

**YASAMIN (Yasi) SHAKER (They/Them)**

Salt Lake City, UT 84104 (517)-304-0096 shakeryasamin@gmail.com

**EDUCATION**

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<b>University of Utah</b> , <i>Ph.D.</i> in Sociology, GPA 4.0 Dissertation: Everyday Disruptions And Moments Of Liberation Within Racial Capitalism ( <b>Defended</b> )	<b>August 2026</b>
<b>University of Utah</b> , <i>M.S.</i> in Sociology, GPA: 4.0	<b>May 2022</b>
<b>Kalamazoo College</b> , Bachelor of Arts, GPA: 3.76	<b>June 2020</b>

**FELLOWSHIPS, RESIDENCIES, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

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<b>Art Resident, School of the Alternative</b>	<b>May 2026</b>
Participated in an experimental artist residency centered on communal living, collaborative artmaking, self-directed learning, and nonhierarchical education.	
<b>Graduate Research Fellowship, University of Utah</b>	<b>Sep 2025-May 2026</b>
Full-time dissertation funding for research on community practices resisting racial capitalism through autoethnography, interviews, ethnography, and arts-based methods.	
<b>Project Support Grant, Salt Lake City Arts Council and Project Rainbow's Community Fund</b>	<b>Jun 2023-Dec 2023</b>
Wrote, illustrated, and published <i>Garden Comrades</i> , a 44-card queer community garden oracle deck and guidebook.	
<b>Senior Leadership Recognition Award, Kalamazoo College</b>	<b>2020</b>
Selected for outstanding leadership and sustained contributions to student life and collective initiatives.	
<b>Gordon Beaumont Memorial Award, Kalamazoo College</b>	<b>2019</b>
Honored for sustained humanitarian concern and commitment to serving others across campus and community life.	
<b>Departmental Prize in Anthropology and Sociology, Kalamazoo College</b>	<b>2018</b>
Awarded for outstanding academic achievement and excellence in Anthropology and Sociology.	

**SELECTED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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<b>Core Team Member, Mobile Moon Co-op, Salt Lake City, UT</b>	<b>Jan 2022-Oct 2025</b>
Planned events, coordinated volunteers, managed social media, facilitated solidarity program directing 30% of revenue to mutual aid, and co-produced Moonboxes through botanical product making, label design, and herb garden stewardship.	
<b>Root and Bloom Fellow, National Young Farmers Coalition</b>	<b>Sep 2024-Jul 2025</b>
Networked, advocated, and built power with 40 other farmers across the United States, engaging with elected officials to advocate for federal policy changes related to issues affecting young farmers.	
<b>Job Training Program Workshop Assistant, Wasatch Community Gardens</b>	<b>Mar 2024-Jun 2024</b>
Supported the Green Team Job Training Program for women facing homelessness by leading creative writing, movement, and herbal education workshops.	
<b>Board Member, Utah Permaculture Collective</b>	<b>Mar 2021-Aug 2021</b>
Helped onboard new members, set goals and procedures, led volunteers, and tended Krishna's Food Forest & Farm.	
<b>Gardener and Accessibility Coordinator, Hoop House. Kalamazoo College</b>	<b>Jan 2019-Aug 2020</b>
Grew plants, composted, and coordinated diverse groups of volunteers with different backgrounds and needs.	
<b>Co-founder and Organizer, Student Food Pantry. Kalamazoo College</b>	<b>Mar 2020-Aug 2020</b>
Raised awareness of campus food insecurity, harvested food for redistribution, and maintained pantry inventory.	
<b>Grounds and Garden Curator, Lillian Anderson Arboretum, Kalamazoo, MI</b>	<b>Sep 2016-Jul 2019</b>
Maintained invasive species control, trail oversight, erosion control, and general groundskeeping.	
<b>Fall Intern Fellow, Sweet Water Foundation. Chicago, IL</b>	<b>Sep 2018-Jan 2019</b>
Published blog posts, created lesson plans, completed woodworking and art projects, mapped assets, developed site visualizations, and maintained urban farms and community gardens in collaboration with Chicago cultural partners.	
<b>Hoop House and Rain Garden Co-designer, Kalamazoo College</b>	<b>Sep 2017-Jan 2019</b>
Collaborated on the design and construction of a hoop house and rain garden for student and community use.	

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### SELECTED ACADEMIC ROLES

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- Committee Member, Racial Inclusion, Equity and Justice (CRIEJ), American Sociological Association's Environmental Sociology Section** Oct 2020-Feb 2024  
Hosted anti-racism workshops, supported scholars of color, and advanced racial equity and inclusion within the section.
- Research Team Member, Center for Natural and Technological Hazards.** Aug 2020-Jun 2023  
Engaged in quantitative environmental justice research analyses.
- Civic Engagement Scholar, Just Food Collective. Kalamazoo, MI** Sep 2019-Jun 2020  
Used education, advocacy, and community-building to help students deepen connections with land, plants, and each other.
- Co-leader, Food & Farming Justice Research & Design Team. Kalamazoo, MI** Sep 2019-Nov 2019  
Organized and co-led a team of students to create a food & farming justice curriculum that connects classroom- and community-centered learning experiences.

