

William Schanbacher, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
University of South Florida  
Department of Religious Studies  
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## EDUCATION

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Claremont Graduate University, Ph.D. in Religion (Theology, Ethics, and Culture), 2009

Master of Theological Studies, Duke University Divinity School, MTS., Durham, North Carolina, 2004

BA, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, 2001

Michaelmas term: Oxford University, St. Catherine's College, 1999

## ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Assistant Professor: University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, 2019—

Instructor II: University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, 2016-2018

Instructor I: University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, 2011-2016

Adjunct Faculty: Pikes Peak Community College, Colorado Springs, CO  
2008-2011

Adjunct Faculty: Red Rocks Community College, Lakewood, CO  
2009-2011

## PUBLICATIONS

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### BOOKS:

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Schanbacher, William D. *Religion and Food Ethics: An Introduction* (London, UK: Routledge (forthcoming 2026).

Schanbacher, William D. and Whitney Fung Uy. *Food Insecurity: A Reference Handbook* (New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2023).

Schanbacher, William D. *Food as a Human Right: Combatting Global Hunger and Forging a Path to Food Sovereignty*, (Santa Barbara: Praeger, 2019).

Schanbacher, William D. *The Politics of Food: The Global Conflict between Food Security and Food Sovereignty*, (Santa Barbara: Praeger Publishers, 2010).

#### EDITED BOOKS:

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Schanbacher, William D., ed. *The Global Food System: Issues and Solutions*, (Santa Barbara: Praeger, 2014).

#### CHAPTERS and ARTICLES

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Schanbacher, W.D. Heewon L. Gray, Dhalia Bumbaca, William Cook, Winnie A Mulamba, and Monica Petrella. (peer reviewed, forthcoming 2023). "Evaluating food sovereignty in urban food systems." Proceedings from 2022 Urban Food Systems Symposium September 26-28, 2022, Kansas City, MO (hosted by Kansas State University).

Schanbacher, W. D., & Cavendish, J. C. (2023). The effects of COVID-19 on Central Florida's community gardens: lessons for promoting food security and overall community wellbeing. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 11. doi:10.3389/fpubh.2023.1147967

Schanbacher W, Gray HL. Religion and Food Insecurity in the Time of COVID-19: Food Sovereignty for a Healthier Future. (2021). *Ecol Food Nutr*. Sep-Oct;60(5):612-631. doi: 10.1080/03670244.2021.1946689. PMID: 34617868.

Schanbacher, W. (2019). "La Via Campesina" in P. B. Thompson & D. M. Kaplan (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Food and Agricultural Ethics, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.* (pp. 1717-1723). Dordrecht: Springer Netherlands.

"Introduction to Food Justice in a Global Context," in *Food Justice in a US and Global Context: Bringing Theory and Practice Together*, eds., Ian Werkheiser and Zachary Piso (Springer International Publishing, 2017).

"Introduction" in *The Global Food System: Issues and Solutions*, (Santa Barbara: Praeger, 2014).

"Justifying the Human Right to Food in the Food Sovereignty Framework" in

*The Global Food System: Issues and Solutions*, ed. William D. Schanbacher (Santa Barbara: Praeger Publishers, 2014).

## REVIEWS

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Review of "Transformation of South Africa's unjust food system: An argument for decolonisation" for *Third World Quarterly* (Taylor & Francis, 2020).

Review of Michelle Jurkovich, *Feeding the Hungry: Advocacy and Blame in the Global Fight Against Hunger*, New York: Cornell University Press, 2020 (invited for review for Grawemeyer Award)

Review of *The Touch of Transcendence: A Postcolonial Theology of God*, by Mayra Rivera. Reviews in Religion and Theology, 15:2 (2008).

Review of *Weaving the Tapestry of Moral Judgement: Christian Ethics in a Plural World*, by John Harrod. Reviews in Religion and Theology, 15:3 (2008).

## TRANSLATIONS OF MY WORK

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Schanbacher W D. (2010). *The Politics of Food: The Global Conflict between Food Security and Food Sovereignty*. Praeger, California, USA. 168 pp. Translated (English to Persian) by Moinoddini S Sh & Damghani A M. (2022). Markaz Nashr Daneshgahi. Tehran. Iran.

