

MEHRNUSH GOLRIZ
1255 Bunche Hall, Box 951524
Los Angeles, CA 90095
(510) 219-4738 • mgolriz@ucla.edu

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles Los Angeles, CA
Ph.D. Geography (ABD December 2023) Expected 2025

Dissertation: *Lithium Governance in Chile's Atacama Salt Flats*

Committee: Helga Leitner (co-chair), Shaina Potts (co-chair), Kelly Kay, Javiera Barandiarán

University of California, Los Angeles Los Angeles, CA
M.A. Geography 2021

Thesis: *Dynamic Spaces of Refugee Governance: The Case of Boa Vista, Roraima, Brazil*

Dartmouth College Hanover, NH
B.A. Geography modified with Portuguese, Hispanic Studies 2015
cum laude

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Lithium Frontiers Santiago, Chile
Researcher, SSHRC Grant, Government of Canada 2023 – Present

- Organized the Chilean fieldwork for a comparative project on lithium frontiers in five countries- Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Canada and Australia.
- Co-lead (with Javiera Barandiarán) semi-structured interviews with industry, state and local actors in Chile. (<https://www.lithiumfrontiers.com>)

TRACtion: Transportation, Sustainable LA Grand Challenge Los Angeles, CA
Working Group Notetaker, UCLA Institute of Transportation Studies 2023

- Participated in focus group discussions and was designated notetaker for the Reimagining Transportation and Safe Transportation working groups.
- Compiled and analyzed working group notes, wrote summaries, and identified the overarching trends for each working group meeting.

Dartmouth College Hanover, NH
Research Assistant, Department of Geography 2017 – 2018

- Conducted research under the guidance of Dr. Richard Wright through funding from NSF and a CompX Grant from the Neukon Institute at Dartmouth College.
- Identified key definitions of racially diverse neighborhoods in the literature and converted these definitions into mathematical equations that could be applied to the 1990, 2000, and 2010 U.S. Census Tract Data.
- Co-authored the paper “Mixed measures: Different definitions of racially diverse neighborhoods compared” in *Urban Geography*.

PUBLICATIONS

Wright, R., Ellis, M., Holloway, S., & **Golriz, M.** (2021). Mixed measures: Different definitions of racially diverse neighborhoods compared. *Urban Geography*, 42(8), 1147-1169.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

External

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$105,000) 2019 – 2024
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Grant #430719, 2024
Government of Canada, Project Title: In the Shadows of Climate Migration:
Lithium Extraction for a Just Energy Transition (\$12,000 CAD)
Energy and Environment Specialty Group Fieldwork Award, 2023
American Association of Geographers (\$500)
Ph.D. Field Study Grant, *Conference of Latin American Geographers* (\$1,500) 2023
Master's Field Study Grant, *Conference of Latin American Geographers* (\$1,000) 2021
Latin American Specialty Group Master's Field Study Award, 2021
American Association of Geographers (\$500)
Brazil Initiation Scholarship, *Brazilian Studies Association* (\$1,500) 2018

Internal

Department of Geography Summer Research Travel Grant, *UCLA* (\$6,000) 2024
International Institute Fieldwork Fellowship, *UCLA International Institute* (\$1,100) 2024
Graduate Student Summer Research Grant, *UCLA Latin American Institute* (\$2,000) 2024
Foreign Language and Studies Fellowship Award in Advanced Spanish, 2023
UCLA Latin American Institute (\$8,500)
Department of Geography Summer Research Travel Grant, *UCLA* (\$4,000) 2020 – 2022
Graduate Dean's Scholarship, *UCLA* (\$14,500) 2019 – 2021
James B. Reynold's Scholarship for Foreign Study, *Dartmouth College* (\$20,000) 2018 – 2019

HONORS & AWARDS

Conference Travel Award, *Society of Women Geographers* 2023
Political Geography Specialty Group Student Travel Award, 2023
American Association of Geographers
Student Travel Award, *Conference of Latin American Geographers* 2022

