

Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future Topical Lunch

Title: *Research Director at Oxfam America*

Host: Kimberly Pfeifer, Oxfam America's Head of Research

Date: Friday October 6, 2017 12:00 – 1:00pm 300 Rice Hall

Kimberly is the Research Director at Oxfam America, where she oversees the production of research and trends analysis. She serves as the editor of Oxfam America's Research Backgrounder Series and is a member of the organization's Gender Resource Group.

Kimberly will discuss Oxfam's current research agenda to initiate a conversation with Cornell researchers around ideas for collaboration on research projects, grant proposals, student internships and research, and any other opportunities of interest. As you probably know, Oxfam is one of the largest and most influential humanitarian and international development organizations in the world. They are unique in this space for having considerable internal research strength, and Kimberly heads Oxfam America's 10-person research team. She is also the founding Chair of the Oxfam Research Network for the Oxfam Confederation. Having their own research team doesn't mean that they can meet all their research needs. Rather they seek collaborations with researchers in the academic setting.

People at Cornell have already paired up with OA in a variety of ways – OA has helped co-design graduate research initiatives and been involved with internship programs on campus. OA has worked with faculty to put together at least one (and we hope to do more) large proposal for joint research, and OA has worked with individual faculty on specific projects. Having Kimberly on campus for the semester gives us a real opportunity to brainstorm together to see how Cornell faculty and OA researchers/staff might work together in key areas of mutual interest, particularly: economic inequality and political capture; sustainable agriculture and equitable food systems; gender justice; climate justice; energy poverty and access; and more.

Prior to joining Oxfam, Kimberly worked for the AFL-CIO as a researcher with the Center for Strategic Research in Corporate Affairs. She has also worked for the Aga Khan Foundation in Zanzibar, Tanzania. While in Tanzania, Kimberly held a Research Fellowship with the Institute of Development Studies, University of Dar es Salaam. She received her MA and PhD from the University of Florida in Political Science and African Studies. She has a number of publications and papers critiquing models of development, and on land and natural resource politics.