Frans J.G. Padt, Ph.D.

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Profile

Frans Padt has broad experience in community and regional environmental policy and design. He has worked in many roles over the years as a researcher, educator, policymaker, consultant, and volunteer. He teaches at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Experience

TEACHING PROFESSOR, PENN STATE UNIVERSITY – 2019-PRESENT

Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education (AESE) – teaching appointment. School of Public Policy at Penn State – courtesy appointment (since 2026).

ASSOCIATE TEACHING PROFESSOR, PENN STATE UNIVERSITY – 2011-2019

Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education & the Department of Landscape Architecture. Teaching appointments.

SENIOR RESEARCHER, WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH CENTER, NETHERLANDS – 2007-2010

Alterra Landscape Center, Team Urban and Regional Development. Contract research, research coordination, symposium organization.

LECTURER, RADBOUD UNIVERSITY NIJMEGEN, NETHERLANDS – 2004-2007

Department of Political Sciences of the Environment, Radboud University Nijmegen. Ph.D. research, contract research, and teaching.

CONSULTANT, CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT, NETHERLANDS – 1999-2004

Contract research for soil and water protection, interim-management water company Vitens, and the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning, and the Environment.

SOIL CONSERVATION PLANNER, PROVINCE OF FLEVOLAND, NETHERLANDS – 1992-1998

Department of Environmental Planning. Coordinator Soil Conservation Program, project manager for the UNESCO World Heritage monument Schokland, and research coordinator.

SOIL AND WATER SPECIALIST, PROVINCE OF GELDERLAND, NETHERLANDS – 1988-1991

Department of Environment and Water. Assistant project leader, Soil Conservation Plan and Groundwater Protection Plan, design and implementation of Groundwater Quality Monitoring Network, research supervision.

Education

Radboud University Nijmegen, Department of Political Sciences of the Environment – PhD, 2007.

Vrije University Amsterdam, Faculty of Earth Sciences, major in Environmental Hydrology, minor in Meteorology – M.Sc., 1988.

Teaching

Community, Environment, and Development (CED) major, including land use planning, municipal governance, gentrification, environmental sociology, science & public policy, and community engagement courses, including course development and community-engaged research with students.

Community and Economic Development (CEDEV) Online Graduate Program, including sociological theories, regional economics, population, land use planning, and municipal finance courses, including course development. Committee member CEDEV Master Papers (over 40 since 2025, of which 17 as advisor)

Department of Landscape Architecture (2011-2019): undergraduate studios and graduate critical planning and methods courses. Advising in the Master's and Master of Science programs.

Service

Department of AESE, College of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Landscape Architecture, University Park, community service.

Research

Development of engaged-learning pedagogies, resources, and practical tools for students and educators, including:

- Anxiety Intervention Tool, SAFES Engaged Scholarship & Experiential Learning (ESEL) 2024 Seed Grant Program;
- Engagement Tool, College of Arts and Architecture Faculty 2017 Research Program.
- Library Guide Engaged Scholarship, with Penn State Sustainability Community of Practice for Engaged Scholarship.
- Inquiry-based learning in gentrification education.

Previous academic research (2004-2010, selection):

- Scale-sensitive governance (international conference and co-edited book), Wageningen UR and Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.
- Evaluation of 25 years of community-based research, Wageningen Science Shop.
- Sustainability in regional rural policy, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency.
- Best practices in international water management, International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN).
- Evaluation nature and landscape policies in the province of North-Brabant, Province of North-Brabant.

Consultancy research (1999-2004) focused on groundwater quality protection, rural development, and sustainable agriculture, funded by the EU, national, provincial, and local governments, and the drinking water sector.

Academic publications (selection)

In progress/under revision (working titles):

- Urban farming and the struggle for system change in the Rust Belt.
- An Anxiety Intervention Tool for community-engaged planning.
- An inquiry-based approach to gentrification education.

Padt, F.J.G., M. Bose & A.E. Luloff (2023). Teaching public engagement in research using the Engagement Tool. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 43 (4), 766–772.

Padt, F.J.G. (2016). How to scale a territory: Experiences from the United States. Invited contribution to J. Dessein, E. Battaglini & L.G. Horlings (eds.), *Cultural sustainability and regional development, theories and practices of territorialisation*, pp. 162-175. Routledge.

Padt, F.J.G., P. Opdam, N. Polman & C. Termeer (eds.) (2014). *Scale-sensitive governance of the environment.* Edited volume. Oxford: John Wiley & Sons.

Padt, F.J.G. & J.C. Sanchez (2013). Creating new spaces for sustainable water management in the Senegal River Basin. *Natural Resources Journal*, 53 (2), 265-284.

Horlings, I. & F.J.G. Padt (2013). Leadership for sustainable regional development in rural areas: Bridging personal and institutional aspects. *Sustainable Development,* 21 (6), 413-424.

Padt, F.J.G. (2012). Leadership and scale. Invited contribution to M. Sotarauta, I. Horlings & J. Liddle (eds.), *Leadership and change in sustainable regional development*, pp. 60-79, Routledge.

Padt, F.J.G. & J. Westerink (2012). Addressing scale in open space preservation: learning from The Hague Region in the Netherlands. *Journal of Economic and Social Geography*, 103 (5), 601-614.

Padt, F.J.G. & A.E. Luloff (2011). A critical review of a managerial approach to "green" community planning in the USA and the Netherlands. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, 54 (4), 445-456.

Padt, F.J.G. & A.E. Luloff (2009). An institutional analysis of rural policy in the United States. *Journal of the Community Development Society*, 40 (3), 232-246.

Padt, F.J.G. (2007). *Green planning. An institutional analysis of regional environmental planning in the Netherlands.* Dissertation Radboud University Nijmegen. Delft: Eburon.

Padt, F.J.G. (2006). Regional environmental planning in the Netherlands. An unstable settlement of policy arrangements. In: B. Arts & P. Leroy (eds.), *Institutional Dynamics in Environmental Governance*. Environment & Policy, Vol. 47. Heidelberg: Springer.

Conferences (selection)

Engaged Scholarship Consortium Conference (2021).

International Symposium on Society & Resource Management (2009-2017).

Biennial Conference on University Education in Natural Resources (2018, 2014).

University of Washington (2015, keynote),, University of Birmingham (2015, workshop), Wageningen University (2010, co-organizer, presenter). Université de Genève (2010, panelist), University of Bonn (2009, workshop).

5th World Water Forum (2009, trainer).