

Dr. Maria Lee Kernecker

Position: Scientist (Tenure Track)
Co-Head of Working Group "Land Use Decisions in the Spatial and System Context"

Academic education and scientific degrees

2013 PhD in Renewable Resources, McGill University, Montréal, Canada
2009 MSc in Environmental & Bioresource Management, BOKU, Vienna, Austria (*with distinction*)
2004 BA in International Affairs & Spanish, University of Nevada, Reno, USA (*with distinction*)

Professional experience

Since 2023 Scientist (Tenure Track), Working Group "Land Use Decisions in the Spatial and System Context", Program Area Agricultural Landscape Systems, ZALF
2016 – 2023 Postdoctoral researcher, Working Group "Biotic Interactions between Forested and Agricultural Land," Program Area Land Use and Governance, ZALF
2009 – 2013 Doctoral researcher, McGill University, Montréal, Canada
2007 – 2008 Research Associate, BOKU, Vienna, Austria
2006 – 2007 Research Fellow, Centro de Investigaciones Tropicales, Xalapa, Mexico
2004 – 2005 Research Assistant, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA
2001 – 2004 Research Assistant, Desert Research Institute and University of Nevada, Reno, USA

Research Profile

Background

- Social roles, perceptions, and innovation processes
- Soil and landscape ecology
- Local knowledge systems
- Sustainability science
- Human and land rights

Research Activities

- Assessing biodiversity and yield patterns in and across agricultural landscapes
- Exploring innovations for sustainable farming systems at field and landscape scale
- Re-thinking science practice for transformations towards sustainability

Functions and memberships

Since 2023 Member of Research Commission at ZALF
Since 2023 Steering Committee Member for Biodiversa+ project GreeNet
2023 EU CAP Network Focus Group "Enhancing the biodiversity on farmland through high-diversity landscape features"
Since 2022 Active collaborator in Future Earth working group on "Collective and care-full transformations for sustainability science"
Since 2019 Co-founder and leader of the research collective "Careoperative"
2020 – 2021 Ombudsperson, ZALF
Since 2020 Guest Editor at Basic and Applied Ecology

Other

- Since 2022 Active collaborator in the BMBF-funded junior research group Assessment of agricultural and food policy transformation paths towards a biodiversity-friendly land use and food system (BEATLE) based at the University of Hohenheim and University of Freiburg
- Since 2020 Teaching within MSc program Integrated Natural Resource Management at Humboldt University (Agroecosystems, Env. & Sustainable Nat. Res and Multifunctional Agricultural Landscapes)
- 2018 – 2020 Robert Bosch Postdoc Academy for Transformational Leadership in Food Systems Science
- 2018 – 2020 Academy for Agroecosystem Research and Plant Production of the German Research Foundation (DFG)
- Since 2017 Supervisory role for several MSc and PhD students
- Ongoing Member of GfÖ, IALE, and GLP

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