CONFERENCES

Sessions Organized

Lithium Extraction: Research Directions and Needs in Latin America, (Accepted) 2025
Pre-Conference, Latin American Studies Association, San Francisco, CA

Roundtable Discussions

Decarbonization, Mining, and Struggle in Latin America (Accepted) 2025
Discussant, Latin American Studies Association, San Francisco, CA

Papers Presented

Chile's Lithium Lawscapes: Environmental Governance and Extraction (Accepted) 2025
American Association of Geographers, Detroit, MI
A mining frontier in an old mining region? Lithium mines in Maricunga, Chile (Accepted) 2025

Co-presenting w/ Javiera Barandiarán, International Studies Association, Chicago, IL
 Putting Neo-Extractivism and Critical Resource Geographies into Conversation, 2024
Latin American Studies Association, Virtual/ Bogotá, CO
 Lithium Lawscapes in Chile's Atacama Salt Flats, 2023
American Association of Geographers, Denver, CO
 Boa Vista's Dynamic Spaces of Refugee Governance, 2022
American Association of Geographers, Virtual
 Managing Difference: Inequalities in Boa Vista's Migrant Shelters, 2021
American Association of Geographers, Virtual

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of California, Los Angeles Los Angeles, CA
Teaching Associate, Department of Geography 2024 – 2025

- People and Earth's Ecosystems (Fall 2024)
- World Regions: Concepts and Contemporary Issues (Winter 2025)
- Border Studies: Globalization (Spring 2025)

Teaching Assistant, Luskin School of Public Affairs 2023

- Qualitative Methods (Fall 2023)

Teaching Assistant, Department of Geography 2020 – 2021

- World Regions: Concepts and Contemporary Issues (Spring 2021)
- Introduction to Cultural Geography (Fall 2020)
- Ethnicity in U.S. Cities (Spring 2020)

Dartmouth College Hanover, NH
Teaching Assistant, Department of Geography 2017 – 2018

- Introduction to Human Geography (Spring 2018)
- Introduction to International Development (Fall 2017, Winter, 2018)
- Global Health and Society (Fall 2017)

INVITED LECTURES

Guest Lecturer, "Migration and Borders," Dr. Ben Gerlofs' Introduction to Human Geography, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH Spring 2018

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Community Activities Committee Chair, UCLA Graduate Student Association 2024 – Present
Legal Geography Specialty Group Student Board Member, 2023 – Present
Legal Geography Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers
Community Activities Committee Member, UCLA Graduate Student Association 2021 – 2022
Graduate Student Faculty Representative, UCLA Geography 2020 – 2023
Graduate Student Association

LEADERSHIP & OUTREACH

Graduate Student Mentor, *Grad Strive, UCLA Graduate Division* 2021 – 2023
Graduate Student Mentor, *UCLA Geography Graduate Student Association* 2021 – Present

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

International Studies Association (ISA) 2024 – Present
Latin American Studies Association (LASA) 2023 – Present
Society of Women Geographers (SWG) 2023 – Present
Conference of Latin American Geography (CLAG) 2020 – Present
American Association of Geographers (AAG) 2019 – Present
Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA) 2017 – 2019

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Brooklyn Defender Services Brooklyn, NY
Criminal Defense Investigator, Investigation Unit 2015 – 2017

- Investigated crimes ranging from petit larceny to attempted murder for the public defender’s office.
- Conducted interviews in English and Spanish, found eyewitnesses, acquired video surveillance, and formulated defense theories for over 1,000 criminal defense cases.

LANGUAGES

English Native
Farsi Native
Spanish Full Professional Fluency
Portuguese Full Professional Fluency
French Limited Professional Fluency

QUANTITATIVE SKILLS

QGIS/ ArcGIS Intermediate Professional Knowledge
ENVI/ Remote Sensing Intermediate Professional Knowledge