



Dr. Rachel Meyer

AAAS Fellow

Directorate for Biological Sciences

Division of Environmental Biology

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Rachel Meyer is a 2014-2015 AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow in the Dimensions of Biodiversity program within Environmental Biology. She received her Ph.D. in Biology in 2012 from a joint program between The New York Botanical Garden and The Graduate Center, City University of New York. She has worked across the disciplines of genomics, phytochemistry, and ethnobotany to understand food crop domestication. She has closely researched eggplant and African rice, and has published on global crop evolution. Rachel's current work uses genome-wide association and selection tests to trace how humans encouraged variation among populations.

Prior to becoming a AAAS Fellow, Rachel was a NSF Plant Genome Research Program Postdoctoral Fellow based in the Purugganan Laboratory at New York University. At NYU, she led many science outreach activities such as World Science Festival workshops, making use of her love of integrated teaching and research. As a graduate student, she developed college-level courses for high school students, was an adjunct professor in Biology at Lehman College and Marymount Manhattan College, and taught adults and children at NYBG. Rachel has also done botanical collections and research with smallholder farmers in many countries in Asia and Africa. Her interest in global plants, biological and cultural diversity also trace back to her 4 years of service at the Burke Museum at the University of Washington, where she obtained a B.S. in Plant Biology and a B.A. in Visual Art.