## GRANT FUNDING

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- 1) National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): Humanities Connections Planning Grant (\$35,000) (2023) – “USF Center for Urban Food Sovereignty and Food Justice: Planning Interdisciplinary and Experiential Learning in the Humanities and Beyond”  
Role: (PI) (\$35,000)  
Title: "Urban Food Sovereignty in the Humanities and Beyond."  
(\$34,810). One-year planning project for collaboration between faculty, students, and community members on the design of new courses and experiential learning activities related to food studies.
- 2) USDA Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Planning Grant (Study #005039) (\$192,000) (2022-2023)- “WellFed Community: A culture-centered approach to incorporating food sovereignty in food security solutions.”  
Role: Co-PI  
Community Food Sovereignty Assessment (GIS mapping/training); internship hiring and supervision (2 interns); organizing stakeholder gathering.

- 3) USF Creative Scholarship Grant: “Introduction to Food Policy Summer Course.” (\$10,000) (2022)  
Role: Co-PI  
In Collaboration with the Florida Food Policy Council created and delivered 6-week summer food policy course.
- 4) USF Partnership Grant: “Building Food Justice in Tampa Bay through a USF Urban Food Sovereignty Group and Fresh N Local Partnership” (2021).  
Role: Co-Investigator, (50%) (\$10,000)  
Collaboration between faculty involved with the Fresh N Local Project on the St. Pete campus and the USF Urban Food Sovereignty Group for 1) the creation of a new service- learning course on food justice; 2) strengthen emerging synergies with food-systems and food insecurity projects on the St. Pete and Tampa campuses.

## SELECTED SPEAKING INVITATIONS

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“Teaching in Uncertain Times,” Symposium on Pedagogy, American Academy of Religion (Southeast Region), Mercer University, Atlanta, GA, March, 2023.

“Food is Not a Human Right: Food Sovereignty and The Fight for the Right to Food,” Florida Food Policy Forum, March 26, 2021.

“Food Sovereignty + Farmworker Rights” with Lupe Gonzolo of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Second Annual Urban Food Sovereignty Summit: October 20, 2020.

“Food Security and Food Justice: Forging a Path to Food Sovereignty”, Florida Food Policy Council Forum Special Edition July 17, 2020.

“Growing a Stronger Economy through Local Food Entrepreneurship” symposium, Invitation from University of South Florida, 2020.

Keynote Speaker, “Love and Hate of the Land: Struggles of Indigenous Farmers”, Invitation from University of South Florida, Introducing USF’s Urban Food Sovereignty Group, April, 2019.

“Religion and Food in a Global Context” Urban Food Sovereignty Mini-Summit, New Port Richey, Florida, September, 23, 2019.

“A Contemporary Path to Truth: Sufism and the World’s Religions,” Sufi Youth Conference, Dallas, TX, delivered August, 2, 2018.

“Finding Peace through Food and Community” Tampa, FL, Peace Week, Pasco-Hernando State College, March, 1, 2016.

“Food Sovereignty: A Better Future for the Global Food System.” Tampa, FL, Peace Week, Pasco-Hernando State College, October, 8, 2014.

Keynote Speaker, Workshop on Food Justice and Peace: Bringing Theory and Practice Together, Center for Peace and Justice and Philosophy Department, Michigan State University, 23 May- 25 May – 2014.

“The Politics of Food,” Duke University Law School, Durham, NC, March, 26, 2013.

“The Politics of Food: Security vs. Sovereignty” International Social Philosophy Conference at Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT, July 11-13, 2013.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

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“Food, Culture, Transformation,” panel organizer, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio Texas, Nov. 19, 2023.

“Engaging the Community with Food Sovereignty,” Workshop on Religion and Community Gardening, American Community Gardening Association Annual Conference, Houston, TX, Sept. 27-30, 2023.

“Teaching in Uncertain Times,” Symposium on Pedagogy, American Academy of Religion (Southeast Region), Mercer University, Atlanta, GA, March, 2023.

“Evaluating Food Sovereignty in Urban Food Systems” 2022 Urban Food Systems Symposium September 26-28, 2022 in Kansas City, MO, hosted by Kansas State University.

“Cultivating Connections: Community Gardening and Food Justice in a Post-Covid-19 World, AFHVS/ASFS Conference, Cultivating Connections, Athens, GA, May 18-21, 2022.

“Norman Rockwell, Alice Brock and Arlo Guthrie Walk into a Bar...What’s on the Menu for Conversation?” American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA, 2020 (virtual).

“For Love of God and Food: The American colonial period and the roots of our modern food systems” Southern Humanities Council, Louisville, KY, 2017.

“Food Sovereignty, Gender Justice and Nodes of Power” XXVII World Congress on the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy. 27 July – 1 August 2015, Washington D.C.

