces and clean food), Artisan Bakers Initiative. SALT Art Gallery Istanbul, July 3, 2019 (Invited public lecture).
- 2019 “Teaching with challenging material, Teaching and Learning Across Museum Exhibitions workshop/conference. Tang Teaching Museum, June 2019 (Invited facilitator).
- 2019 “Genetically engineered food and halal” Max Planck Institute, Halal Food in Non- Muslim World Workshop, Berlin, Germany. May 2-5, 2019. (Invited presentation).
- 2019 “The Challenges of Islamic-Based Sustainability Practices in the Modern Industrial World,” Zaytuna College Center for Ethical Living and Learning in Berkeley, CA., March 9, 2019. (Invited lecture).
- 2018 “Bir kere tatsan vazgeçemezsin”: yerel tatlar, küresel pazarlar ve atalık buğday siyezini korunması” (You cannot give up siyez if you taste it once: local taste, global markets and the conservation of wheat landrace siyez), Yerel Bugday Sempozyumu (Local Wheat National Symposium), December 20-22, 2018. Bolu, Turkey. (Invited presentation).
- 2018 "Countering Hopelessness: Civic Engagement in Classrooms," annual meeting of Association of American Geographers, New Orleans, LA., April 13, 2018 (Invited panelist).
- 2018 "Heavy burdens and healthy choices: Mothers' perspectives on clean and healthy food in Turkey," annual meeting of Association of American Geographers New Orleans, LA, April 10, 2018.
- 2018 "Periclean Faculty Leaders: Civic Engagement in Political Ecology," annual meeting of Association of American Colleges and Universities, Washington, January 25, 2018 (Invited panelist).
- 2017 "I am not a yoghurt making mom:" Women's definitions of healthy, tasty and genetically engineered food in a Muslim majority country, annual meeting of Association of American Geographers, April 5-9, 2017, Boston, MA.
- 2017 “Middle East: New Directions in Pedagogy and Practice,” annual meeting of Association of American Geographers, April 5-9, 2017, Boston, MA. (Invited Panelist).
- 2016 "Climate change and rural livelihoods of terrestrial snail harvester gypsy women in Turkey", annual meeting of International Rural Sociology Association, August 10-14, 2016. Toronto,

- Canada (collaborator Dr. Dilek Eroglu).
- 2016 Co-organizer, workshop "Strengthening American Food System Resilience", annual conference of National Council for the Science and Environment, January 19-21, 2016 (Collaborator: Dr. Gerry Marten).
- 2016 What do mothers want? Concerns about clean and healthy food in Turkey," Silver Bay YMCA, August 17, 2016. (Invited lecture).
- 2016 "What do mothers want? Access to clean and healthy food in a genetically engineered world" University of Arizona, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, March 9, 2016. (Invited lecture).
- 2015 An Alternative Eco-Friendly Agriculture: Snail Harvesting in Turkey and Extension Needs of Gatherer Families" Paper presented at International Conference on Social Sciences and Education Research, October 29-31, 2015, Antalya, Turkey (collaborator and presenter, Dr. Dilek Eroglu).
- 2015 "Globalization of Taste, Markets and Livelihoods: Conservation of Siyez Wheat Bulgur (cultivated einkorn)" Paper presented at the annual joint meeting of Agriculture Food and Human Values society and Association for the Study of Food, June 24-28, 2015. Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2014 "Feeding the World? Muslim Debates about Genetically Engineered Food", Columbus State University, Center for International Education, GA, Food and Hunger series, Columbus, GA. September 30, 2014. (Invited lecture).
- 2014 "Seed Saving and Agricultural Biodiversity Conservation: Food System Resilience in the U.S. and Beyond," annual meeting of Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, June 14, 2014, NY (Invited presentation).
- 2013 "Food system resilience in the United States: A Conceptual Framework and Contribution of Environmental Studies and Sciences (ESS)", paper presented at the Yale Food Systems Symposium, October 19, 2013 (co-authors: Gerry Marten, Kip Curtis).
- 2013 "Tohum Takas Şenlikleri, sivil toplum ve katılımcı onay sistemi" (Seed exchange networks and open access systems) Boğaziçi University, Institute of Environmental Studies and BUKOOP (Boğaziçi University Alumni Consumers Cooperative). May 28, 2013. (Invited lecture).
- 2012 "Changing Geographies of Agricultural Development in Turkey at the Crossroads of Global and Regional Integration," annual meeting of Association of American Geographers, New York, February 26, 2012.
- 2011 " Çiftçiler ve Yerel Tohumlar: Pazar Mekanizmaları Tarımsal Biyolojik Çeşitliliği Nasıl Etkiliyor- Kastamonu ve Sivas Örnekleri (Farmers and Local varieties: How do market mechanisms affect conservation of agricultural biodiversity?) Zeytinburnu Botanical Garden, Istanbul, Turkey, July 2011. (Invited lecture).
- 2011 "Seed Governance at the Intersection of Multiple Global and Nation-State Priorities: Modernizing Seeds in Turkey", Boğaziçi University, Institute of Environmental Studies, Istanbul, Turkey. July 2011 (Invited lecture).

