

AARON C. VLASAK

Expertise: forest and natural resources policy and management; ethics, politics, and environment

EDUCATION

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY

- M.S., Department of Forest and Natural Resources Management, May '16 (recipient of Forestry Endowment; GPA 4.0)
 - Wanakena Ranger School, Adirondack Field Studies, Summer '13 (recipient of Best Student Award for Achievement in Forest Measurements)

New School for Social Research, New York, NY

- Ph.D., Philosophy, May '07
- M.A., Philosophy, May '02

University of California, Santa Cruz, CA

- B.A., Philosophy, May '96 (*Honors*)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING

RESEARCH FELLOW IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY—Center for Environmental Policy and Administration, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, June '18-Present

- GIS analysis of flood vulnerability in New York
- Collaborated with Wayne County to advance community resilience to Lake Ontario flooding
- Created online tools that allow Wayne County planners to determine unique flood risks for lakeshore properties
- Cooperated with Syracuse United Neighbors in effort to find flood insurance affordability solutions for residents of low-income communities
- Created and conducted a research survey of 6,400 Onondaga County property owners located in the flood zone
- Met with NYS representatives and successfully introduced a bill that regulates creditors and flood insurance companies

PART-TIME INSTRUCTOR—Department of Geography and the Environment, Syracuse University, January '19-Present

- Instructor for Environmental Ideas and Policy

GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT EXTERN—E.S.F./United Nations, Policy Analysis Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, September '14-January '15

- Report coordinator, E.S.F. consultant team for the UN Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)
- Collaborated with team from Wageningen University in the Netherlands

- Co-authored a “crowd sourced” brief on market-based forest conservation instruments for the 2015 GSDR

FACULTY FELLOW IN THE HUMANITIES—Syracuse University, August ’10-January ’14

- Instructor for an intensive writing seminar to first-year freshman on the following subjects: Nature’s Value; Love, Death and Logic; Cosmopolitanism; First Year Forum; and World Crises and the Possibility of World Justice

LECTURER—University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, September ’07-June ’10

- Instructor for the following courses: History of Ancient Philosophy; Ethical issues in a Diverse Society; Independent Study on the Origin of Philosophy; Philosophy and Film; Religious Ethics; Environmental Ethics; Introduction to Ethics; and Introduction to Philosophy

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Community College of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, September ’02-June ’07

- Instructor for the following courses: Informal Logic; Introduction to Philosophy; Ethics: Theoretical and Applied; Critical Thinking for Federal Reserve Bank Employees (classes held at the Federal Reserve Bank); and Ethics for Police Officers (classes held at the Philadelphia Police Academy)

Frankford Hospital School of Nursing, Philadelphia, PA, January ’03-December ’04

- Instructor for Critical Thinking for Nurses

Penn State Abington, January ’03-June ’03

- Instructor for Introduction to Philosophy and Symbolic Logic

Immaculata University, January ’03-December ’03

- Instructor for Informal Logic

MANAGEMENT

FOREST RESTORATION CREW LEADER—The Nature Conservancy, Central & Western New York Chapter, August ’18-November ’18

- Crew leader for Climate Adaptation Forest Resilience project in the Tug Hill Conservation Area
- Used stem injection method for spot treatment of understory American beech; marked timber harvest (patch cut) boundaries and coordinated with logging contractor; planted mixed hardwood seedlings and constructed deer exclosures in harvested areas
- Recorded and documented quantitative data; operated off-road vehicle in a remote forest setting

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT—Una National Park, Bihac, Bosnia and Herzegovina, May ’17-August ’17

- Coordination and planning assistant for participation in two international projects: transboundary invasive species control in Sava River Basin (Sava TIES) and establishment of recreational trail network through the Dinaric Alps (Via Dinarica)
- Wrote the project application and budget for an Una National Park (NP Una) pilot study for the management of Japanese knotweed along the Una River (tributary of Sava)
- Discovered, recorded, mapped, photographed and described a 60 Km gravel cycling route in and around NP Una for inclusion in Via Dinarica

FOREST HEALTH INTERN—New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, May '14-August '14

- Invasive insect trapping and monitoring throughout New York state
- Used GPS data collection and mobile mapping technologies
- Deployed traps of various types (for emerald ash borer, walnut twig beetle, Sirex woodwasp...) and collected samples
- Conducted public outreach and spoke with landowners

RESEARCH ANALYST—Research Foundation of SUNY, June '13-August '13

- Supervisor of forest inventory crew in Heiberg Forest and Cuyler Hill State Forest
- Located existing/established new plots using compass and pacing techniques
- Used both 1/20th acre fixed radius and variable radius, BAF 10, plot samples
- Tagged trees, identified tree species, measured DBH, and determined acceptability/merchantability

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

REGISTRATION ADMINISTRATOR—New School for Social Research, New York, NY, August '01-January '03

- Proof-read the course bulletin
- Maintained and edited confidential student, instructor, and course information
- Acted as a liaison between the Graduate Faculty and other divisions of the New School

FIRST AND SECOND GRADE TEACHER—Montebello Unified School District, Montebello, CA, August '96-July '97

- Designed curricula
- Provided multi-subject instruction and childcare
- Conducted parent conferencing
- Organized and participated in extracurricular activities such as assemblies, fieldtrips, and carnivals

PUBLICATIONS

- “Ironies of Consociation: Forest and Natural Resource Governance in Postwar Bosnia & Herzegovina,” *Society & Natural Resources* 31, no. 5 (2018): 599-614.
- “Philosophic Exile: Plato’s Care for the Self as Cosmopolitanism,” in *Critique of Cosmopolitan Reason: Timing and Spacing the Concept of World Citizenship*, ed. Rebecka Lettevall and Kristian Petrov, vol. 2 of *New Visions of the Cosmopolitan*, ed. Patrick O’ Mahony and Tracey Skillington (Oxford: Peter Lang, 2014).
- “Plato’s *Kunikos Kosmopolitēs*,” *Agathos: An International Review of the Humanities and Social Sciences* 3, no. 1 (2012): 49-60.
- “Cheating the Academy as Solidarity,” co-authored with Louis Colombo, in *The Public Life of Ethics*, co-edited with Louis Colombo (Freeland, UK: ID press, 2010).

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- “Geography of Flood Risk,” Advancing Community-Level Resilience 1: A New Perspective on High Water and Property Risk on Wayne County’s Lake Ontario Shoreline, October 2021, virtual

- “Consensual Rule and Dissociative Governance: Una National Park and Forest Management in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” New York State Society of American Foresters, January 2016, Syracuse, New York
- “Beyond Sustainable Certification: Forestry and the Bosnian Case,” co-authored, presented by Brian Jacobson, Association of American Geographers, April 2015, Chicago, Illinois
- “Plato’s Cosmopolitan Ideal: Philosophic Exile,” Humanities Center Spring Symposia, Faculty Fellow Lecture Series, March 2012, Syracuse, New York
- “Plato’s *Kunikos Kosmopolitēs*,” Cosmopolitanism in a Wider Context: Conceptualizing Past and Present, November 2011, Stockholm, Sweden

CERTIFICATIONS

- Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED, American Heart Association, 2018-2020
- Wildland Search Skills, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, 2018
- Wilderness First Aid, National Outdoor Leadership School, 2018-2020
- AIARE 1 Avalanche Course, Alpenglöw Expeditions, 2018