What is the UCGTF? Student Perceptions of the University of California Gill Tract Farm

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ABSTRACT

Urban agriculture has become increasingly popular in recent years due to the rising levels of food insecurity. While urban agriculture holds to address social, economic, and environmental issues in its field, it also fosters a place for activism, alternative sustainable food systems, and food politic discourse. Studies have shown that urban agriculture offers a solution to reduce food insecurity in local communities, creation of green jobs, and promotion of educational programs. However, it still faces several adversities such as lack of access to land, soil degradation, and community-based participation. My study looks at the University of California Gill Tract Farm (UCGTF), an urban farm that holds several amenity values to several students, community members, and researchers. The UCGTF differs from other urban agriculture areas because of the multitude of programs it has to offer such as the Stewardship Assembly, UCGTF Fellowship Team, and center for agriculture research. Though the area has so many resources available to students at UC Berkeley it has faced issues with engagement and retention at the space I identified that undergraduates at UC Berkeley were never aware of the services the UCGTF provided. The results showed that students had some knowledge of urban garden topics and expressed interest in interacting in the services that the UCGTF had to offer once they were given information about the farm. However, they expressed that accessibility such as transportation was an issue and lack of communication between professors and students of history of the UCGTF.

KEYWORDS

urban agriculture, food justice, food insecurity, food sovereignty, food movement, urban farming, community development, grassroots movements

INTRODUCTION

Urban agriculture has been practiced for several decades throughout the world providing around fifteen to twenty percent of the world's food (Jaramillo 2014). Urban agriculture can be defined in this paper as the practice of growing, developing, and distributing of food in a city, town, or village. In recent decades, urban agriculture in the United States has become increasingly recognized for its mission to provide food for low-income communities that are demographically represented as people of color (Jaramillo 2014). It is important to understand that the recent food justice movement in urban agriculture is to address the lack of access to healthy food, freedom of choice for the individual, and establishing a link between production and consumption of food systems. (Jaramillo 2014). Urban farming has several positive impacts towards communities such as providing social, economic, and health benefits. (Zezza et al. 2010). The integration of urban agriculture in cities has created green jobs, access to healthier nutritious foods, and improved the mental and physical well-being of individuals. However, there are several challenges that urban agriculture spaces face such as growth in the developmental area and access to land space (Golden 2013). Additionally, cofounding challenges are, "a mix of social, political and economic marginalization that has further complicated the provision of urban food, making equitable access to food a challenge local priority" (Clenneding et. al 2016). The availability and cost of food in the U.S. is, "heavily influenced by government subsidies and multinational corporations" it is skewed within different areas across the states (Corrigan 2012). Recently, urban farms have become increasingly recognized in California, and the push for urban farming has expanded in cities in the Bay Area. Oakland, California is an example of an urban agriculture being implemented in its food systems. This is because food insecurity has been an issue for low-income communities of color like Oakland, California that have been neglected to proper access to healthy foods.

Historical Movements in Urban Agriculture

The Bay Area is home to empowering groups in Oakland like the Black Panther Party that fought for food security and social justice combating food insecurity in the Oakland community back in the 1960s to 1980s. Low-income communities such as Oakland saw the failings of the complex food system industries that did not provide for its community members. The Panthers

formed movements in the Bay Area that shaped nonprofit organic community gardens in the Bay Area by providing healthy, affordable food to residents, and job creations. The creation of space for urban gardens is vital for several low income urbanized communities. For example, West Oakland is noted as, "One of America's most prominent food deserts, and is one region of Oakland's thriving Urban farming milieu" (Hagey 2012). Oakland community members and Mayor took the initiative by establishing the Oakland Food Policy Council which addressed issues of needing land acres and development for urban garden spaces. The central framing for the Oakland Food Policy council is, "to identify and propose innovative solutions to improve local or state food systems spurring local economic development and making food systems more environmentally sustainable and social just" (OFPC 2010).

Scholars state that, "Oakland's community health crisis traces how the public, private partnerships have led to the establishment of councils, one of several mechanisms supported by local government to facilitate the establishment of community gardens managed by community members" (Curran and Gonzalez 2011). Members of the council looked into methods in developing spaces and created systems that allowed for opportunities for the farm to grow. The values of urban farming in the Bay Area have been rooted on the belief that they grow their produce in Oakland as an independent form to respond to an unjust food system that has disproportionally affected low-income groups (Woods 2017). Oakland has, "ranked in the top ten green cities for several years, earning accolades for its role at the forefront of a sustainable model city" (McClintock et.al 2011).

Urban Agriculture in the Bay Area, California

Although urban farms have a strong presence in the Bay Area, the need for urban agriculture spaces is still an issue because lack of access to areas and expensive costs for buying empty plots of land. Communities like Oakland have created their food movements by establishing alternative food institutions in their community by forming the weekly Farmers Market where residents can buy organic and healthy produce which helped create economic development for local farmers. However, urban farmers in other communities' face issues such as lack of community presence in the organized farm spaces. With limited involvement and lack of active participation from community members, urban agriculture loses its value to be productive.

However, urban agriculture also faces other unique challenges such as contaminated area sites, governmental impediments, and resources to sustain the environment (Reynolds 2009). Urban soils are often at discussion because of the potential risks it has towards urban agriculture such as lead being found in a lot of urban cities. Lead (Pb) is found in most urban city soils, and exposes "health risks for small children, especially lead has showed to be susceptible for children bloods levels and adults absorb less than 5% of that Pb" (McClintock et. al 2011). Researchers have suggested that by creating cooperative extension programs with schools, it may help with the assistance of maintaining and restoring land and soil quality through processes like phytoremediation, educational outreach, and other initiatives. Cooperative programs have a mission to conduct research and present it to the public, and educational opportunities can be created for the youth that targets "socially just, economically viable, and sustainable agricultural food systems" (Reynolds 2015).

One of the major benefits of urban farming has to offer is its range of diverse techniques that can be applied in an area. Some of these techniques vary from "technology usage" such as, "high-tech approaches, such as nutrient film technology, and low-tech methods, such as planting into soil-filled recycles buckets" (Pfeiffer, Silva, Colquhoun 80). Some of the low-tech methods are frequently used in Oakland urban farms where low socioeconomic communities are limited in resources but create their programs through grassroots community-based movements. In West Oakland, an urban farm uses its live chicken stock as a process to provide nutrients to the soil with only paper and cardboard and recycles the manure for later winter. Systems that are used in Oakland can also be applied in nearby cities that have the similar issues of land access, lack of engagement, and access to tools.

