

Kat Morgan

New York, NY | Kpm8531@nyu.edu | [Online Portfolio](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

EDUCATION

New York University, New York, NY Doctoral Student, Environmental Studies (beginning Fall 2025)

Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, New York, NY Master of Public Health, Environmental Health Sciences Certificate in Food Systems and Public Health, Fall 2022 – Spring 2024

Emory University, Atlanta, GA Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology, Fall 2018 – Spring 2021

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Food Security Leadership Council

Sept. 2025 – Present

Associate Fellow

Selected for the inaugural class of Associate Fellows to develop and advance real-world policy solutions for global food security challenges. Will collaborate with Distinguished Fellows and Council members to contribute to the Blueprint for U.S. Leadership in Global Food Security.

Awarded this selective role based on a compelling policy proposal detailing a specific action for U.S. leadership in global food security.

The Rockefeller Foundation Food Team

Program Associate

Sept. 2024 – Present

Graduate Associate

(May 2022– May 2024)

Strategy, Grant Management, and Research support across the Global and Regenerative Food Portfolios. Conduct research and data analysis, including economic case studies and technical writing. Assist in strategic communications, memo and speech writing, project management, monitoring and evaluation to ensure program success. Provide logistical and administrative support to senior leadership.

First author of "Legume-Based Agroecology for African Nutrition Security," published in the FAO Agroecology Hub in 2023. Collaborated with the New York Botanical Garden and Rockefeller Food Team personnel and delivered a lightning talk at the New York Botanical Garden.

Led a comprehensive scoping review for the Periodic Table of Food Initiative, coordinating a team of 20 international reviewers, screening over 4,000 articles, and extracting data from 700+ studies to identify upstream drivers of downstream variation in food composition. Presented key findings at the 2023 Society for Ethnobotany Joint Conference at Emory University

Oh Crop! Food Systems Podcast

March 2023 – Present

Host and Executive Producer

Award-winning Food Systems podcast (18 episodes) leveraging narrative storytelling to ignite change-making in climate- and justice-centered food systems. Received first prize in the Columbia University Lerner Center Health Messaging for Justice 2023 Competition. Notable Interviewees: Catherine Bertini Mark Bittman, Raj Patel

Columbia Climate School, Columbia University

November 2023 – Jan 2024

Research Assistant, EAT-Lancet 2.0 Commission

Article screening and data extraction for the EAT-Lancet 2.0 Commission under the direction of Dr. Jessica Fanzo, Columbia Climate School, to identify which interventions in food environments, targeting whole populations, are effective in shifting consumption patterns towards planetary health diets in different regions of the world.

Screened approximately 4,000 studies, identifying relevant research for inclusion, ensuring data accuracy and relevance, investing over 40 hours in generating a comprehensive and reliable evidence base.

The Pandemic Action Network, Panorama Global

Jan. – April 2022

Communications and Partnerships Intern

Brief research and online writing to inform policy and catalyze pandemic mitigation action. Administrative support and partner Onboarding Lead using Canva, Mailchimp, and Airtable. Accomplished audit of 546 partner and affiliate organizations in Airtable. Weekly pandemic newsletter editorial assistant. Increased overall subscribers by 12% in two months by drafting engagement emails, social media posts for LinkedIn and X, and identifying expansion strategies in Mailchimp software.

Hawaii Public Health Institute
Maui Nui Food Alliance
Research Intern

Jan. – May 2022

Co-author of the Maui Nui Food System Stakeholder Assessment. Maui Nui Health Center Assessment stakeholder assessment editor and Food System report author. Aggregated 61 food system indicators to assess food environments, production, and processing.

FELLOWSHIPS

New York University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Environmental Studies

August 2025 - Present

MacCracken Fellow

Awarded five years of funding through the Henry M. MacCracken Program, through the Doctor of Philosophy program in Environmental Studies at New York University. Tentative Dissertation title "The Social, Environmental, and Political Economy of *Fabaceae* for Sustainable Food Futures." Research to be conducted under the mentorship of Dr. Sonali McDermid, chair of the Environmental Studies department and Climate Co-Lead for the Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project (AgMIP).

U.S. Department of State

June – August 2024

Citizen Diplomat and Critical Language Scholar

Awarded the U.S. Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program to study Swahili at the MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation (MS TCDC). Selected from over 5,000 applicants as one of approximately 500 American students.

Engaged in eight weeks of intensive language instruction and cultural immersion, developing proficiency in Swahili and gaining valuable cross-cultural communication skills. Authored and delivered a presentation and final research paper, entirely in Kiswahili, examining the potential of indigenous Tanzanian bean varieties for climate change resilience.

International Fellows Program, Columbia School of International and Public Affairs

Aug. 2023 – May 2024

International Fellow

Selected fellow for a two-semester seminar that provided a comprehensive presentation of international change and practical preparation steps for the evolving global landscape. As an IFP fellow, I received a stipend, engaged in diverse perspectives, and gained exclusive access to senior policymakers, diplomats, and leaders in Washington, D.C., and the United Nations, enriching my graduate experience.

