

# Morocco Summer 2024 Research Information Session

WEDS, NOV 8TH, 2023  
8AM PST/11AM EST

APPLICATIONS DUE  
NOVEMBER 15TH

LEARN MORE AND ASK  
QUESTIONS

Register here:  
<https://bit.ly/MoroccoInfoFall23>

[SUSTAINABLEARGAIN.ORG](https://SUSTAINABLEARGAIN.ORG)



# AGENDA

- ❖ Introductions
  - ❖ Drop name, major, university in the chat
- ❖ Program Background
  - ❖ Team
  - ❖ Argan trees and oil
  - ❖ Components
  - ❖ Research
  - ❖ Requirements
  - ❖ COVID-19 precautions
  - ❖ Timeline
- ❖ Questions and Answers



**UCMERCED**



# INTRODUCTIONS: PROGRAM LEADERS

## Meet the Team



**Tara Deubel, Ph.D.**

Principal Investigator, University of South  
Florida

Associate Professor in Anthropology

[Website](#)



**Jamila Bargach, Ph.D.**

Dar Si Hmad Executive Director

[Website](#)



**Colleen Naughton, Ph.D.**

Co-Principal Director

Assistant Professor in Environmental  
Engineering

[Website](#)

# INTRODUCTIONS: PROGRAM TEAM



**Noura Amayous**

Educational Project Manager

[Website](#)



**Wendy Perry, Ph.D.**

External Evaluator

[Publication](#)

# INTRODUCTIONS: SUMMER 2023 STUDENTS



# TARA DEUBEL, PHD. MOROCCO EXPERIENCE

❖ [U.S. Fulbright in Agadir, Morocco 2018-2019](#)

