ISABELA VERA (she/her/hers)

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**PERSONAL PROFILE**

* Multilingual (English, French, and Spanish) consultant, doctoral candidate, and writer specializing in food policy
* Committed systems-thinker with the ability to analyze and communicate complex linkages related to the food system
* Demonstrated aptitude for producing high-quality, action-oriented research on food policy and social inclusion

**RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Independent Consultant and Researcher Sept 2021–present**

Work for Feedback Global

Feedback Global is an environmental advocacy group working to regenerate nature by transforming our food system.

*The future of meat, dairy, and alternative proteins | September-December 2022*

* Authoring a report on the need for supermarkets to reduce sales of meat and dairy due to issues with the scalability, affordability, and food justice implications of certain alternative proteins

*Global campaign analysis | April-July 2022*

* Mapping and analyzing successful strategies for mobilizing grassroots activism against industrial livestock in the US, UK, and EU

*EU food policy research | March-July 2022*

* Researching and writing a report on EU food waste policy and the urgent need for food waste reduction targets and regulation, picked by news outlets including The Guardian, The Independent, and the EU Observer

Other client work

*GreenFaith, Researcher | April-July 2022*

GreenFaith is an advocacy group building a global multi-faith movement for climate justice.

* Mapping global faith-based efforts to fight industrial livestock production, analyzing their entry points and impact, and writing recommendations for the future of multi-faith campaigning on the issue to guide GreenFaith’s internal strategy

*FLAVOUR, Policy Researcher | September 2021-March 2022*

FLAVOUR was an EU-funded project that seeks to improve the use of surplus food while creating jobs for people who face systemic barriers to employment.

* Mapping the complex policy landscape impacting food surplus/waste and inclusive jobs in the EU through desk research, data analysis, key informant interviews, and focus groups
* Facilitating a participatory research process with FLAVOUR stakeholders
* Synthesizing and analyzing data to produce actionable and well-evidenced policy recommendations for policymakers in the UK, the EU, France, and Belgium
* Creating communication materials (press releases, web articles) to accompany policy report

**Feminist Food Journal July 2021–present**

*Founder and Editor*

[Feminist Food Journal](https://feministfoodjournal.substack.com/) is an online magazine and podcast dedicated to a feminist food future.

* Defining company strategy, direction, culture, and values
* Developing magazine concept across content, web design, and branding; building the website and Substack
* Generating story ideas, commissioning writers, and editing and proofreading articles to meet publication standards
* Writing (and/or audio recording) monthly newsletters and articles for quarterly issues
* Managing editorial flows, social media calendars, and outreach strategies

**Springer Urban Agriculture Book Series May 2021–present**

*Co-Editor, Urban Agriculture and Forced Displacement*

The Urban Agriculture Book Series at Springer is for researchers, professionals, policymakers, and practitioners working on agriculture in and near urban areas. *Urban Agriculture and Forced Displacement* is a proposed volume that will focus on the role of urban agriculture as a livelihood intervention for people who have been forcibly displaced.

* Developing the book concept, including the first-ever typology of urban agriculture in displacement settings
* Conducting literature reviews and compiling case studies, with a focus on gender equity and social inclusion

**SEEK Development Strategic and Organizational Consultants,** Berlin, Germany **March-Dec 2017; April 2018–Nov 2020**

*Consultant*

SEEK Development is a strategic and organizational consulting group dedicated to global human development and social impact. Select project experience:

*The Donor Tracker – Country expert on Canada, the UK, and the US; Editorial and Communications Lead*

* Lead author of Canada, the UK, and the US donor profiles for the Donor Tracker, an initiative by SEEK Development that provides free, independent analysis of development policy and finance to 10,000 monthly users
* Led research, analysis, and writing of multiple ‘Insights’ reports mapping policy and financing for gender equity, agriculture, health, and climate across 14 major country donors

*United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – Alignment of technical and programmatic support to country offices*

* Managed a multi-stakeholder working group aimed at helping UNFPA offices to work together more efficiently
* Conducted over 30 key informant interviews and facilitated two in-person workshops for 20 attendees

*Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Donor Government Relations (DGR) team* – *Strategy review*

* Oversaw biannual strategy review of DGR’s partnerships and communications functions, including methods for engaging in gender equity and climate-smart agriculture, resulting in directors endorsing the new strategy

**German Development Agency (GIZ),** Tlemcen, Algeria **December 2017–April 2018**

*Consultant, Gender Equity & Diversity; Pan African University Institute for Water and Energy Sciences (contract)*

GIZ support to the Pan African University (PAU) aims to contribute to the positive development of African countries by promoting entrepreneurship and employability among graduates and contributing to applied research.

* Led multicultural team of three external consultants to review the university’s current strategy on gender equity
* Designed and implemented a new university strategy for gender equity and diversity, bringing the university’s share of women students from 19% in 2016-17 to full parity (50%) in 2017-18

**German Development Agency (GIZ),** Kathmandu, Nepal **June 2016–December 2016**

*Junior advisor, Recovery Programme Nepal*

Recovery Programme Nepal (RPN) provided both immediate humanitarian relief and longer-term support on livelihoods and resilience following the 2015 earthquake in the Kathmandu Valley.

* Supported monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) on food security, SRHR, and WASH interventions for women
* Researched and wrote case studies on RPN’s interventions for women impacted by the earthquake to raise awareness about the project, resulting in RPN placing third in GIZ’s 2018 Gender Equality Awards

**EDUCATION**

**PhD Candidate –** Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA), Autonomous University of Barcelona; **October 2022–present**

* Recipient of 2022 Doctoral Fellowship from the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
* Focus on the intersection of immigrant food practices and sustainability in urban food policy

**Graduate Certificate in Food Security –** Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada **May 2020–July 2021**

* Focus on urban food systems (policy and planning) and applied research methods; 4.0 GPA

**Master of International Affairs** –Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, Germany **September 2015–December 2017**

* Concentration: Security and Sustainability; 3.7 GPA

**B.A. Honours (Summa cum laude)** –University of Victoria, Victoria, Canada **September 2010–July 2014**

* Major in Sociology with a minor in Journalism; 4.0 GPA

**SELECT PUBLICATIONS**

* Vera, I., Bowman, M., & Mechielsen, F. (2022, September). [*No time to waste: Why the EU needs to adopt ambitious, legally binding food waste reduction targets*.](https://feedbackglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Feedback-EU-2022-No-Time-To-Waste-report.pdf) Feedback Global.
* Vera, I. (2022, August). [*Inclusive urban food systems for equitable livelihoods: the case of forced displacement*](https://ruaf.org/document/urban-agriculture-magazine-38-20-years-of-ruaf/)*.* RUAF Urban Agriculture Magazine No. 38.
* Vera, I. (2022, March). [*Towards an inclusive, low-carbon food surplus sector: Recommendations for policymakers in the UK*](https://feedbackglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Flavour-PolicyBrief-UK-v2.pdf)*.* Prepared on behalf of Feedback Global.
* Jaeger, K., **Vera, I.**, & Petitjean, H. (2020, October 8). [*Financing to end gender-based violence*](https://bit.ly/3DN2Wap)*.* The Donor Tracker.