Food Fellows Program, Columbia Mailman School of Public Health

May 2023 – May 2024

Food Fellow

The Columbia Mailman School Food Fellows curriculum includes field practice seminars and hands-on experience in food systems work, such as policy development, community engagement, and communications. Led research on Front-of-Package Nutrition Labeling and U.S. policy translation, including literature review, memorandum, and policy matrix; coauthored a New York Times Op-Ed on nutrition labeling with mentorship from Mark Bittman.

Washington University Institute of Public Health

May – July 2021

Gold Family Summer Research Scholar

Research assistant for the project "Compound Vulnerability and COVID-19: African American and African Low-Wage Allied Healthcare Workers." Transcribed qualitative interviews; assisted in Qualtrics survey development; and authored a literature review on vaccine hesitancy. Designed a subproject and conducted qualitative coding and data analysis of 5 hypothesized factors contributing to vaccine hesitancy in the research population. Presented research at the 2021 Summer Research Program Symposium.

Emory University Center for Ethics

May 2019 – Dec. 2020

Summer Internship Program, Summer 2019: Participated in a structured internship/service-learning program through leadership and ethical instruction. Placed at WonderRoot Arts non-profit, implemented various administrative, organizational, and analytical tasks, and assisted with event planning and execution.

Ethics and Servant Leader Forum, Sep. 2019 - Dec. 2020: Undergraduate cohort of weekly meetings to develop community-building and leadership development skills. Designed a food insecurity initiative to improve Emory undergraduate food accessibility.

HONORS/AWARDS

- Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellowship (offered, but not accepted)
- Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society
- Randle International Scholarship, Columbia School of International and Public Affairs
- Recipient, Society of Ethnobotany Conference Assistance Award
- First Place, Columbia University Health Messaging for Justice 2023 Student Competition
- Recipient, Shepard Scholarship for Graduate Study

HONORS/AWARDS Cont.

- Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society
- Lambda Alpha Honor Society
- Outstanding Senior Award, Emory Department of Anthropology
- All semesters, Emory University Undergraduate Dean's list
- Grant recipient of Global Youth Mobilisation Local Solutions Programme
- Gold Family Research Scholar, Washington University Institute of Public Health

PUBLICATIONS

- Morgan, K. P., Hachana, A., Yiu, C., Souissi, A., & Ziska, L. (2025). Locally adapted rhizobia strains for Sahelian nutritional security. *Sustainable Microbiology*, Article qvaf023. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sumbio/qvaf023>
- Morgan, K., de la Parra, J., & McAlvay, A. (2023). *Legume-based agroecology for African nutrition security: Policy report*. FAO Agroecology Hub. <https://doi.org/10.17613/e803-rx71>
- Morgan, K. (2023). The agricultural dilemma: How not to feed the world [Review of the book *The agricultural dilemma: How not to feed the world*, by G. D. Smith]. *Economic Botany*, 77(4), 480–483. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12231-023-09593-8>
- Ahmed, S., Chien, C., de la Parra, J., German, J., Jarvis, A., Lal, V., Lartey, A., McDade, M., Prenni, J., Rajasekharan, M., Shafizadeh, T., Morgan, K., Vázquez-Manjarrez, N., & Watkins, S. (2023). What is in a tomato? Mapping the building blocks of food. *Frontiers for Young Minds*, 11, Article 1038318. <https://doi.org/10.3389/frym.2023.1038318>
- Morgan, K. (2022). Addressing food insecurity in Appalachia: An anthropological public health assessment and recommendations. *Emory Undergraduate Research Journal*, 18. <https://www.emoryurj.com/read>

ONLINE WRITING

- Morgan, K. (2025, September 7). On Listening to the Land: Celebrating Hopniss and the Future of Our Food. *Society for Ethnobotany*. <https://sebstudentblog.com/2025/09/07/on-listening-to-the-land-celebrating-hopniss-and-the-future-of-our-food/>
- Morgan, K., & Bittman, M. (2024, June 30). How to help Americans eat less junk food. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/30/opinion/food-warning-labels-ultra-processed-food.html>
- Morgan, K. (2022, April 6). Activating young leaders to end the COVID crisis and pandemic-proof our future. *Pandemic Action Network*. <https://www.pandemicactionnetwork.org/news/activating-young-leaders-to-end-the-covid-crisis-and-pandemic-proof-our-future>
- Morgan, K. (2021, September 7). Moving beyond the encyclopedia: Cultural insights for effective global health intervention design. *Institute for Public Health*. <https://publichealth.wustl.edu/moving-beyond-the-encyclopedia/>
- Morgan, K. (2021, September 7). COVID-19 and the value of anthropology in public health. *Institute for Public Health*. <https://publichealth.wustl.edu/covid-19-the-value-of-anthropology-in-public-health/>

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Vice President of Communications, Students for Environmental Action Jan. 2023 – Dec. 2023
Served as the Vice President of Communications until December 2023, where I promoted environmental awareness at the Columbia University Medical Campus and was responsible for publicizing club activities through email, social and media, as well as co-leading the planning and execution of events both on and off campus.

Farm Volunteer, World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms Oct. – Dec. 2021
I supported general maintenance on smallholder and organic farms and led community outreach and education activities in Spanish and English. Responsibilities included maintaining crops, planting, harvesting, livestock care, cheese making, and composting.