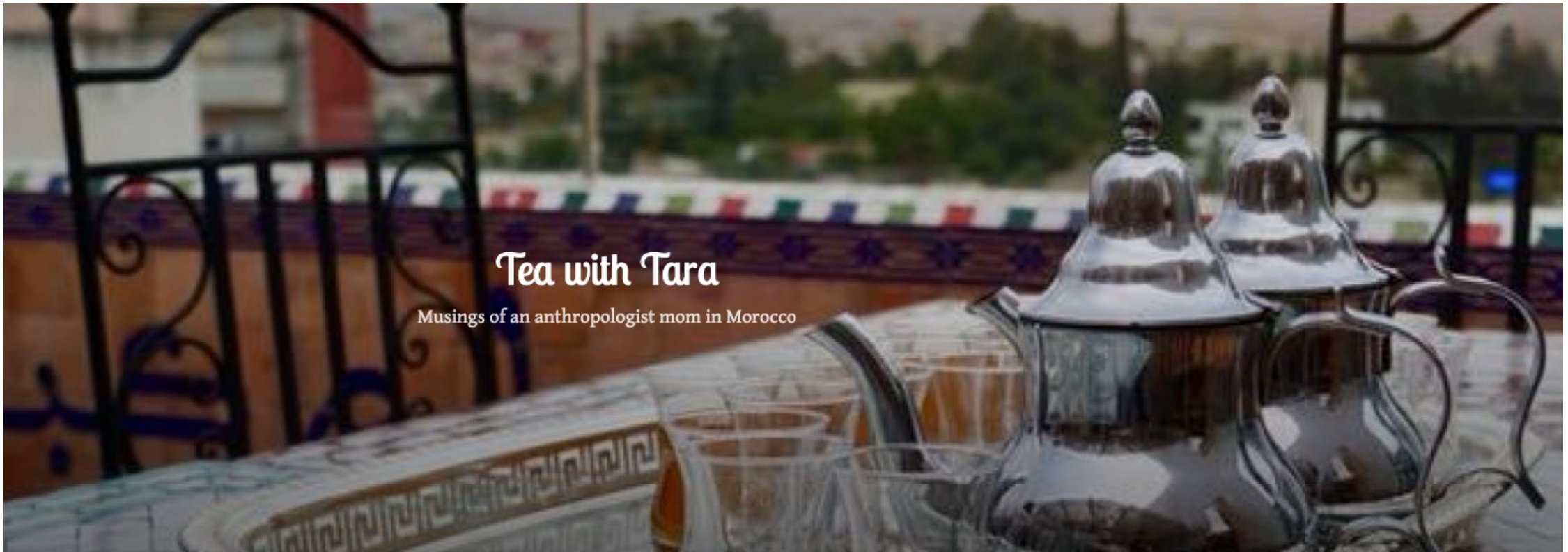
❖ <https://teawithtara.home.blog/>



FULBRIGHT

Tea with Tara

Musings of an anthropologist mom in Morocco



# COLLEEN NAUGHTON, PHD MOROCCO EXPERIENCE

- ❖ Traveled to Morocco 5 times 2017-2018
- ❖ American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellow for the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)
- ❖ <https://www.mcc.gov/where-we-work/program/morocco-employability-and-land-compact>



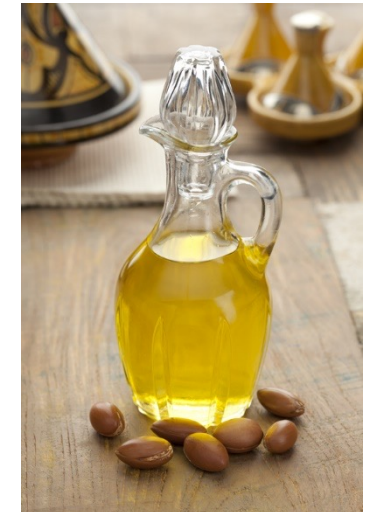
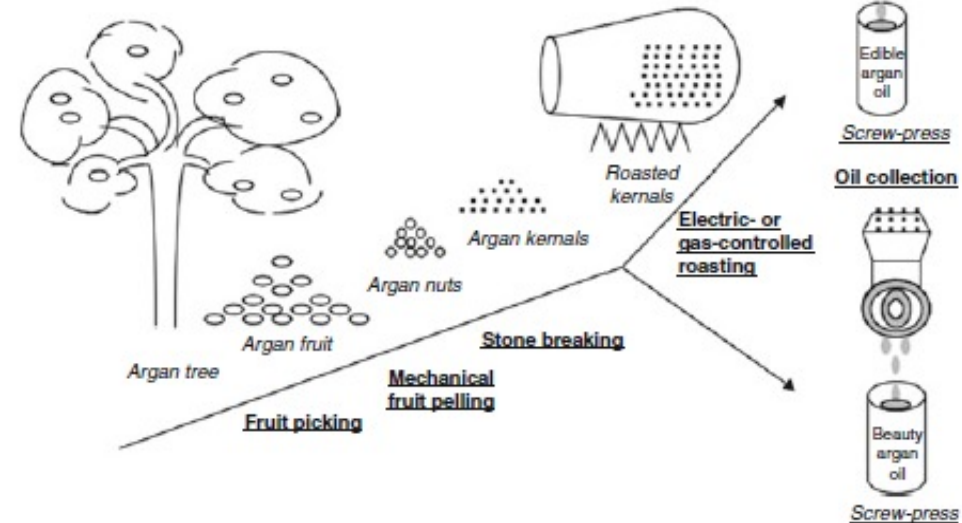
# BACKGROUND - MOROCCAN ARGAN

- ❖ Argan trees, *Argania spinosa* (L.), have existed for over 80 million years
- ❖ 800,000 hectares of land
- ❖ UNESCO Biosphere reserve- 1989
- ❖ Under threat from climate change and deforestation
- ❖ Harvested and produced mostly by rural women in the indigenous Amazigh communities





