

Maro Denton

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Education

B.A. – Politics with High Honors — Oberlin College — 2023

Minors: Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies; Comparative American Studies

Honors Thesis: “State of Decay: Radical Social Ecology and Fungal Organizing Theory”

Relevant Coursework: Global Capitalism: Corporate Citizens & Shareholder States, Principles of Economics, Work, Workers & Trade Unions, Marxian Theory, Direct Action Tactics (Experimental College)

Research And Teaching Interests

Revolutionary Ecology; Bioregionalism/Cascadia; Food Sovereignty; Agriculture; Settler-Colonialism/Decolonization; Queer Studies; Insurgent Infrastructure; Dual Power; Counterinsurgency; Revolutionary Marxisms; Insurrectionary Anarchism; Praxis.

Research Experience

“State of Decay: A Theory of Fungal Organizing” – Politics honors thesis (high honors), Advisor: Amanda Zadorian

- In this project, I utilized fungal biology to develop a model for ecological political organizing. I tested this model by analyzing several case studies of liberation projects for their successes and failures (Covid-reduction work in China, abortion dual power work in the US, housing occupation in Brazil, and militant groups in the Niger Delta).

“It’s All About the Dollar’: Financialization and Mass Layoff at Oberlin College” – The Labor Institute, Labor and Learning Internship, Advisor: Kris Raab

- With a group of three other Oberlin students, I interviewed several employees who were laid off from the college in 2020. We wrote this report using interviews and archived materials to expose the negative impacts of Oberlin’s decision to fire 113 employees as the Covid pandemic first struck. Two of us, Izzy Sanchez-Foster and I, worked with our student organization (the Student Labor Action Coalition) to put on an

exhibit with audio from the interviews and archived student publications. The exhibit was up for one month in the library and documented Oberlin's descent into financialization and its devastating impacts on our community. View the exhibit digitally at: <https://sites.google.com/oberlin.edu/its-all-about-the-dollar/introduction>.

"Post-Growth from the Undercommons: Dis-gentrification and Guerilla Degrowth" – Politics Capstone thesis (2022)

- This paper examines the link between economic expansion (essential to capitalism) and gentrification. Beyond this, I propose a model of direct-action-based activism I call "dis-gentrification"; the model emphasizes the appropriation of abandoned urban resources, the radical co-optation of "cleanliness" politics, and the refusal of institutional methods.

Activism & Leadership

Student Labor Action Coalition (SLAC)

Liaison and Organizing Committee Member (July 2021-May 2023)

- Over my time in SLAC, I helped organize and spoke at protests of up to 400 people; organized meetings, teach-ins, and speaking events; and regularly published articles, zines, and other informational materials.

Oberlin Politics Department

Department Representative (November 2022-May 2023)

- I was elected to be a department representative, where I assisted with screening potential professors and putting on department events.

Students for Energy Justice (SEJ)

Organizer (March 2022 - May 2023)

- I helped SEJ with organizing events against a local pipeline and potential fracking in a nearby community, as well as assisting in organizing to support the Stop Cop City Movement.

Food Not Bombs – East Cleveland (FNB)

Organizer (January 2022 - January 2023)

- I helped FNB with food pick-up, sorting, and distribution in their fight against hunger in the East Cleveland food desert.

Students for a Free Palestine (SFP)

Organizer (August 2020 - May 2023)

- SFP advocates on campus for Palestinian liberation, hosting teach-ins, stickering/postering campaigns, and film screenings.

The Spectre

Contributing Author and Editor (January 2020-May 2023)

- The Spectre is a radical campus newspaper. I wrote several op-eds and journalistic pieces covering a variety of political and social issues over the years, and served as an editor for the multiple issues published under SLAC.

Sustainable Cleveland

Student Delegate (September 2018)

- I was a student delegate to the Youth Sustainability Leadership Conference / the Sustainable Cleveland Summit. At this conference I worked with non-profits, government representatives, and community organizers to create policy solutions for environmental issues across Cleveland.