

# ANDERSON SPEAKER

William G. Moseley is DeWitt Wallace Professor of Geography, and Director of the Food, Agriculture and Society Program, at Macalester College in Saint Paul, MN. His research focuses on tropical agriculture, food security, environment and development, particularly in Africa. He is the author or co-author of more than 100 peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters, as well as 12 books. His research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, Fulbright-Hays Program, and the American Geographical Society. In 2022-2023, he was a Phi Beta Kappa scholar and in 2016 he was awarded the Kwadwo Konadu-Agyemang Distinguished Scholar Award by the AAG. He currently serves as president of the President of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) and President of the Mande Studies Association (MANSA). He previously served as a member of the United Nations High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN). His commentaries have appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post and Al Jazeera English.



**Dr. William G. Moseley**

## Day 1:

“When Agronomy Flirts with Markets, Gender and Nutrition: A Political Ecology of the New Green Revolution for Africa and Women’s Food Security in Burkina Faso”

 Thursday,  
15 January 2026

 3:30 – 4:30 pm

 Reitz Union Room G320

## Day 2:

“Decolonizing African Agriculture: Food Security, Agroecology and the Need for Radical Transformation”

 Friday,  
16 January 2026

 10:00 – 11:00 am

 Reitz Union Room 2335



**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY**

— Liberal Arts *and* Sciences

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**Day 1:** “When Agronomy Flirts with Markets, Gender and Nutrition: A Political Ecology of the New Green Revolution for Africa and Women’s Food Security in Burkina Faso”

Advocates of the New Green Revolution for Africa (GR4A) approach argue that the best way to address hunger and nutrition on the continent is to better incorporate male and female small farmers into the global food economy via value chains involving the use of improved inputs, superior production technologies, and enhanced access to markets for the sale of agricultural output. This paper critically assesses such tactics by using a feminist political ecology lens to analyze GR4A efforts in southwestern Burkina Faso targeting female smallholder farmers growing rice. The study examines three questions: what is the nature of the GR4A rice value chain in Burkina Faso; to what degree is a GR4A Project impacting the food security and dietary diversity of participating women; and, how do gender roles influence the impacts of a GR4A rice project? The study’s findings are based on semi-structured interviews, as well as food security and dietary diversity surveys during the hungry season and after the harvest, with 161 female rice farmers in 2016, 2017 and 2019. While this initiative is beginning to change the structure of the rice value chain, these efforts have scarcely impacted the food security and dietary diversity of poor female farmers.



Reitz Union Room G320



3:30 – 4:30 pm



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## Day 2: “Decolonizing African Agriculture: Food Security, Agroecology and the Need for Radical Transformation”

This presentation summarizes a new book analyzing the history of food security and agricultural development initiatives in post-colonial Africa and outlining a vision for future prosperity. The book’s argument has three parts. First, development organizations and governments will only begin to seriously address food insecurity in Africa when they more fully question the assumption that production agriculture is the solution, an idea that is central to crop science or agronomy. Second, agricultural development must be seen as more than the first step in an industrial development process, but as a sustainable livelihood that has value in and of itself. Third, an agroecological approach, combined with good governance, will allow people to have greater control over their food systems, produce healthy food more sustainably, and enhance access to food by the poorest of the poor. Following a broad conceptual introduction emphasizing political agronomy and political ecology, the author reviews past food security and agricultural development experiences in four countries where he has undertaken research: Mali, Burkina Faso, South Africa and Botswana. He then examines successful efforts in each of the aforementioned countries and outlines future directions that emphasize agroecology, the application of ecological principles to agricultural systems. He concludes with some ideas about institutions at the national, regional and international levels. To build more resilient food systems and a different kind of development, new institutions will need to emerge that support agroecology and vibrant rurality.



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