

David Ferring

Department of Geography and the Environment
University of North Texas
david.ferring@unt.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2024- Lecturer, Department of Geography and the Environment, University of North Texas
- 2019-2024 Adjunct Instructor, Department of Geography and the Environment, University of North Texas

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Rutgers University, Geography, 2025
Dissertation Committee: Laura Schneider (Chair), Gavin Hilson, Andrea Marston, Pam McElwee
- M.S. University of North Texas, Geography, 2012
Thesis Committee: Joseph Oppong (Chair), David Sterling, Chetan Tiwari
- B.A. University of Texas at Austin, Plan II Honors Program, 2001

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- 2019 **Ferring, D.** & Hausermann, H. The Political Ecology of Landscape Change and Cumulative Vulnerability in Central Ghana's Gold Mining Country. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 109 (4): 1074-1091.
- 2018 Hausermann, H. & **Ferring, D.** Unpacking Land Grabs: Subjects, Performances, and the State in Ghana's 'Small-Scale' Gold Mining Sector. *Development and Change* 49(4), 1010-1033.
- 2018 Hausermann, H., **Ferring, D.**, Atosona, B., Mentz, G., Amankwah, R., Chang, A., Hartfield, K., Emmanuel, E., Asuamah, G., Mansell, C., & Sastri, N. Land-grabbing, land-use transformation and social differentiation: deconstructing "small-scale" in Ghana's recent gold rush. *World Development* 108, 103-114.
- 2016 **Ferring, D.**, Hausermann, H., Effah, E. Site-Specific: Heterogeneity of small-scale gold mining in Ghana. *The Extractive Industries and Society* 3(1), 171-184.

- 2016 Tschakert, P., Ricciardi, V., Smithwick, E., Machado, M., **Ferring, D.**, Hausermann, H., & Bug, L. Situated knowledge of pathogenic landscapes in Ghana: Understanding the emergence of Buruli ulcer through qualitative analysis. *Social Science & Medicine* 150, 160-171.
- 2015 Wu, J., Tschakert, P., Klutse, E., **Ferring, D.**, Ricciardi, V., Hausermann, H., Oppong, J., & Smithwick, E. A. Buruli Ulcer Disease and Its Association with Land Cover in Southwestern Ghana. *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases* 9(6), e0003840.
- 2012 Hausermann, H., Tschakert, P., Smithwick, E. A., **Ferring, D.**, Amankwah, R., Klutse, E., Hagarty, J. & Kromel, L. Contours of Risk: Spatializing Human Behaviors to Understand Disease Dynamics in Changing Landscapes. *EcoHealth* 9(3), 251-255.

Book Chapters

- 2021 Hausermann, H. & **Ferring, D.** The State of Land Grabs: Regulatory Fictions in Ghana's "Small-Scale" Gold Mining Sector. In *Land Fictions: The Commodification of Land in City and Country*, Asher Ghertner and Robert Lake, Eds. Cornell University Press.

Articles in prep

Warner, S., **Ferring, D.**, Hausermann, H, et al. Widows and water: mining-farming interactions in Ghana.

Jung J., Bandzuh J. T., Eum, Y., Kim, K., Conant, B., Islam, S., Kim, Y., **Ferring, D.** Assessing Heat Exposure at State Fairs in the US: Potential Benefits of Date Adjustments

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

- 2020-2021 Ponette-Gonzalez, A. G. (Principal), Fry, M. (Co-Principal), Ferring, D. (Co-Principal), Doherty, D. (Co-Principal), "Hazy views over U.S. public lands," Sponsored by University of North Texas.
- 2015-2016 Rutgers University, Excellence Fellowship
- 2015 Rutgers University, Department of Human Ecology, Research Grant
- 2014 Rutgers University, Center for Global Advancement and International Affairs, for the GlobalHealth! annual lecture series
- 2013 Rutgers University, Graduate School, Pre-Dissertation Travel Award

- 2013 Rutgers University, Center for African Studies, Graduate Student Research Enhancement Award
- 2013 Rutgers University, Department of Human Ecology, Pre-Dissertation Travel Grant
- 2012-2013 Rutgers University, Excellence Fellowship
- 2011-2012 University of North Texas, Toulouse Graduate School, Thesis and Dissertation Fellowship

TEACHING

University of North Texas, Department of Geography and the Environment

Courses taught as sole instructor:

- GEOG 1000: *National Parks* (S2023—S2026)
- GEOG 1710: *Earth Science* (F2019, S2020, S2021—S2023)
- S2021, S2022, S2023 taught as part of Project Design and Analysis degree program at UNT Frisco
 - F2021 and F2022 taught as part of North Texas NOW! project-based dual credit program at UNT Frisco
- GEOG 2170: *Culture, Environment and Society* (S2024, S2025)
- GEOG 1000: *Sustainability* (F2020, F2021—S2026)
- GEOG 3200: *Field Methods* (F2023, F2024, F2025)
- GEOG 4920: *Internship Experience* (S2025—S2026)

Courses taught as teaching assistant:

- GEOG 1610: *Physical Geology* (S2011)
- GEOG 1710: *Earth Science* (F2010)

Guest lecturer:

- GEOG 2170: *Culture, Environment and Society*
- GEOG 1710: *Earth Science*
- GEOG 5160: *Foundations of Geographic Thought* (graduate seminar)
- GEOG 3750: *Geography of Contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa*
- GEOG 3120: *Medical Geography*
- GEOG 2110: *Research Design and Geographic Applications*
- HNRS 3500: *Honors Thesis Proposal Development* (Honors College)
- ANTH 4400: *Environmental Anthropology*

Rutgers University, Department of Human Ecology

Courses taught as sole instructor:

EPIB 305: *Globalization, Development & Environment* (S2016)

Courses taught as teaching assistant:

EPIB 101: *Introduction to Human Ecology* (F2013—F2014, F2017—F2018)

EPIB 279: *Politics of Environmental Issues* (F2015, S2019)

Guest lecturer:

EPIB 429: *Agrarian Landscapes*

EPIB 279: *Politics of Environmental Issues*

ANTH 302: *Culture and the Environment* (Department of Anthropology)

EPIB 110: *Theories and Reasoning*

EPIB 101: *Introduction to Human Ecology*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

- 2024 Health, Cumulative Vulnerability, and Political Dimensions of Unregulated Gold Mining in Ghana. Department of Anthropology, University of North Texas.
- 2018 “All We Get is Malaria”: The Political Ecology of Landscape Change, Malaria and Cumulative Vulnerability in Central Ghana's Gold Mining Country. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, New Orleans.
- 2017 “Death Traps & Breeding Places”: Multispecies health in Ghana’s small-scale gold mining landscapes. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Boston.
- 2016 Scratching out a life: Gendered dimensions of participation and resistance in Ghana’s small-scale mining sector. Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Washington, DC.
- 2015 Critical political ecologies of vulnerability. Session organizer with Jamie Shinn. Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, University of Kentucky.
- 2015 Uneven vulnerabilities in extractive landscapes: A case from rural Ghana (co-presented with Heidi Hausermann, Augustus Chang, Emmanuel Effah, Helen Olsen, and Natasha Sastri). Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, University of Kentucky.
- 2015 Research Methods and Ethics: A Seminar for Graduate Students (co-presented with Juanita Sundberg and Amelia Duffy-Tumaszy), Rutgers University.

- 2015 The politics of land acquisition: small-scale gold mining in Ghana (co-presented with Heidi Hausermann). Department of Human Ecology Research Lecture Series, Rutgers University.
- 2014 Critical geospatial technologies of infectious disease dynamics – Buruli ulcer in Ghana. Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, University of Kentucky.
- 2014 Site specific: heterogeneity of small-scale gold mining in Ghana (co-presented with Emmanuel Effah and Heidi Hausermann). Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Tampa.
- 2014 The politics of foreign land acquisition in Ghana’s small-scale gold mining sector (co-presented with Heidi Hausermann). Annual Critical Geography Conference, Temple University.
- 2013 Political ecology of small-scale gold mining in Ghana. Socio-Ecological Changes in the Tropics: Reconnaissance trip reports from the summer of 2013, Rutgers University.
- 2012 Environmental and behavioral risk factors for Buruli ulcer in Ghana: a multi-scalar analysis. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, New York.
- 2012 The Graduate Research Experience. UNT Geography Club, University of North Texas.
- 2011 A spatial analysis of Buruli ulcer in Ghana. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Seattle.
- 2011 Landscape disturbance and infectious disease in Ghana – The ReBUild Project. Graduate Research Seminar, University of North Texas.
- 2010 Spatial data infrastructure for evaluating the health impact of gas well drilling in North Texas (with David Sterling, Aldo Aviña, Joseph Oppong & Chetan Tiwari). Health Effects of Shale Gas Extraction: What is known and what can we predict, University of Pittsburgh.

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2012 F.A. Schoolmaster Outstanding Graduate Award, University of North Texas, Department of Geography
- 2012 University of North Texas Outstanding Graduate Award
- 2011 University of North Texas Department of Geography Outstanding Service Award

SERVICE

Department

- 2024- Undergraduate Advisor, Human Geography, Department of Geography and the Environment, UNT
- 2024- Undergraduate Committee, Department of Geography and the Environment, UNT
- 2024- Faculty Advisor, Geography Student Association, Department of Geography and the Environment, UNT
- 2024- Advancement Committee, Department of Geography and the Environment, UNT
- 2024- Sustainability Certificate Coordinator, Department of Geography and the Environment, UNT
- 2020 Organizer, Texas Film Series, Department of Geography and the Environment, University of North Texas
- 2013-2014 President, Graduate Geographers Project, Rutgers University
- 2011-2012 Quantitative Methods Tutor, Department of Geography, University of North Texas

College

- 2025- College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Institutional Effectiveness Review Coordinator (Geography BA/BS)
- 2024- College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Council of Advisors

External

- Fall 2025- Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center Scientific Advisory Board
- Reviewer for: *Annals of the Association of American Geographers; The Extractive Industries and Society; Health & Place; Human Geography; Land Use Policy; Urban Geography*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2024-2025 Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) Effective Teaching Framework Certificate
- 2025 CLAW (Collaborative Learning Active Workspace) Institute Workshop
- 2001-2003 U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer, Rural Health Education Program, Côte d'Ivoire and Madagascar

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2010- Association of American Geographers, Member

LANGUAGES

- English (native speaker)
French (advanced competency)