Abstract:

In the age of globalization, the migration of refugees to new places, typically ‘first world’ nations, is increasing dramatically. This influx alters the collective identities that exist in the receiving environments. The identities of refugees living in Chittenden County, Vermont are maintained, to an extent, through the traditional practices of seed saving and growing culturally specific foods. Social network largely define relationships within new environments. The growing presence of New American food culture impacts the food and social cultures throughout the place resettlement. The Action Research element of this project is in partnership with New Farms for New Americans (NFNA), a refugee farming program run within the non-profit organization the Association of Africans Living in Vermont (AALV), is to increase access to seeds available in Gardener’s Supply. To do this I helped to identify culturally desired and climatically appropriate seed varieties to be sold and aid in the creation of language appropriate signage. Once seeds are available and accessed by local gardeners, potential for increased diversity of seeds saved and cultivated by Vermont’s gardener’s will expand.