UCGTF Urban Agriculture Development

The UC Gill Tract Community Farm (UCGTF), is a 2-acre urban agricultural farm. The UCGTF is located on San Pablo Ave in the city of Albany, California and is owned by the University of California, Berkeley. Back in 1928, UC Berkeley purchased the Gill Tract farm of 104 acres from the Gill Tract Family and later on in 1944 the university established the farm for an Experiment Station for the Center for Biological Control. In 1945, "UC Berkeley College of Agriculture received 36 acres for land development and agricultural research" (Marvin, Groza,

Pulcheon 2009), thus the establishment for a designated research space under the land grant college policy was implemented. Only around 36 acres were used for agricultural research, and in 1997 the Bay Area Coalition for Urban Agriculture proposed for UC Berkeley to create the world's first university center on sustainable urban agriculture and food systems, but the University did not come to an agreement with the organizations, faculty, and supporters. Today the UCGTF is currently administered by the College of Natural Resources, which is dedicated to physical, natural and social sciences. The farm is an example of developmental urban agriculture spaces and demonstrates solutions to problems of economic, social, and health injustices. The UCGTF is a community garden that offers several values to local community needs such as access to provisional green space, fresh produce, and agricultural research (Ferris et.al 2001).

However, the farm has faced several issues such as lack of engagement and participation from students at the University. In 2012, the University planned to lease a vacant lot south of the research area to develop senior housing development and a Whole Foods Market, it sparked an outrage with several community, students, and researchers. (Costanza 2015). During 2012, the infamous Occupy the Farm movement happened which attracted over 200 activists to participate in a three-week encampment, which they demanded the University to establish an urban gardening space to be used for the people. The famous movement caused Whole Foods Market to withdraw its contract and the university was on several news presses amongst the controversy. Finally, in 2013 the University decided to enter a ten-year agreement to preserve only 10 acres of the Gill Tract Farm which is located north of Village Creek for agricultures uses and granted 2 acres of the 10 to a community urban farm. Currently, the urban farm's future is unclear and advocates of the farm worry that there will be a reevaluation of the farms land and the University may have plans to build future developmental projects.

Therefore, a necessary step to challenge future stakeholders is looking at values coming from the community, students at UC Berkeley, and volunteers. One way to look at it is through the unique programs the UCGTF has to offer which is contributing food to local food pantries on campus, creation of stewardship council, and the opportunities for work study jobs related to agricultural research. It is crucial for the UCGTF to stay active in presence because of its role in combating food insecurity. According to SF Gate News, the University of California had surveyed around 9,000 students across all ten campuses back in 2015 and nearly 1 in 5 students, around 19 percent stated that they were food insecure with limited resources to access (Asimov 2017).

Therefore, a necessary step is looking at what undergraduates know, think, and perceive the UCGTF.

My central research question is how can student support for UCGTF be mobilized? To answer my central research question, I will ask the following sub-questions: What do UC Berkeley students know about the UCGTF? What are UC Berkeley student's opinions about the UCGTF? How might students become engaged? To answer these questions, I collected data from undergraduates at UC Berkeley through Berkeley Qualtrics Survey software that measured students' knowledge, value, and perceptions of the UCGTF. By answering these questions, my research provides an understanding of the reason behind the lack of participation at the UCGTF. Researchers can build upon the next steps of getting students in the space and advocating for its future.

Background Literature

Food Sovereignty Movement

Historically urban agriculture has contributed towards the well-being and survival of several communities throughout the world. Industrial agricultural industries have been accused towards the complexities of food systems that are seen in the distribution of food systems throughout the world. Journalism professor, Michael Pollan, describes it as the unsustainability of the agricultural, economic, and environmental system. The injustices of the system stem the food movement but because of mainstream influence on criticism of agricultural systems, food movement narratives of low-income people of color have been disregarded in the value of the movement (Gimenez, Wang 2011). Global movements for food sovereignty challenge industrial corporate regimes and demand for the reclaim of rights for the active participation in food systems. Infamous groups such as *La Via Campenisa*, advocate for the fair food systems in urban agriculture showcase the complexities that small scale rural farmers face in their own communities.

Food sovereignty and food justice movements differ in that, "food sovereignty movement is limited by neoliberal structural contexts that dampen its approach and radical framework" (Clendenning et.al 2016). When looking at global food sovereignty movements we look through the lens of sociopolitical context and how, "NGO's, activists, and urban farmers perceive 'food

sovereignty' by situating struggles to overcome constraints in accessing affordable, healthy food" (Clenneding et al 2016). For example, several low-income communities have limitations of, "places to buy food and are fast-food and convenience stores that sell fatty, sugary, processed foods" (Hagey, et.al 2012). Additionally, low income minority groups face high risks of food insecurity, lack of access to developmental green spaces, and health disparities in their communities (Gimenez, Wang 2011). Communities in history have responded by creating their own spaces through grassroots movements such as Oakland, Louisiana, and other places around the U.S that challenge the complex food system industries.

Food Justice Movement

The community food security movement formed a coalition organization which was founded in 1994 that represented diverse perspectives of the U.S. food movement. CFSC define the community food security movement as "a condition in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through sustainable food system that maximizes community self-reliance and social justice" (CSFC 2004;2010). CFSC framework focuses more on alternative means of food access for low-income communities and less on the production of more food. Such activities that CSFC has created is urban agriculture, community nutrition education, and community-driven agricultural research (Pothukchi and Kaufman 1999).

The United States food movement is often characterized as the "good food movement" but does not consider itself a movement but rather a form that attracts multiple stakeholders in certain urban projects. The movement in essence is, "a set of organizations that coalesce, mostly on local levels around shared interests such as health and ending hunger" (Romert 2016). It is often popularized by food enthusiast, gardeners, and other groups that highlight the importance of supporting local farmers, eating healthier foods, and dining out.

