

MEHRNUSH GOLRIZ
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EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles Los Angeles, CA
Ph.D. Geography (Advanced to Candidacy December 2023) Expected Spring 2027
Dissertation: *Law in Contest: Governance and Legal Activism 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, *cum laude* 2015

PUBLICATIONS

Golriz, M. Mineral Spaces: A Legal Geographical Genealogy of Lithium in Chile. Revise and resubmit from *Political Geography*.

Golriz, M. The Legal Geographies of Indigenous Rights in the Atacama Salt Flats. Invited manuscript in preparation for the special issue "Water and Energy" in *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*.

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 (NSF-GRFP), 2019 – 2024
National Science Foundation (\$153,000)

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 Geography* (\$1,500) 2023

Master's Field Study Grant, *Conference of Latin American Geography* (\$1,000) 2021

Latin American Specialty Group Master's Field Study Award, <i>American Association of Geographers</i> (\$500)	2021
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Brazil Initiation Scholarship, <i>Brazilian Studies Association</i> (\$1,500)	2018
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Internal

Department of Geography Summer Research Travel Grant, <i>UCLA</i> (\$2,300)	2025
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Department of Geography Summer Research Travel Grant, <i>UCLA</i> (\$6,000)	2024
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International Institute Fieldwork Fellowship, <i>UCLA International Institute</i> (\$1,100)	2024
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Graduate Student Summer Research Grant, <i>UCLA Latin American Institute</i> (\$2,000)	2024
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Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship in Advanced Spanish, <i>UCLA Latin American Institute</i> (\$8,500)	2023
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Department of Geography Summer Research Travel Grant, <i>UCLA</i> (\$4,000)	2020 – 2022
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Graduate Dean's Scholarship, <i>UCLA</i> (\$14,500)	2019 – 2021
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James B. Reynolds Scholarship for Foreign Study, <i>Dartmouth College</i> (\$20,000)	2018 – 2019
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HONORS & AWARDS

UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship (PPFP), Alternate	2026
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New Energy Summer Summit, Selected Participant <i>Irving Institute for Energy and Society, Dartmouth College</i>	2026
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Josephine De Karman Fellowship, Alternate	2025
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Latin American Specialty Group Solidarity Award, <i>American Association of Geographers</i>	2025
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Conference Travel Award, <i>Society of Women Geographers</i>	2023
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Political Geography Specialty Group Student Travel Award, <i>American Association of Geographers</i>	2023
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Student Travel Award, <i>Conference of Latin American Geography</i>	2022
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Robert J. Weber Hispanic Poetry Prize, <i>Dartmouth College Department of Spanish and Portuguese</i>	2015
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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Lithium Frontiers

Santiago, Chile

Researcher, SSHRC Grant, Government of Canada

2023 – Present

- Coordinated Chilean fieldwork for a comparative project examining lithium frontiers in Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, and Australia.
- Co-led (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 with Dr. Richard Wright on definitions of racially diverse neighborhoods, resulting in a co-authored article in *Urban Geography*.
- Operationalized literature-based definition into quantitative metrics using 1990, 2000, and 2010 U.S. Census tract data.

CONFERENCES

Sessions Organized

Legal Geographies of Extraction I and II

2026

American Association of Geographers, San Francisco, CA

Lithium Extraction: Research Directions and Needs in Latin America

2025

Pre-Conference, Latin American Studies Association, San Francisco, CA

Roundtable Discussions

Contested Frontiers Workshop

2026

Participant, Latin American Council of Social Sciences, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Critical Approaches to So-Called Critical Minerals: The Materiality of Criticality

2026

Panelist, American Association of Geographers, San Francisco, CA

Decarbonization, Mining, and Struggle in Latin America

2025

Discussant, Latin American Studies Association, San Francisco, CA

Papers Presented

Navigating Idiosyncratic Brines: Scale, Applicability and Innovation in Lithium Extraction 2026

Latin American Studies Association, Paris, France

Mineral Spaces: A Legal Geographical Genealogy of Lithium in Chile <i>American Association of Geographers</i> , San Francisco, CA	2026
Chile's Lithium Lawscapes: Environmental Governance and Extraction <i>American Association of Geographers</i> , Detroit, MI	2025
Lithium Lawscapes in Chile's Atacama Salt Flats <i>Energy Geography Conference</i> , Virtual	2025
Putting Neo-Extractivism and Critical Resource Geographies into Conversation <i>Latin American Studies Association</i> , Virtual	2024
Lithium Lawscapes in Chile's Atacama Salt Flats <i>American Association of Geographers</i> , Denver, CO	2023
Boa Vista's Dynamic Spaces of Refugee Governance <i>American Association of Geographers</i> , Virtual	2022
Managing Difference: Inequalities in Boa Vista's Migrant Shelters <i>American Association of Geographers</i> , Virtual	2021

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Skyline College <i>Adjunct Professor, Department of Geography</i>	San Bruno, CA 2026 – Present
Physical Geography (Fall 2026)	
University of California, Los Angeles <i>Teaching Fellow, Department of Geography</i>	Los Angeles, CA 2025 – 2026
- People and Earth's Ecosystems (Summer 2026 Session A), <i>Sole Instructor</i> - Introduction to GIS (Fall 2025) - People and Earth's Ecosystems (Summer 2025 Sessions A and C), <i>Sole Instructor</i>	
<i>Teaching Associate, Department of Geography</i>	2024 – 2025
- Border Studies: Globalization (Spring 2025) - World Regions: Concepts and Contemporary Issues (Winter 2025) - People and Earth's Ecosystems (Fall 2024)	
<i>Teaching Assistant, Luskin School of Public Affairs</i>	2023
Qualitative Methods (Fall 2023)	
<i>Teaching Assistant, Department of Geography</i>	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
<i>Teaching Assistant, Department of Geography</i>	2017 – 2018

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

INVITED LECTURES & TALKS

“Mineral Spaces: Legal Geographies of Lithium in Chile.” Department of Geography, University of Nevada, Reno.	Spring 2026
“Resource and Conservation Geopolitics.” Dr. Mahsa Sadeghpour’s Conservation of Natural Resources, University of Nevada, Reno.	Spring 2026
“Migration and Borders.” Dr. Ben Gerlofs’ Introduction to Human Geography, Dartmouth College.	Spring 2018

ACADEMIC SERVICE

AAG Graduate Communities Intern <i>American Association of Geographers</i>	2026 – Present
Community Activities Committee Chair <i>UCLA Graduate Student Association</i>	2024 – Present
Legal Geography Specialty Group Student Board Member <i>Legal Geography Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers</i>	2023 – Present
Community Activities Committee Member <i>UCLA Graduate Student Association</i>	2021 – 2022
Graduate Student Faculty Representative <i>UCLA Geography Graduate Student Association</i>	2020 – 2023

LEADERSHIP & OUTREACH

Graduate Student Mentor, UCLA Geography Graduate Student Association	2021 – 2024
Graduate Student Mentor, Grad Strive, UCLA Graduate Division	2021 – 2023

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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, Farsi

Native

Spanish, Portuguese

Full Professional Fluency

QUANTITATIVE SKILLS

QGIS/ArcGIS

Intermediate Proficiency

ENVI/Remote Sensing

Intermediate Proficiency