# BACKGROUND- WOMEN'S ARGAN OIL PRODUCTION



# NSF- IRES (INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS)



❖ Title: US-Morocco Collaborative Research for Socially and Environmentally Sustainable Women's Argan Oil Production

❖ Overall goal of this collaborative IRES project is to train interdisciplinary engineers, scientists and anthropologists to research and design socially and environmentally sustainable and equitable systems



# PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- ❖ 3 years (2022-2024)
- ❖ 6 students – 3 from each UC Merced and USF
  - ❖ USF – 2 anthropology, 1 engineering
  - ❖ UC Merced- 2 engineering/science, 1 anthropology/social science
- ❖ Mix of undergraduate and graduate students



# RESEARCH



F: Sustainable and Equitable Systems

E: Appropriate  
Technology

D: GIS

B: E-LCA

C: S-LCA

A: Baseline Ethnographic Research

# PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- ❖ University of South Florida or University of California Merced undergraduate or graduate student
  - ❖ Plan to be enrolled Fall 2024
  - ❖ At least Sophomore
- ❖ Current U.S. passport
- ❖ Applications due **November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**
- ❖ Cannot take other summer classes (even remote) during any part of the program
- ❖ Spring 2024 independent study



# WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM INCLUDE AND NOT INCLUDE?

## ❖ Includes:

- ❖ Airfare
- ❖ Lodging in country
- ❖ Food
- ❖ Travel insurance
- ❖ Training
- ❖ Meal with Moroccan host families in Agadir
- ❖ Field trips to some sites (Essaouira)
- ❖ Small travel stipend for meals, tips, and other items not directly included

## ❖ Not Included:

- ❖ Hourly wage or salary
- ❖ Health insurance & vaccines
- ❖ Passport
- ❖ Cell phone
- ❖ Clothing
- ❖ Personal travel in Morocco
- ❖ Single occupancy room
- ❖ Customary tips

# COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ Morocco has highest vaccination rate in Africa (~60%)
- ❖ Following all university and country guidance
- ❖ Required for students:
  - ❖ Full COVID-19 vaccination + booster
  - ❖ COVID-19 testing
  - ❖ Other travel vaccinations
  - ❖ Face coverings on plane
  - ❖ Daily symptom check & in-country protocols
  - ❖ Agree to virtual program if decided for full program for COVID/security reasons



# FIELD VISIT: ESSAOUIRA





# APPLICANT SELECTION

- ❖ Applications due **November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**
- ❖ Application review ~11/16-11/24/23
- ❖ Short list interviews and requests for additional info
  - ❖ Transcripts
  - ❖ Contact references
  - ❖ Zoom interviews (11/29 8AM PST/11AM EST, 12/6 7AM/10AM, 12/8 AM/11AM)
- ❖ Final selection 12/9/23-12/31/23
- ❖ Notification of application status:  
~ 12/31/23



# PROGRAM TIMELINE

❖ Summer 2024 Program Dates in country ~June 29<sup>th</sup>-July 31<sup>st</sup>

Task	Sept.-Nov.	Dec.	Jan.-April	May	June	July	Aug.
Student Recruitment	■						
Student Selection		■					
Student travel preparation			■	■			
Student pre-survey			■	■			
Student course preparation			■	■			
4-week experience in Morocco						■	
Student post survey and interviews							■
Yearly evaluation report due							■
Publications and meetings with Moroccan partners	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

# SUMMER 2024

❖ *Preliminary* dates June 29<sup>th</sup> -July 31, 2024

Week	Activity
1-2.	Orientation and Ethnographic Field School (Family lunch, Amazigh history and culture, argan oil production and research, cooperative structures and visits, argan museum, government institutions involved in argan, research plans and instruments, language classes, preliminary data collection, meetings)
2-3.	Field research and data analysis
4	Program wrap-up, final presentations and reports in Morocco

# QUESTIONS?



❖ **Applications due November 15, 2023** [sustainableargan.org](https://sustainableargan.org)