However there is a huge range of groups that exist in the food movement sector that is composed of, "race, class, gender, and region" (Romert 2016). Community-based organizations recognize the means of food injustices that have inflicted their communities and have responded through various ways of food activism such as, "community gardens, farmer markets, antihunger initiatives, legislative advocacy, food literacy campaigns, and organic food consumption" (Pettygrove 2018). Organizations have decolonized and reworked systematic food systems and

have been able to establish community relationships with their local food systems (Guthman 2015). Additionally, low-income communities of color only seek to help out their members and refuse to accept services from other organizers, researchers, or individuals that follow white narratives that have caused systematic oppression, harm, and displacement of communities of color (Guthman 2015). Organizations recognize the institutional powers that play a role in their injustices and, "form public-private partnerships to revitalize and generate value from central city neighborhoods" (Pettygrove 2018) as a form of resistance that challenges the governmental institutions.

However, "we see restrictions on urban food justice movements that are also operating within a broader framework of market neoliberalism" and food justice is usually "more aligned with the socio-historical context in cities, due to its origins in broader class and race struggles" (Clendenning et.al 2015). People of color are often the ones advocating, empowering, and showcasing these efforts of food justice because these are issues that they experience more than white Americans.

History of the UCGTF

The land that is seen today at the UCGTF is previously owned by the indigenous group called the Ohlone tribe. Ohlone are often referred by the name of their linguistic group, Costanoan. Albany, California was former territory of the Huchin people who, "spoke Chochenyo or Cocheno, one of eight Costanoan Languages" (Marvin, et al 2009). Exploration from Hispanic settlers in the late 18th century caused a shift in culture before European settlers moved into California. The settlers had established a mission and exposed the indigenous group to diseases and relocated the Ohlone tribe across the Bay Area into missionaries and ranches where they were forced to work as laborers.

The University of California, Berkeley was founded in 1869 and in 1873 it was located in Oakland, California. UC Berkeley was the first public university in the UC systems and received funding through the Morrill Land Grant Act in 1862. The Morrill Act allowed universities of federal lands to receive funding that was towards studying agriculture and mechanical science (Marvin, et.al 2009). UC Berkeley College of Natural Resources, originally named college of Agriculture was given 36 acres by the University to create research stations at the Gill Tract Farm

in 1945. Because of this, the Biological Control was designed for only academic research purposes, mainly focused on pest management and crops (Marvin, Groza, Pulcheon 2009). In 1961, several researchers and professors highlighted that the academic future for the land should continue to show students the social, biological, and physical science values it held. With the increase of urbanization, agriculture has been pushed towards cities through regulated policies. This has created a shift towards rural agriculture spaces to urban agricultural spaces in the city.

The UCGTF is a prime example of the urban agriculture movement that strives for providing services for the people. It differs in other urban agricultural spaces in the Bay Area because it offers for a place for activism, research, and provision of resources for several groups of individuals. However, since the contract is only set for 10 year timeline, it will be up for reevaluation again in 2024 and there is concern that the University will not renew the contract since there has not been an active dialogue about the space since then. An investigation on this case looks into the space and undergraduate's future investment in development is key to challenging key stake holders.

METHODS

Study Site

The UC Gill Tract Community Farm (UCGTF) is, a 2-acre, organic urban farm in Albany, California that is owned by the University of California, Berkeley and has been administered by the College of Natural Resources in collaboration with the Stewardship council since September 2013.

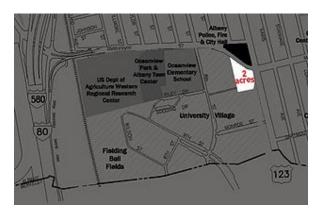


Image adapted from the UC Gill Tract Farm website 2015.

The UCGTF grows fruits and vegetables as its primary focus. The UCGTF has fields that are split into wide variety of fruits and vegetables, in outdoor plots, saplings in a nursery garden, and flowers, herbs, and other smaller plants in beds on the fringes of the farm attract pollinators and, beneficial insects, and add amenity value. Volunteers comprising Berkeley undergraduates and graduate 'students, community members, and local elementary and middle school students, may receive free organic produce, learn about urban gardening, and work at the farms Sundays produce scale. The UCGTF manager is Jon Hoffman, who is assisted by several staff such as the Agro Fellowship Committee, Researchers, and Volunteers.

The UCGTF provides educational opportunities for students and community members. In 2016, the UCGTF created the Agricultural Fellowship Program, which provides learning opportunities for students interested in food justice, agroecology, urban farming, community-based organizations, and non-profit administration. The UCGTF conducts educational outreach through workshops, food politics talks, and community meetings. The farm also offers opportunities for Berkeley students to learn about urban agriculture through courses such as ESPM 155AC, Sociology and Political Ecology of Agro-Food Systems and Miguel Aliterri ESPM118, Agroecology. And the UCGTF runs-educational programs in partnership with local elementary and middle schools.

Data Collection

In order to look at how one can enhance the profile image of the UC Gill Tract Farm I measured students background history in urban agriculture, knowledge of the UCGTF, and values pertaining to urban agriculture and the UCGTF, perceptions of opportunities that the UCGTF can offer students and how to make it valuable to their education. To gather data on student's perspectives regarding the UCGTF, I designed a survey composed of 34 questions focused on respondent's experience and knowledge of urban agriculture and the UCGTF, perceptions of opportunities that the UCGTF can offer students, and how to make it valuable to their education at UC Berkeley.

In order to create a profile of student background, I asked respondents to explain their understanding of and experiences with urban agriculture, food justice and food insecurity. I then

asked respondents if they have heard of the UCGTF, and posed questions designed to assess knowledge of the farm by those who had heard about the UCGTF.

Second, to prime respondents, the survey described the UCGTF and its student programming's, and presented a brief historical timeline of the farm. Students were given a brief history timeline of the farm. Students were asked whether the particular programs would interest them in engaging in the UCGTF and what barriers might prevent them from doing so,

The survey posed questions on respondents' opinions regarding the potential value of the farm in terms their learning experiences and how they could engage in the UCGTF. Then the survey included a series of open-ended questions designed to allow students to discuss how the UCGTF do a better job of representing itself to students and asked for suggestions about how to make it more appealing and meaningful to their own educational experience. Finally, the last section recorded respondent's demographics.

