

# Dr. Damien J. Thompson

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Masters of Environment Graduate Program  
University of Colorado, Boulder

## **Education:**

Ph. D. Anthropology, American University, December 2006

B.A. Sociology, Elon College, May 1997

## **Certifications:**

Permaculture Certification, Permaculture Institute USA, 2011-2012

Advanced Permaculture Certification, Permaculture Institute, 2015

## **Current Position:**

Assistant Teaching Professor and Sustainable Food Systems Specialization Lead, Masters of the Environment Graduate Program, University of Colorado Boulder

## **Current Research:**

Community Food Systems, Food System Equity, Regenerative Agriculture, Urban Agriculture, Ecological Education, Farming as pedagogical practice and experiential education, Social and agricultural applications of permaculture, Food Systems Policy, Black Family Farms, Resilience of Black Communities

## **Teaching Interests:**

Community Food systems, Permaculture, Food and Culture, Food Justice, Community Food Systems, historical roots of racism, anthropological theory, urban ethnography, cultural studies, anthropology of landscape, class and culture, food justice, food sovereignty, agroecology, ecological economics

## **Community Service:**

- 2021-Present FrontLine Farming Board
- 2024-2025 ENVIS Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee
- 2022, 2024 ENVIS Merit Review Committee
- 2021-Present MENV Curriculum Committee
- 2021-Present MENV Admissions Committee
- 2021-Present MENV Strategic Planning Committee
- 2021-Present MENV Lead for Sustainability Strategic Initiative

## **Community based projects or partnerships:**

2022-Present NSF grant: Building Legacy in Engineering, Project Team

2024: Working Group: Colorado Agrivoltaics Learning Center Speaker Series

2022-2023 Eco-Gather a partnership with Sterling College

2021-2023 Leadership Committee Mile High Farmers

2021-2023 Project Protect Food Systems Workers Steering Committee  
2021-2023 Co-founder/Farmer/Leadership Committee, FrontLine Farming  
2021-2023 Project Protect Food Systems Workers Steering Committee

### **Professional Service:**

- Denver Seeds, Mayoral Task Force for the cultivation of a local food economy in Denver, Colorado, 2011-2013
- Member, Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council 2018-present
  - Co-Chair City Food Purchasing Working Group
  - Public Land Working Group
- 2022-2025 Planning Committee for Mile High Farmers Producer's Summit
- 2021-2025 Project Protect Food Systems Workers Steering Committee

### **Honors and Awards:**

- Regis University Faculty of the Year 2018-2019
- Regis University Faculty Lecturer of the Year 2019-2020
- Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Fellow 2020-2021

### **Teaching Experience:**

- Associate Professor of Anthropology (August 20014-August 2021)  
Department of Anthropology, Sociology and Criminal Justice
- Assistant Professor of Anthropology (August 2007-July 2014)  
Department of Sociology  
Regis University
- Assistant Teaching Professor (June 2021-Present)  
Sustainable Food Systems Lead  
Masters of the Environment  
University of Colorado, Boulder

### **Selected Professional Presentations:**

- Invited Panelist: Food Justice Panel, 5th Annual International Online Earth Week Summit, April 2024
- Invited Panelist: Food Justice Panel, DUG Master Composter Program, March 2024
- Invited Panelist: Sustainability on University Campuses and in Academia, Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado, March 2024
- Invited Panelist: Next Generation Of Food And Agriculture-New Entry Farmer and Rancher, December 2022, Colorado Food Summit

- Invited Talkback Facilitator and Panelist: Stories from the Grassroots: Lens on Community Development, May 2022, Regis University Master of Development Practice, Rebel Spirit Collective & The Dairy Arts Center.
- Invited Plenary Panelist: “The Power of Food: Cultivating Equitable Policy Through Collective Action. Virtual Event, September 20-22 2021, Johns Hopkins Center for A Livable Future.
- Invited Panelist: “Food and Racial Justice, Front Range Eco-Social Solutions: A Bioneers Event, February 2018, Boulder Colorado
- Food Justice Panel Moderator, Conscious Capitalism Conference: Food Security. Center for Education on Social Responsibility, Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder Colorado, April 10, 2017
- Invited Panelist: “Permaculture: A Tool for Justice”, Front Range Eco-Social Solutions a Bioneers Event, Boulder, Colorado, February 2017
- Invited Panelist. The Challenges of Gentrification: The U.S. and Denver, Gentrification In Denver: The Challenges, The Possibilities and the People, The SEED Institute at Regis University, January 2017

### **Invited Facilitator:**

- 2023 Facilitated the Retreat for the Denver African American Commission.
- 2023 Mile High Farmers (MHF)/New England Food Solutions Racial Equity Challenge
  - Facilitated Conversations: Facilitated two 2-hour long sessions for members of the MHF community focused on the previous week’s readings and writing prompts which is a part of the Racial Equity Challenge hosted by Food Solutions New England.

### **Thought Leadership (Public Lectures, Speaking Engagements, Guest Lectures):**

#### **Invited Panelist:**

- 2021 Invited Plenary Panelist: “The Power of Food: Cultivating Equitable Policy Through Collective Action. Virtual Event, September 20-22 2021, Johns Hopkins Center for A Livable Future.
- 2022 Colorado Food Summit: Next Generation of Food and Agriculture New Entry Farmer and Rancher Panel
- 2022 [A Black Homestead Homecoming](#), Co-hosted by Outdoor Afro and Denver Botanic Gardens
- 2022 Invited Talkback Facilitator and Panelist: Stories from the Grassroots: Lens on Community Development, Regis University Master of Development Practice, Rebel Spirit Collective & The Dairy Arts Center.
- 2023 A Panel on Climate Solutions: Natural, Local, Regenerative hosted by CU Boulder Program of Writing and Rhetoric

### **Selected Interviews:**

- Thompson, Damien “Our Food Supply Chain is Broken. Here’s How to Fix It. Interview with Rose Thorne. Healthline Media. December 2021.
- Thompson, Damien “Growing a New Future of Farming and Food Equity. Interview with Michael Moody. The Elements of Being Podcast. Michaelmoodyfitness.com, October, 2021.

### **Academic Service:**

- Chair, Department of Anthropology, Sociology and Criminal Justice 2015-2018
- Director, Center for Food Systems and Community Health, Regis University 2010-2014
- Sociology Representative, Regis College Faculty Senate 2010-2011
- President, Regis College Faculty Senate 2008-2009
- Vice-President, Regis University Chapter of, American Association of University Professors