

# Nicole Vosper

Agroecologist, permaculture design practitioner and community organiser with extensive experience in the fields of applied agroecology and social justice.



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## Professional Experience

### Role & Responsibilities

- Founder & Director of Feed Avalon CIC | Social enterprise working towards local food resilience in Glastonbury, Street & surrounding villages | 2013 - present

- Researcher, Corporate Watch | 2017 - present

- Founder & Director of Empty Cages Design | 2013 - present

- Co-manager, Brook End | 4-acre smallholding, education and demonstration site | 2011 - present

- Project Officer, Somerset Community Food | 2011 - 2014

### Key Achievements

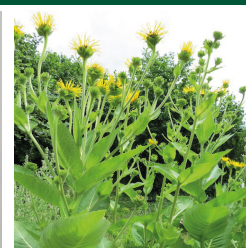
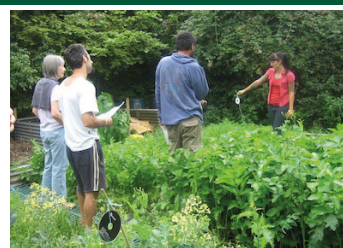
- EAT (Education and Training) Project, designing and convening comprehensive programme of courses and workshops in food system skills - supporting more than 300 learners to access adult education
- Two-year 'Growing Glastonbury' Project, a £40k project funded by People's Health trust, working with 20 mentors to support 200 households to learn how to grow food. Regular gardening clubs, skill shares & more
- Establishing community kitchen, mushroom farm and plant nursery
- Organising grassroots remediation project of contaminated land
- Grassroots organising including community food forums, seed swaps, harvest shows & more

- Production of investigations about the prison industrial complex in the UK
- Development of new Corporate Watch website

- Working as a Gaia University Main Advisor supporting associates all over the world develop their skills in integrative ecosocial design
- Freelance tutoring for the Permaculture Association GB supporting apprentices develop their permaculture design skills

- Becoming Permaculture Learning & Network Demonstration Centre with Permaculture Association GB
- Establishing kitchen gardens, medicinal herb garden, orchard, polytunnel, greenhouse systems & more

- Delivering £250k Somerset Land for Food Project, an access to land project for community food production in Somerset
- Growing Resilience Project (see teaching experience)
- Producing access to land handbook & series of short films about community access to land
- Initiating Incredible Edible Somerset, grassroots network & online platform
- Establishing Somerset Master Gardeners network in partnership with Garden Organic, to support 20 volunteers mentor households in growing food
- Organising several county-wide conferences & events, including access to land tour, local food feast & community growers gathering



## Agroecological System Design Experience

- Brook End, 4-acre smallholding. Extensive design & management of multiple on-site areas (ongoing)
- Flight Farm, Gloucestershire, kitchen garden design, 2015
- Southdown Farm, Somerset. 29-acre farm, forest garden design, 2014
- Brook Farm Animal Sanctuary, Northamptonshire, design project for increased biodiversity, climate mitigation & soil erosion prevention, 2013
- St Werburghs Medicine Garden, design for community allotment & herbal medicine teaching space, 2012
- Greenacres, smallholding re-design for increased food production, flood resilience & nature connection on Somerset levels, 2012
- Home garden & spiritual space, Shropshire, 2011

## Education & Training

### Qualifications

#### Agroecology & Design

- MSc Political Agroecology with Gaia University International, 2013 - present

*MSc undertook with an action-learning and action-research methodology, centred on how we can accelerate the speed and scale of a transition to agroecological practices around the world, with a strong focus on Western Europe. Thematic areas include the socioeconomic relationships of agroecology, alternative economics, agroecosystem design, soil care, agroforestry, repression, collective models of food production, anarchism and global political movements, animal agriculture and speciesism, the role of education and critical pedagogy, and more. FFI: [http://www.emptycagesdesign.org/?page\\_id=3182](http://www.emptycagesdesign.org/?page_id=3182)*

- Bsc Integrative Ecosocial Design with Gaia University International, 2011 - 2012

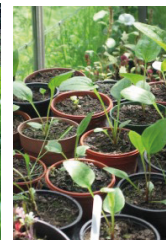
*Action-learning degree with recognition of prior learning. The degree was focused on developing my ecological and social design competencies, with critical thematic explorations of food sovereignty, small-scale agriculture, permaculture design, anti-oppression design frameworks, sustainable organising, self-care and more.*

- Diploma in Applied Permaculture Design, Permaculture Association GB, 2011 - 2014

- Royal Horticultural Society Advanced level 3 certificates in principles of plant growth, health and propagation & principles of garden planning, construction & planting, 2012 - present

### Short Courses

- Certificate in Applied Agroecology, Mesa, May 2017 - present
- Polytunnel Course, Somerset, May 2017
- Plant Identification, Somerset, July 2016
- Pond Design and Construction, Somerset, July 2016
- Mushroom Cultivation and Identification, 3-day course, November 2015
- Food Sovereignty, 3-day course, October 2015
- Chromatography Workshop with Jairo Restrepo, Gloucestershire, July 2015
- Keyline Design Course with Own Hablutzel, 3-day course, Somerset, June 2015
- Agroecology, 5 day Course with Miguel Altieri, Devon, 2015
- Sustainable Woodland Management with Ben Law, 5 day Course, Sussex, 2013
- Regenerative Agriculture with Darren Doherty, 7-day course, Sussex, 2012
- Ecological sewage treatment & rainwater harvesting, 3-day course, Centre for Alternative Technology, 2012
- Studies with the Open University, Milton Keynes including Environmental science & Environmental studies, 2009 - 2011
- Certificate in Horticulture, ACS Education, 2009-2010
- Permaculture Design Certificate includes: 200 hours 'Permaculture systems' & 'Advanced Permaculture' modules, ACS Education, 2009-2010, Tutor: Martin Powdrill
- Certificate of Herbal Studies, 2009, accredited by British Herbal Medicine Association, distinction
- Advanced Diploma in Herbalism, 2009, School of Natural Health Sciences
- Day-long courses: Living Willow Sculpture, Orchard Management, Apple tree grafting, No-dig gardening, Starting a Food Cooperative, Agroforestry, Communities Buying Land