I distributed the survey through Berkeley Qualtrics online survey system and it was sent to Professor Kurt Spreyer's ESPM 50AC course that had around 470 undergraduates in the class. I also conducted interviews with farm staff, professors in ESPM, and other affiliates at the UCGTF through in person interviews that did not use the survey.

Data Analysis

To analyze my data, I divided respondents into those and those who had not heard of the UCGTF. Then I measured responses from each Group had to say based on their history, values to urban farms, and programs that they seemed would resonate with. I then recorded all the openended responses from ways that the student responded how the UCGTF be more appealable to show, which allowed me to see how students who responded to knowing of the UCGTF and did not know of the UCGTF has similar or different responses based on their answers.

RESULTS

UC Berkeley students were given a survey regarding the knowledge of their experiences within urban agriculture, perceived views and knowledge of the UCGTF, and ways that the farm can be appealable to them. I received 380 responses from Berkeley Qualtrics survey system. The

majority of students were not knowledgeable of the UCGTF and the values it had to offer to students. Around 90% of respondents had never heard of the UC Gill Tract Farm. However, around 47% students expressed interest in volunteering if they had information, transportation, and access to healthy produce.

Demographics

In order to achieve a generalizability of the student body population, I conducted the survey in an American Cultures course where all undergraduates are required to take. When respondents were asked what their major and minors were, there was a huge variety of open ended responses. Generally, respondents showed wide variety of diverse majors throughout different college departmental majors.

Creation of Students Profile

Most students were not aware of the farms existence. Around 90% of respondents had never heard of the UCGTF and its existence. The other 10% group had expressed that they were aware of the existence of the farm but lacked information, location, and mission of purpose the UCGTF had to offer.

1.) Yes	10.0% (n=38)
2.) No	90.0% (n=342)

Table 1. Have you heard of the UCGTF? Number of students aware of the existence and not aware.

Respondents were asked if they had any knowledge of history regarding to the UCGTF and most respondents expressed the least amount of information in the following categories below (Table 3). Furthermore, I found that respondents were not aware of the University's origins as a

land grant university. Around 79 % of respondents were not aware of it and only 20% were aware (Table 4).

1.) Date of Establishment	91.78% (346 Respondents)
2.) Work that has been done there	89.68% (339 Respondents)
3.) Ways the UC Gill Tract Farm Functions	89.42% (338 Respondents)
4.) Mission Values of the UC Gill Tract Farm	89.66% (338 Respondents)
5.) Current Situation of the UC Gill Tract Farm	89.95% (340 Respondents)

Table 2. How much do you know about the history of the UCGTF? Respondents were asked to rank from 1-5 (1 being the least amount of information and 5 the most information) in the following categories.

Examining respondents background knowledge UCGTF was important in understanding the factors that played onto the profile image for the student's perceptions of the UCGTF.

1.) Yes	20% (n=74)
2.) No	80% (n=358)

Table 3. Are you aware that UC Berkeley was established as a land grant university dedicated towards agriculture research? With around 74 respondents being aware of the establishment purpose and 284 respondents not being aware of the establishment.

Measuring Students Experiences, Values, and Perception of the UCGTF

Respondents were asked about their knowledge and experiences within urban agriculture. Around 206 participants expressed no experiences with Urban Gardening (54%), 127 had a little experience (33%), 40 had a moderate amount (10%), 6 had a lot of experience (0.015%), and lastly 4 had a great deal of experience in urban gardening (0.010%) (Table 4). From this, respondents were asked to extrapolate how many years they had in the following categories: aquaculture, gardening/ horticulture, beekeeping, agroforestry, and animal husbandry that related to urban agriculture. Around 361 people had no experience in aquaculture (95%), 262 in gardening/ horticulture (68%), 366 in beekeeping (96%), 371 agroforestry (97%), and 351in animal husbandry (92%). Respondents who only had 0-2 years in the experience in the following: 20 in aquaculture (0.052%), 101 in gardening/ horticulture (26%), 17 in Beekeeping (0.044%), 11 in Agroforestry

(0.028%), 25 in Animal Husbandry (0.065%). The last group that had 2-5 years of experience was 3 respondents for Aquaculture (0.007%), 21 for Gardening/agriculture (0.05%), 1 for beekeeping, (0.002%) 0 for agroforestry, and 5 for animal husbandry (0.01%) (Figure 2).

None at all	A little	Moderate amount	A lot	A great deal
54% (n=206)	33% (n=127)	10% (n=40)	0.015% (n=6)	0.010% (n=4)

Table 4: Summary of experiences in Urban Gardening

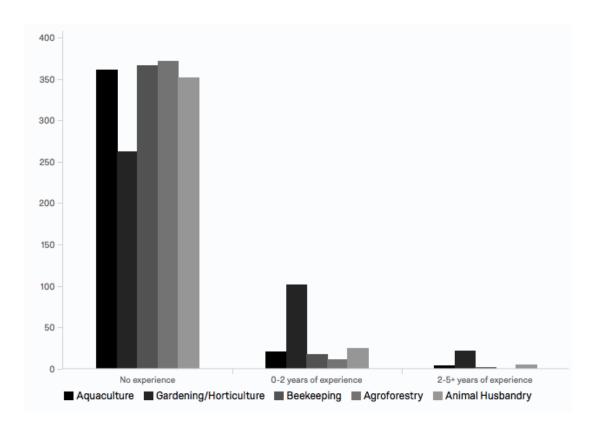


Figure 2: Number of respondents choosing the following years of experience in urban agriculture categories. (n=380). The graph shows the number of respondents with no experience, 0-2 years of experience, and lastly 2-5+ years of experience

Respondents were asked how confident they were in the statements following the UCGTF from a scale of 1-5 (1 being least confidence & 5 being most confident). I added the respondent's numbers from the ones who chose 1-2 and categorized it as least confident. Least confident respondents followed as: 169 respondents in UCGTF providing food to the Berkeley Food Collective (44%), 165 respondents in UCGTF providing food to UC Berkeley Students

(43%), 168 respondents in the UCGTF providing food to local community members (44%), 160 respondents in UCGTF providing food to the Food Pantry (42%) were all least confident (Table 5).