Teaching Experience/Courses Taught

ES 100 Environmental Concerns in Perspective

ES252 Sustainable Agriculture

ES 224 Political Ecology

ES 225 Human Rights and Development

ES 302 Environment and Development in the Middle East ES303 Politics of Food and Social

Justice

ES307 Global Environmental Governance

ES374 and ES375 Research Capstone

Team-taught courses:

Scribner Seminar 100: Under the Influence: Alcohol in Science and Society (with Dr. Rebecca Howard, Chemistry)

HF200-Monsters: Genetically Engineered Organisms (Honors Forum/ scientific literacy course with Drs. Eric Morser, History, Josh Ness, Biology, and Leo Porter, Mathematics and Computer Science)

HF200-Aliens: Agro-Invaders (Honors Forum/scientific literacy course with Dr. Rachel Roe-Dale, Mathematics and Computer Science, and Scott Mulligan, Management and Business)

HF200-Aquacalypse (Honors Forum/scientific literacy course with Drs. Catherine Domozych, Biology, Monica Raveret-Richter, Biology, and Chris Kopec, Management and Business)

HF200-Food Choices and Consequences (Honors Forum/scientific literacy taught course with Drs. Monica Raveret-Richter, Biology, Kathryn Baustian, Anthropology, and Maria Korre, Health and Human Physiological Sciences)

HF200-Knowing Earth with Big Data & AI, with Scott Mulligan (International Affairs/ Art History) and Bernie Possidente (Biology)

ID 251- Citizenship and Conflict, with Saleema Waraich (Art History) and Sarah Friedland (MDOCS)

Service (See also Service Addendum)

Professional

2026	Panelist, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture proposals.
2025	Review Committee Member, Project Evaluation for “European Universities Competition on Artificial Intelligence to Promote Sustainable Development and Address Climate Change,” Hamburg University, Research and Transfer Centre, August-October, 2025.
July 2024 -	Volunteer copy editor, Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development
2023-2025	Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG), Board member
2023	Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member, Bürge Abiral, Anthropology, John Hopkins University
2022-present	Editorial Board member, Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics
2021	Reviewer for Austrian Science Fund (FWF), grant proposals (May-June 2021)
2021-2025	Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, Nominations Committee

2021	Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, Annual Conference Organization Committee
2013-2016	Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, American Food System Resilience Working Group
2012-2014	Association of American Geographers, Secretary General, Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group
2012-2014	Association of American Geographers, Board Members, Middle East Specialty Group

Member of professional organizations:

Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society

Middle East Studies Association

External reader/reviewer for: *Agriculture and Human Values*,

Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences, World Development, Environmental Politics,

International Journal of Middle East Studies, Food and Foodways, Journal of Agriculture Communication,

Food Culture and Society, Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development, Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems.

Skidmore College

2024-2027	Appointments and Tenure Committee
2020-2022	Director, Environmental Studies and Sciences Program
2020-Fall 2022	Director of Personnel Committee, TT faculty mentorship, A.J. Schneller
2021, 2026	Center for Teaching and Learning, Scholarly Creative Endeavors Facilitator, Winter 2021, Spring 2021, Spring 2026
2020	Faculty mentor, Teaching Support Network
2018- present	Faculty co-advisor, Muslim Student Association
2016-2019	Committee on Academic Freedom and Rights
2013-2014	Periclean Honors Committee, 2013-2014
2011-present	Environmental Studies and Sciences Committee Steering Committee Environmental Studies and Sciences Search Committees 2021, 2013, 2012.

Additional Skills

Experience with ArcGIS storymaps

Turkish (native), French (basic), Arabic (basic), Korean (basic)