## Teaching Experience

### Qualifications

- Paulo Freire Formation Programme, The Freire Institute, 2015 - present, in-depth course exploring critical pedagogy and community-based organising.
- Gaia University Advisor Training, September 2012
- Permaculture Diploma Tutor Training, November 2012
- Permaculture Training of Teachers Course, Designed Visions, 2012, 10-day course in creative teaching methods & permaculture pedagogies
- Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector, Brighton Friends Centre, 2012

### Experiences

- **Education and Training Coordinator, Feed Avalon**, August 2014 - Present.  
Coordinating the EAT Project - organising sliding-scale and accessible community learning opportunities for adults from disadvantaged wards in Somerset, funded by Somerset Skills and Learning. Roles include project design and management, marketing, learner support, course design and facilitation, learning evaluation and accounting.
- **Gaia University Advisor**, February 2013 - Present.  
Supporting associates working towards Bachelor degrees and diplomas in ecological and social design. Leading advising sessions, reviewing output work and working as part of a team to support associates.
- **Diploma in Applied Permaculture Tutor**, with Permaculture Association GB, November 2014 - Present. Actively supporting apprentices undertaking the diploma, giving feedback on their design work and learning pathways.

### Workshops Designed and Facilitated

- Designed and facilitated workshops on: Access to land, agroecology, consensus decision making, composting, community organising, direct action, ecological design, know your rights, permaculture, food poverty, food sovereignty, fruit tree planting, care and pruning, medicinal landscaping, popular education, seed sovereignty, soil care and more.

### Courses Designed and Facilitated

- Growing to Sell Course. Two-day training in scaling up food production for market. Co-taught with Tim Lawrence & Hannah Hughes, March 2016 & May 2015, Somerset.
- Spring Soil School. Two-day course in soil care & science. Co-taught with Jane Sweetman, Carol Stone, Edward Revill & Hannah Hughes, March 2016, June 2015, July 2014. Somerset.
- Grow Your Own Garden Course. Six-week course introducing complete beginners to food growing. Co-taught with Carol Stone & Hannah Hughes. February-March 2016 & March - April 2015. Somerset.
- Liberation Permaculture Course, Weekend course exploring principles of permaculture applied to social change. Co-taught with Pandora Thomas, Graham Burnett & Rafter Sass-Ferguson. September 2015. Essex.
- Full Vegan Permaculture Design Course co-taught with Graham Burnett, July & August 2016 and 2015, June & August 2014. Somerset
- Food Sovereignty Course co-taught with Mama D. Three-day introduction to food sovereignty and popular education. October 2015, Somerset
- Designed and managed the Growing Resilience Project with Somerset Community Food in 2013. 14 learners were supported to complete a Certificate in Community Horticulture (Level 2 APT Award). The course involved taught sessions in organising and educational skills. As well as six public events, where the learners delivered workshops relating to the six principles of food sovereignty. Learners also undertook projects in their own communities as a basis for their action learning. More than 40 different learners were involved in the project.



## Organising Experience

Long-term experienced organiser in diverse campaigns and collectives working for social change. Areas of focus include anti-prison work, prisoner support & defendant solidarity, resilience to repression, radical herbalism, anti-fracking, land rights, agroecology and food sovereignty, as well as animal liberation.

Skills include collective organising, consensus decision making, strategic thinking and planning, public speaking, facilitation, conflict resolution, organising events, gatherings, conferences, tours, demonstrations and actions. Research, graphic design, multimedia, social media and website design skills.

## Writing Portfolio

### *Portfolio*

Published in Positive News, Permaculture Magazine, Permaculture News, Occupied Times, Transition Free Press, Red Pepper Magazine, Growing Green International, The Vegan, Permaculture Works, The Earth First! Journal. As well as several more alternative publications. Sampled articles:

- Trauma, Death and Profits - Youth Prisons in the UK, Corporate Watch, September 2017
- Dismantling the Prison Industrial Complex, Afed Magazine, July 2017
- The Prison Industrial Complex, Occupied Times, 2015
- A World Without Prisons, Red Pepper Magazine, 2013
- Small Farmers Organise for Peasant Day of Struggle, Permaculture Magazine, April 2013

### *Books*

- Overcoming Burnout, January 2017, Active Distribution, London

### *Positions*

- Blog & Newsletter Editor for Gaia University International, 2011 - 2014. Responsibilities included collating content for blog, producing monthly newsletter and writing articles to promote Gaia University.

## Practical Skills

Propagation • Mulching  
Soil care • Fruit growing • Veg & salad production • Permaculture Design • Medicinal plant cultivation • Wild foods • Sustainable Woodland Management • Arboriculture • Agroforestry system design • Composting • Technical drawing • Landscape reading • Surveying

## Research Interests

Political agroecology, decolonization, horticulture, plant-based system design and care, agroforestry, forest gardening, plant based fertility & urban agriculture, political ecology of soils, European access to land and food sovereignty movements, seed sovereignty, prison abolition, transformative justice, anarchism, most specifically anarchist agroecology and the political economy of food systems.