UCGTF providing food to the BFC	44% (n=169)
UCGTF providing food to UC Berkeley students	43% (n=165)
UCGTF providing food to local community members	44% (n=168)
UCGTF providing food to the Food Pantry on campus	42% (n=160)

Table 5. Showing the average number of respondents categorized as least aware of scale [1 +2 were calculated]

Respondents were given categories of the UCGTF had to offer and were asked to rank which was the most valuable for the UCGTF. I added the ranked values of 3+4+5 that are categorized as valuable to most valuable to the UCGTF. Categories that ranked the highest were research with around 219 respondents (58%), tied categories were provision to green spaces with 219 respondents (57%), educational spaces with around 218 respondents (57%), and access to organic produce with around 218 respondents (57%). Lastly was agro ecological practices with around 214 respondents (56%). The results showed that there is significance amongst all the categories (Figure 3).

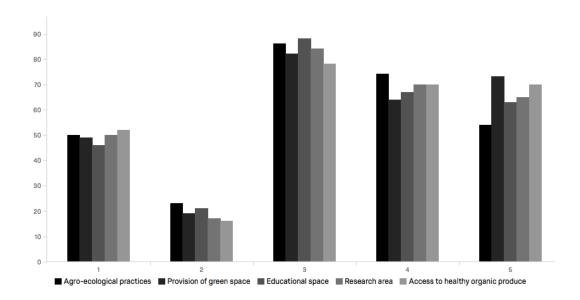


Figure 3: Number of respondents ranking the following categories of what they think the UCGTF is valuable for. This graph shows the number of respondents who ranked the categories from 1 being least valuable to 5 being the most valuable.

Branding the UCGTF to UC Berkeley Students

Respondents were given a brief historical summary of the UCGTF and were asked the number of hours they would dedicate to the UCGTF. Around 170 respondents (44%) expressed interested of dedicated at least more than 2 hours a week. I calculated the percentages for the three groups: 2-5 hrs week, 6-9 hrs week, and 10+hrs a week (Table 6).

0-2 hrs a week	2-5hrs a week	6-9 hours a week	10+hrs a week
(n=188)	(n= 162)	(n=7)	(n=1)

Table 6: Shows the number of respondents expressing desired hours they would work.

From respondent's willingness they were then asked to rate how important they thought of the following values the UCGTF were to them. The category that scored the highest was access to healthy organic produce (72%) while the other categories were slightly significantly less than the highest, understanding the value of producing organic food (66%), inclusive working environment (65%), and work study jobs at the farm (65%).

1.) Work-study Jobs at the Farm	64% (n=243)
2.) Access to healthy organic produce	72% (n=275)
3.) Understanding the value of producing organic food	66% (n=254)
4.) Welcoming & Inclusive Environment	65% (n=247)

Table 7: Shows the respondents importance of volunteering at the UCGTF

Respondents were then given a list programs that they had to rank as valuable to their experiences. The highest rated program for respondents were teaching and research education with 70%. Other programs such as food system politics (66%), collaborative projects with sustainable organizations, (65%) decision making (60%), and lastly food sovereignty/ food justice programs (58%) ranked slightly less than the significant program but the programs still showed significant of interest for the programs.

1.) Food Sovereignty / Food Justice Programs	58% (n=222)
2.) Collaborative Projects with orgs	65% (n=249)
3.) Decision Making in projects on the farm	60% (n=230)
4.) Teaching & Research Education	70% (n=266)
5.) Food System Politics	61% (n=234)

Table 8: Shows the number of respondents interested in the number of programs at the UCGTF

DISCUSSION

The UC Gill Tract farm strives to provide UC Berkeley undergraduates with several resources that are distinct from those offered by other urban farms in the Bay Area. UCGTF is a unique urban farm that does not focus on primarily commercial goals but offers different amenities (Polling 2016). Programs such as the UC Gill Tract Farm Fellowship, fresh free produce, educational, and research experiences, and food system themed discourses are integral to the farms effort to establish a space for community. Almost 90% of respondents were not aware of the UC Gill Tract Farm, but most were interested in learning more about the farm once they were informed

that it exists. This suggests that it is possible of substantially increase the profile of the farm on the UC Berkeley campus and the perceived value of the farm to students as one of a number key constitute communities, as a means of establishing critical support for renewal of the current tenyear lease that will expire in 2024.

Creating a respondent's profile of their knowledge, experience, and history in urban agriculture was a step to understand why there is a disconnection between the farm and university students. Respondents were asked the following variables: how many years of experience does your immediate family have in the following types of urban agriculture, how many days have you spent working in the following gardens in the last year, and do you feel affected by food justice/identify as food insecure. Around 92% of respondents had zero experience in urban agriculture. Interestingly enough, around 86% of respondents had spent zero days working in garden spaces in the last year. Based off that, around 83% of respondents had not felt affected by food justice and 91% responded that they were not food insecure. This showed that the group of undergraduates had barely any information about urban agriculture topics which showed lack of knowledge.

In 2012, the Daily Cal, Berkeley B-Side, and New York Times reported about the infamous Occupy the Farm Movement which created publicity for the UC Gill Tract farm. On Earth Day, April 22,2012, activists first occupied the Gill Tract, demanding the creation of a garden that would serve as a means of educating and feeding the local community. For several years, scholars at the University have, "challenged many of the dominant themes of contemporary agricultural research" (Jennings 1997). College of Natural Resources faculty members, such as Miguel Altieri and Claudia Carr, wrote an editorial opinion piece on the Daily Cal on the importance of the urban farm, highlighting the farm's exceptional soil quality and designation land to be used for agricultural research in the College of Natural Resources. The University failed to understand the importance of urban agriculture and how it can be used towards addressing food insecurity for low-income residents in the Bay Area. Urban farming is, "largely drive by the desire to reconnect food production and consumption" (Thomaier et.al 2015). Recent studies on urban agriculture highlight the importance of UA being a way to reduce food insecurity, better nutritional status, and relationships with green spaces (Mougeot 1999). The UCGTF has had plenty of acreage to develop urban garden spaces for years. Studies have noted that empty land use in cities are often underestimated and should be utilized for production for the common better of society (Smit, Nasr 1992). Finally, in 2014 the university offered a ten-year grant use for the land as a community

garden and that began the shift of concern of the farm to a quieter notion of movement. This raises a concern regarding whether the next generation of students at UC Berkeley are being presented the information about the mission values the UCGTF has to offer.

