



Dr. Ariela Zycherman

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Dr. Zycherman is an AAAS Science and technology Policy Fellow in NSF's Directorate for Engineering, Division of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental and Transport Systems (CBET). Ariela is trained as an applied and cultural anthropologist and has expertise in food systems, livelihoods, rural communities, and natural resource use. She received her PhD from Columbia University in 2013 where her research looked at the relationship between shifting alimentary practices and economic, environmental and political changes among indigenous, small-scale, agriculturalists in the Bolivian Amazon. As a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Illinois, Chicago's Institute for the Humanities her research looked at the political ecology of beef cattle ranching in the Bolivia Amazon and its connections to cattle breeding programs in Texas. Ariela has a strong interest in the direct and indirect effects of development policies and programs on food security, cultural conceptions of well-being, and household decision-making. She has conducted research on these issues in the Bolivian Amazon, Argentina, Mexico, Texas, and New York City in the context of newly introduced agricultural crops, direct cash transfers, nutritional interventions, and emergency feeding programs.