### TEACHING AND MENTORING

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- Graduate Instructor, Introduction to Gender & Sexuality, University of Utah** 6 semesters, 2022-2025  
Designed and taught the course across in-person and online formats, developed an intersectional syllabus and modules, graded assignments, and supported students through office hours and creative final projects.
- HAPPIEST Recruitment Coordinator, University of Utah** Jan 2021-Mar 2023  
Served as the main contact for program questions, led information sessions, and launched a social media group for trainees in a summer research program for underrepresented students in air pollution and health research.
- Certified Undergraduate Research Mentor, University of Utah** Aug 2020-Jun 2023  
Mentored students in quantitative environmental justice research through the University of Utah Development Program.
- Departmental Advisor, Environmental Studies Department. Kalamazoo College** Sep 2019-Jun 2020  
Advised students, coordinated with the department chair, hosted information sessions, and held office hours.

### ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

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- Shaker, Y.**, Collins, T. W., Grineski, S. E., & Goel, A. (2025). Contextualizing food apartheid through a racial capitalism analysis: The case of Utah's Wasatch Front, USA. *Journal of Race, Ethnicity and the City*, 1–29. <https://doi.org/10.1080/26884674.2025.2573924>
- Grineski, S., Alexander, C., Allain, M.L., Clark, A.S., Collins, T.W., Goodwin, E., Mullen, C.J., Scott, M., **Shaker, Y.**, Ramos, K.D. and Renteria, R.A., (2023). Environmental Influences on Academic Proficiency. *Current Epidemiology Reports*, pp.1-19.
- Shaker, Y.**, Grineski, S. E., Collins, T. W., & Flores, A. B. (2023). Redlining, racism, and food access in US urban cores. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 40(1), 101-112.
- Collins, T. W., Grineski, S. E., **Shaker, Y.**, & Mullen, C. J. (2022). Communities of color are disproportionately exposed to long-term and short-term PM<sub>2.5</sub> in metropolitan America. *Environmental Research*, 214, 114038.
- Flores, A., Collins, T., Grineski, S., Griego, A., Mullen, C., Nadybal, S., Renteria, R., Rubio, R., **Shaker, Y.**, and S. Trego (2020). Environmental Justice in the Disaster Cycle: Hurricane Harvey and the Texas Gulf Coast. *Environmental Justice*. DOI: 10.1089/env.2020.0039.

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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- Poet/Author, *In the Belly of the Pomegranate*, Kelsey Street Press, 40-poem collection. Under Review
- Art and poem contributor, *Microbialite Manifestos*, Torrey House Press Forthcoming 2026
- Artist and writer, *Garden Comrades: A Queer Community Garden Oracle Deck* 2023
- Co-author, *MOON RECIPES: An Herbal Handbook for Botanical Bodies*. 2023
- Art contributor, *Imagining Futures Community*, Environmental Humanities, University of Utah. 2023

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Art and writing contributor, Spring Equinox & Autumn Equinox Editions, Mobile Moon Coop.  
Poet, *Mother Tongue* and *Belonging*, The Cauldron Magazine.

2021  
2018-2019

### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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<i>Queering Characters: Embodied World-building</i>	Queer Spectra Arts Festival	2024
<i>Environmental Injustice</i>	STEM Community Alliance	2023
<i>Redlining, Racism and Food Access in US Urban Cores</i>	American Sociology Association	2022
<i>Understanding Food Insecurity with a Systemic Lens</i>	Iowa Hunger Summit	2022
<i>Reimagining Environmentalism: Experience of Students of Color with College Campus Environmentalism</i>	American Sociology Association	2021
<i>Muslim and Queer Sex Education</i>	Social Justice Research Symposium	2020

### SKILLS

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**Technical:** Qualitative analysis; Quantitative analysis; data visualization; Microsoft Office applications; Google suite; Dropbox; Slack; Asana; ATLAS.ti; SPSS; R; ARC GIS PRO; MAXQDA; Illustrator; Canva; Google Analytics; Procreate  
**Languages:** Advanced fluency in English, native fluency in Persian, beginner fluency in Spanish

### Professional References

Sara Grineski, Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies and Co-Director, the Center for Natural and Technological Hazards at the University of Utah

Email: [sara.grineski@soc.utah.edu](mailto:sara.grineski@soc.utah.edu)

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Katherine Maldonado-Fabela, Professor of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Utah

Email: [katherine.maldonado@soc.utah.edu](mailto:katherine.maldonado@soc.utah.edu)

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Timothy W. Collins, Professor of the School of Environment, Society & Sustainability

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