Students Perceived Views of the UCGTF

The UCGTF's mission statement call for the farm to "Serve as a model for what can be accomplished through collaborative and community-based research and extension within five to ten years: a unique, innovative partnership receiving attention and support from the public, academia, and policy makers (Citation of UCGTF Site)". Since 2011, the UCGTF has been envisioned as a farm for students to express and explore their interests which relates back to its social image as a farm and what it can serve for students. Branding the farm towards student interests is a step to increase the profile image of the farm. Students expressed that their academic courses failed to mention anything about the UCGTF. Within the College of Natural Resource, professor Kate O' Neil expressed that it would be a great implementation to see the UCGTF being integrated in more of academic courses while acknowledging that at times the professors also do not know much about the UCGTF because of the newer generation of professors. If this is true, then students are not perceiving the farm in a positive light and not enough attention is being looked at on the mission values of the UCGTF from both the professors and students. Several respondents expressed that by offering and naming the programs available to them on the survey it made them more inclined to visit the farm. Professor Miguel Altieri shows an example of presenting that information in his ESPM 118 Agroecology course and presents to students the importance of urban garden values that students should be using. In order to understand student's opinions understanding of the UCGTF we also need to closely look into how professors at UC Berkeley are presenting or even mentioning the UCGTF existence to support engagement for the UCGTF.

Understanding current student perceptions of the farm is essential to developing an image of the farm that will be appealing to students. Around 92% of respondents were not aware of the following characteristics of the UCGTF: date of establishment, work that has been done there, mission values of the UCGTF, way the UCGTF operates, and the current situation of the UCGTF. Common responses from the free response section were that respondents were not aware of the

programs existence, therefore showing a lack of communication and effort of the farms mission. The next step was attempting to understand what respondent's thoughts of the UCGTF. Around 55% of the respondents were the least confident in the following topics that UCGTF operated such as: Providing food to the Berkeley Food Collective, providing food to neighboring schools, and providing food to UC Berkeley students and community members. Respondents felt that the following categories were valuable to the UCGTF; agro-ecological practices, provision of green spaces, educational space, research area, and access to healthy organic produce. Around 80% of respondents expressed that the following practices were valuable for those specific reasons. This showed that although students were not aware of the farms purpose with the University they still noted that there was value within the given categories that were presented. When respondents were given a brief historical timeline story of the UCGTF they were then asked to rank what they thought was the most important thing that the UCGTF had to offer to the students. Interestingly enough, students thought that the most important categories the farm had to offer was a place for activism, conducting research and policy making, and providing produce to individuals. These categories are what made the UCGTF different from different urban farm areas. The UCGTF is a unique place for students at UC Berkeley to have access several amenity values that other urban gardens may not provide.

Branding the UCGTF to Students

Students showed limited experience in knowledge around urban gardening, but they did express interest in interacting with the UCGTF and the services it provides to students when a historical timeline was given to students in the survey. As expected, the highest ranked category for student's interest in the urban farm was having access to healthy organic produce, understanding the value of producing food, and the creation of work study jobs. If the UCGTF outreached its effort on campus with students and highlighted the importance of volunteering and being able to harvest some of the produce for yourself because it is for the community and students. When students were given the details of the programs UCGTF has established as services, the highest categories score that students had valued the most was education and research activities on the farm (70%). Not only did it show that the urban farm plays a role for health reasons, but it also showed that UCGTF is a unique land that offers undergraduates research opportunities on the land

where they are able to practice agricultural methods. Categories such as food sovereignty and food justice programs, collaborative projects with sustainable organizations also ranked significantly high next to education and research and this goes back to the educational role it serves for students. Urban farms highlight that "collective decision-making is key to the viability and sustainability of an urban space" (Tieg et al. 2009). As urban agriculture has become increasingly popular in recent decades it is important to understand that concepts of environmentally sustainable food systems are important for the future ecological systems (Jaramillo 2014). Not only did it show that students are interested in the services that the UCGTF provides, but now the types of learning categories can be implemented in academic courses and involvement of establishing requirements for the work such as the recently new Food Systems Minor in CNR where students are required to work on an independent food system related project. Studies have shown that urban garden spaces have two main functions such as, "food production with social issues like education, community interaction, strengthening the sense of community and other social benefits" (Toth, Feriancova 2015) and the UCGTF plays those roles. However, many respondents expressed that a transportation shuttle system would incline them to interact with the urban garden space. It would seem that the issue is not necessarily learning more about the farm since students already had a perceived value of the farm but perhaps what is prohibiting from engaging in the space is the lack of accessibility to enter the farm especially since it takes around ten-minute drive to get there or fifteen-minute bike ride if the student has access. Perhaps if there was investment and future dialogue with University officials, community members, and students is a key step in revitalizing the farm.

Limitations

The study had several limitations based from its original design and scope of limited data. The first thing to note was that the student sample population with around 380 students does not capture the true student population knowledge and values towards urban agriculture and the UCGTF but a limited understanding. Since the survey was only sent through an Environmental Science Policy Management course, it was not sent to other American Culture courses in the department which may create certain biases for responses especially because respondents may be inclined to agree with more environmental values than other groups in other AC courses. Class

status had a huge influence on the skewed responses from the survey especially since several students identified being upper middle class white students. My data analysis only shows calculated values from certain categories and I did not run statistical analysis methods such as ANOVA. Additionally, open ended free responses did not give much insight as expected since several of the students had no experiences within the UCGTF which lead to limited data.

Despite the limitations, the study gives a broad overview of what undergraduates at UC Berkeley think about the UCGTF and excludes graduate students. Longitudinal studies may provide more insight on how the presented information and knowledge has changed over time dating back from 2012 to now. Students were also not presented with the historical information of the UCGTF in the beginning of the survey until the middle of the survey which may create different perceived views, values, and gauge of interest in their responses since they were not able to fully answer the questions to their best ability. Finally, I was not fully able to complete analyzing the groups of students who were identified as food insecure and affected by food justice in their communities which is valuable when understanding the relationship of students with the UCGTF.