“American exceptionalism, power, and control of the global food system.” Religion and Food: Donner Institute for Research in Religious and Cultural History, Åbo/Turku, Finland, 25-27 June, 2014, Åbo Akademi University.

“Whose Garden is This? Food Ethics in Urban Settings: Ethical issues and considerations for policy makers.” University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, 2014.

“Fair Trade, Fair Food, and Food Sovereignty: Effective Strategies of Resistance or Empty Victories?” (APA, Western Division, 2014).

“Justice, Self-Determination, and the Philosophy of Food: An Argument for Food Sovereignty”(APA, Western Division, 2014, main program).

“Conceptualizing the Human Right to Food in the Food Sovereignty Framework,” Yale Agrarian Studies Conference, Food Sovereignty: A Critical Dialogue. Paper circulated for discussion, September, 2013.

“Whole Foods or Whole People? The Madness of Neoliberalism and the Paradoxical Political Economy of Hunger.” American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, November, 2011.

“Two takes on Liberation: A Theology of Life or a Theology of Forgiveness and Death.” American Academy of Religion (Rocky Mountain – Great Plains Regional AAR/SBL), Iliff School of Theology, March, 2011.

“Haiti: Failed Development Policy, Failed Justice, More of the Same to Come, Maybe?” American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA, October, 2010.

“The Death of Theology in Latin American Liberation Theology? Latin American Liberation Theology and the Social Sciences.” American Academy of Religion (Rocky Mountain – Great Plains Regional AAR/SBL), Creighton University, April, 2010.

“Food Sovereignty, Food Security and Discourses on Sustainable Development: Competing Voices in the Global Politics of Food.” Media, Spiritualities and Social Change Conference. Boulder, CO, June 2008.

“Food Sovereignty vs. Food Security: Emerging Discussions in the Global Politics of Food.” American Academy of Religion. San Diego, CA, November 2007.

“Alienation and the Paradoxical Nature of a Capitalist Ethos.” American Academy of Religion (Western Region). Claremont, CA, March 2006.

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

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Director: USF Urban Food Sovereignty Group: <https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/centers/ufsg/index.aspx> 2019 - present

The Urban Food Sovereignty Group (UFSG) aims to be Florida’s leading research network for the advancement of food sovereignty and food justice. As a collegial community of researchers and local leaders, UFSG publishes book and media reviews, hosts conferences, and facilitates public discussion and action on issues related to our food system. We support community organizations to have greater democratic control over the food they produce and consume. As an innovative research hub, we invite community partners to contact us for community-based research the bridges the gap between the university and our surrounding communities and natural environment.

- Executive Producer: Community Food Sovereignty Stories: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxNGPd3Z\\_XBJzWi3zZ\\_s0g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxNGPd3Z_XBJzWi3zZ_s0g)
- 2019-2023: 250+ hours community service at Harvest Hope Park, Coalition of Community Gardens, Tampa, FL.

Academic Grievance Committee	2019 - present
Assistant Professor in Religion and Health search committee	2021, 2022
Open Rank Prof. of Religious Studies, Endowed Position in Jain Studies search committee	2022
Director of the Undergraduate Program	2013 – 2015
USF Dept. of Religious Studies Undergraduate Committee	2011 - present
School of the Humanities Curriculum Committee	2013 – 2015
Faculty advisor for Agrarian club	2020-present
Faculty advisor for the Muslim Connection student club	2020-present

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

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- 1) Community Revitalization Partnership 12/2020 – present
- 2) Harvest Hope Community Garden, University Area Community Development Corporation, weekly volunteer 01/2020 – present
- 3) St. Pete Youth Farm, volunteer and community partner with USF Urban Food Sovereignty Group 01/2020 – present
- 4) The Sustainable Living Project, volunteer and community partner with USF Urban Food Sovereignty Group 01/2020 – present

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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Claremont Graduate University Transdisciplinary Studies Dissertation Grant 2008-2009  
Claremont Graduate University Fellowship 2005-2006  
Duke University Divinity School Fellowship 2002-2004  
University of Colorado Dean's List

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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American Academy of Religion  
Association for the Sociology of Religion  
Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society

## REFERENCES

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Michael DeJonge, Professor and Chair of Department of Religious Studies,  
University of South Florida 813-  
974-2758

James Cavendish, Associate Professor and Chair of Department of Sociology,  
University of South Florida  
813-974-2633

Ellen Marshall, Associate Professor of Christian Ethics and Conflict  
Transformation, Candler School of Theology, Emory University  
404-727-1214

Dell deChant, Master Instructor, Department of Religious Studies,  
University of South Florida 813-  
974-0576



