

## “Manifesting our Metabolic Destiny: On Horticide, Technology, and the Future of the American Body”

This talk will explore three cases of arboricide in US history spanning the last two centuries. Specifically, we will focus on how the destruction of fruit trees maps onto the ideology of Manifest Destiny and how each of these moments impacted society, cultures, and bodies. As a confounder, I offer a counterfactual argument that fruit cultivation exposes an alterhistory of human exploitation and commodification of a food item deemed essential to health. In connection, I engage the ways the growth of the technology sector has contributed both to arboricide and increased sedentism. In the contemporary obesogenic and diabetogenic present, I argue that the fruit tree canopies larger, more salient questions about food access, medical justice, and environmental stewardship.