Broad Exploration

There was not much of a difference between the respondents that were knowledgeable and non-knowledgeable. Increasing knowledge will not necessarily change opinions of the UCGTF as much as it will open awareness. Respondents showed openness and willingness to support the UCGTF. As we understood, students were willing to participate at the UCGTF if they had more information on the farm, accessibility such as direct transportation with the farm and back to the University. Although students showed lack of knowledge of the UCGTF and experience within urban gardening and interaction in garden spaces, several respondents were willing to participate in the farm despite the lack of experience. This justifies the importance implications of revitalizing the UC Gill Tract farm especially since it will be upcoming for re-evaluation in 2024.

Future Directions

My research expands the broad overview of the perceived views and values that undergraduates hold of the UCGTF. If I were able to conduct a survey through all the American

Culture department courses that is a requirement for all undergraduates that should allow me to gather a more precise understanding of what the undergraduates are composed of. Additionally, I only recorded a survey for Spring 2018 and did not conduct a survey in Fall 2017. While the study does set up stages for the advertisement and promotion of what the UCGTF offers there needs to be more questions raised from this issue: How might one create a transportation system within the University and the UCGTF? As student body is expected to increase over the years there will there also be an increase of food insecure students on campus and will that shift the gauge of interest towards the UCGTF? How might we use social media branding as a tool to brand especially since it has become such an accessible tool for younger adults?

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never imagined I would be working on a project that I truly value and be able to walk across stage. To future readers out there, do not give up, even when life challenges you it is meant to help you grow you into the person you are becoming.

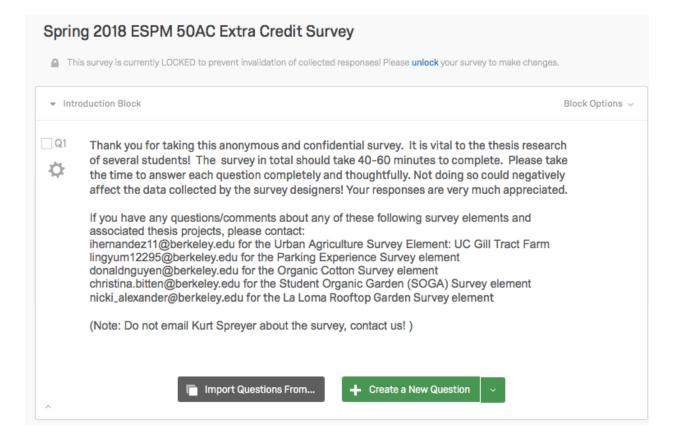
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APPENDEIX A: Berkeley Qualtrics Survey





My thesis examines student understanding and knowledge of urban agriculture in the Bay Area, and particularly the University of California Gill Tract Farm in Albany, California.

rica, and particularly the o	and the same of th		arry, outrionna.	
	anna da con la bacca in the	- f-11i tf	share a principle and	
How many years of experie	ence do you nave in the	e following types of u	rban agriculture?	
	No experience	0-2 years of experience	2-5+ years of experience	
Aquaculture	0	0	0	
Gardening/Horticulture	0	0	0	
Beekeeping	0	0	0	
Agroforestry	0	0	0	
Animal Husbandry	0	0	0	
How many years of experie urban agriculture?	ence does your immed	liate family have in the	e following types of	
	No experience	0-2 years of experience	2-5+ years of experience	
Aquaculture	0	0	0	
Gardening/Horticulture	0	0	0	
Beekeeping	0	0	0	
Agroforestry	0	0 0		
Animal Husbandry	0	0	0	
How much experience do y	you have with urban ga	ardening?		
A great deal				
A lot				
A moderate amount				
A little				
None at all				

How many	days ha	ave vou	spent	working	in the	following	in the	last	vear?
									1

	0	1-10	11-20	11-30	30+
Food Gardens	0	0	0	0	0
Flower Gardens	0	0	0	0	0
Native Plant Gardens	0	0	0	0	0
Cannabis Gardens	0	0	0	0	0
Rooftop Gardens	0	0	0	0	0
Backyard Gardens	0	0	0	0	0
Guerrilla Gardens	0	0	0	0	0
Community Gardens	0	0	0	0	0

How relevant do you consider urban agriculture to the following? 1 is not relevant I and 5 is very relevant.

	1	2	3	4	5
Creation of safe places	0	0	0	0	0
Addressing food justice	0	0	0	0	0
The food movement	0	0	0	0	0
Education and youth development opportunities	0	0	0	0	0
Addressing food insecurity	0	0	0	0	0
Cross-generational and cultural integration	0	0	0	0	0

How important are the following qualities of food in your purchasing decisions?							
	Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat important	Very important		
Buying locally grown produce	0	0	0	0	0		
Buying organic produce	0	0	0	0	0		
Buying any produce	0	0	0	0	0		
Buying produce that is labeled GMO-Free	0	0	0	0	0		
Do you personally feel affected by food injustice? (Definition of food injustice: lack of access to buying, growing, and eating adequate, affordable, healthy foods)							
Yes							
No							



If you answered yes, please explain your experiences	
Do you identify as food insecure? (Definition of food insecure: Inability to access to nutritious, affordable and culturally appropriate food)	afford or have
Yes	
No	
	_



If so, please explain your experiences							
				<i>,</i>			
Please respond to the following:							
	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree		
I worry that the food I buy is not healthy for me.	0	0	0	0	0		
I worry that my food will run out before I get money to buy more.	0	0	0	0	0		
I worry that I will not be able to afford enough food.	0	0	0	0	0		
I worry that I may have to skip meals because I do not have enough money.	0	0	0	0	0		
Have you heard of the UC Gill Tract Farm?							
Yes							
No							

How much do you know amount and 5 being the r		story of the UC	Gill Tract Far	m? 1 being the	eleast
	1	2	3	4	5
Date of Establishment	0	0	0	0	0
Work that has be done there	0	0	0	0	0
Way the UC Gill Tract Farm functions	0	0	0	0	0
Mission Values of the UC Gill Tract Farm	0	0	0	0	0
Current Situation of the UC Gill Tract Farm	0	0	0	0	0
Do you have any knowled	lge of the his	story of the UC	Gill Tract Far	m? Share belo	w.
If you re familiar with the all that apply) 1 being lea				lue the followi	ng? (Check
	1	2	3	4	5
It allows me to appreciate where my food comes from	0	0	0	0	0
It is a good place to make new friends	0	0	0	0	0
It is an inclusive space for me	0	0	0	0	0
It allows me to learn about urban farming in a small space area	0	0	0	0	0
It is a sources of fruits and vegetables for a healthy diet	0	0	0	0	0

please explain		

Are you aware that UC Berkeley	was established	as a land	grant University	dedicated to
agricultural research in 1868?				

Yes			
No			

How much do you think the University publicizes the UC Gill Tract Farm in its academic courses?

	Not at all	A little bit	A moderate amount	Somewhat	A great deal
Yes	0	0	0	0	0
No	0	0	0	0	0
Neutral	0	0	0	0	0

In 1939 the University allocated 39 acres of the Gill Tract Farm to what was then named as the College of Agriculture (now the College of Natural Resources) for research. In 1944, the University established the Biological Control Experiment Station on the site, for research on biological pest management, leaving only 10 acres for other research.

In 2012 the infamous Occupy the Farm Movement protest, led by community members, students, and professors, was directed against the University's plan to develop the 10 acres for commercial purposes. The protest ended with the University agreeing to establish an urban agricultural space on 2.5 acres at the site. In 2014 the UC Gill Tract Community Farm (UCGTF) was formally established for a period of 10 years, and since then the site has been managed by community members, University affiliates, and volunteer-based organizations that oversee agricultural, research, and educational activities at the farm.

The UC Gill Tract Farm strives to establish a community-managed food system centered around local, organic, agro-ecological farming practices, and serves as a model for what can be accomplished through collaborative and community-based research and extension within five to ten years. It is a unique, innovative partnership receiving attention and support from the public, academia, and policy makers. In your opinion, how important is the UC Gill Tract farm in terms of the following? 1 being least important and 5 being most important

	1	2	3	4	5
Learning Horticulture (science and art of growing plants)	0	0	0	0	0
Place of activism movement	0	0	0	0	0
Community and educational outreach	0	0	0	0	0
Providing food to food insecure individuals	0	0	0	0	0
Conducting research/ policy making	0	0	0	0	0

How important would the following be in encouraging your interest in becoming engaged in the UC Gill Tract Farm?

	Not important	A little bit important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important
General Infosessions on Campus	0	0	0	0	0
Guest Lectures talking about UCGTF	0	0	0	0	0
Agricultural Courses incorporating field work at the UCGTF	0	0	0	0	0
Opportunities for socializing at the site	0	0	0	0	0
Professors describing the farm and its purpose	0	0	0	0	0
Research Opportunities	0	0	0	0	0
Opportunities to support the food movement	0	0	0	0	0
Opportunities to engage in decision- making about the farm	0	0	0	0	0

Mould anything else be p farm in some way?	articularly in	nportant in inc	reasing your i	nterest in enga	aging in the
					//
How many hours a week	would you b	e able to dedi	cate to the UC	Gill Tract Farr	n?
0 hours a week					
2-5 hours a week					
6-9 hours week					
10 + hours a week					
What programs would be being least valuable and			experience at	the UC Gill Tr	act Farm? 1
	1	2	3	4	5
Food Sovereignty/ Food Justice Programs	0	0	0	0	0
Collaborative Projects with other sustainable organization groups/ members	0	0	0	0	0
Decision Making in projects on the farm	0	0	0	0	0
Teaching and Research Education	0	0	0	0	0
Food System Politics	0	0	0	0	0

How important are the following in preventing you from coming to the farm/ staying as an active volunteer?

	Not important	A little bit important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important
Being a student takes a lot of my time already. (Work, organizations, research)	0	0	0	0	0
Weather conditions (heat/ cold/ windy/ smoggy)	0	0	0	0	0
Not feeling welcomed	0	0	0	0	0
Gardening is work intensive for my body	0	0	0	0	0
Lack of information on how to access the farm	0	0	0	0	0
Lack of transportation/ Accessibility	0	0	0	0	0
A basic lack of interest	0	0	0	0	0

How important would the following be in increasing your interest in participating as a volunteer at the UC Gill Tract Farm?

	Not important at all	A little bit important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	
Work-Study Jobs at the Farm	0	0	0	0	0	
Access to healthy organic produce	0	0	0	0	0	
Understanding the value of producing your own food.	0	0	0	0	0	
Knowing that they are welcoming/ inclusive	0	0	0	0	0	

How	confident	are you	in the	following	statements	regarding	the L	JC Gill	Tract	Farm? 1	beir	١g
least	confident	and 5 b	eing n	nost confi	dent							

	1	2	3	4	5
It provides food to the Berkeley Food Collective	0	0	0	0	0
It provides food to neighboring schools	0	0	0	0	0
It provides food to UC Berkeley Students	0	0	0	0	0
It provides food to Community Members	0	0	0	0	0
It provides food to the Berkeley Food Pantry	0	0	0	0	0
Produce goes to compost and is sold as manure	0	0	0	0	0
Is thrown away after being produced from its research experiment	0	0	0	0	0
Is donated to the neighboring elementary schools	0	0	0	0	0
ls donated to different UC schools across the state	0	0	0	0	0
Is donated to food organizations on campus	0	0	0	0	0
How valuable do you thin 5 being most valuable	k the farm is	s for the follow	ring purposes?	1 being least	valuable and
	1	2	3	4	5
Agro-ecological practices	0	0	0	0	0
Provision of green space	0	0	0	0	0
Educational space	0	0	0	0	0
Research area	0	0	0	0	0
Access to healthy organic produce	0	0	0	0	0

How can the UC Gill Tract Farm increase its profile to you and other students? (Share below)	
//	
What else would make the UC Gill Tract Farm appealing/ meaningful to you? (Explain Below)	
Given what you know about the UC Gill Tract Farm now, what do you think of it in terms of accessibility, value for urban agriculture, and yourself?	
10	
UC Berkeley is considering removing the UC Gill Tract Farm after its 10 year contract for commercial spaces ends in 2023. How do you feel about this?	
Any other comments/ concerns? Please share below.	