

Olivia Carter Meyer

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Department of Geography and Environment
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EDUCATION

- August 2021 – University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, Hawai'i
Doctor of Philosophy in Geography and Environment
Research Focus: Feminist political ecology, plastic waste, sustainability, environmental justice, political geography, science and technology studies, Southeast Asian studies
Committee: Dr. Mary Mostafanezhad (Chair), Dr. Krisna Suryanata, Dr. Reece Jones, Dr. Ehito Kimura, Dr. Micah Fisher
- May 2023 Graduate Certificate in Southeast Asian Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- May 2021 University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky
Master of Arts in Geography
Thesis: "Countering 'Plastic Addicted Subjects': Power, Essentialized Identities, and Expertise in Thailand"
Committee: Dr. Betsy Beymer-Farris (Chair), Dr. Tad Mutersbaugh, Dr. Nari Senanayake
- May 2016 James Madison University (JMU), Harrisonburg, Virginia
Bachelor of Science in Geographic Science
Concentration: Environmental Conservation, Sustainability, and Development
Graduated Cum Laude
- January 2015 – May 2015 University of Granada, Spain
Coursework: language, geography, history of Islam in Spain, and Spanish culture

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (\$35,017)
- 2023 Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i Graduate Fellowship Fund (\$4,210)
- 2023 American Geographical Society Council Fellowship (\$2,000)
- 2023 Department Research and Travel Funds, Department of Geography and Environment, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (\$1,000)
- 2022 Graduate Student Research Fellowship, Asian Geography Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers (\$250)
- 2022 Pre-Dissertation Research Travel Award, Department of Geography and Environment, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (\$1,000)
- 2022 Graduate Student Organization Research Grant, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (\$1,000)
- 2022 Department Research Funds, Department of Geography and Environment, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (\$1,000)

2022	United States Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS), Academic Year (2022-2023) and Summer (2022). The Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
2021	United States Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS), Academic Year (2021-2022) and Summer (2021). The Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
2021	Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) Institutional Scholarship. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin
2020	Graduate Student Congress Travel Award, University of Kentucky (\$300)
2020	Barnhart-Withington Research Awards, Department of Geography, University of Kentucky (\$250)
2019	National Science Foundation Funding for the 2019 Global Symposium on Waste Plastic allocated by Jeffrey Seay and Lucy Alexander, American Institute of Chemical Engineers (\$500)
2019	Barnhart-Withington Research Awards, Department of Geography, University of Kentucky (\$1,500)
2019	Student Government Organizational Grant, co-grantee with E. Barrett, E. Clancy, E. Sperandio, & I. Spangler (\$750)

HONORS & AWARDS

2024	Student Employee of the Year Finalist, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (\$750)
2023	Alternate candidate for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program 2023-2024, Institute for International Education
2022	Awarded Best Ph.D. Presentation for “Volumetrics and Plastic Waste: The Contradictions of Microplastics in the Circular Economy.” Spring Symposium. Department of Geography and Environment, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
2022	Honorarium. Comparative Asia Working Group Colloquium. Department of Political Science, College of Social Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
2021	Awarded First Place in the SEASSI First Year Speaking Contest by the Royal Thai Embassy (Washington D.C.) and Council for the Advancement of Thai Language Instruction (\$200)
2012 – 2016	James Madison University Dean’s List

PUBLICATIONS

2021	Meyer, Olivia. “Countering ‘Plastic Addicted Subjects’: Power, Essentialized Identities, and Expertise in Thailand,” MA Thesis. <i>UKnowledge</i> . https://uknowledge.uky.edu/geography_etds/74
2019	Meyer, Olivia. Review of “Youth activism and solidarity: the non-stop picket against Apartheid,” <i>Social & Cultural Geography</i> , DOI:

10.1080/14649365.2019.1627486.

In progress

- 2024 Meyer, Olivia. 'Plastic Addicts': Troubled subjectivities in Thailand's neoliberal environment. Under review with *Social & Cultural Geography*.
- 2024 Meyer, Olivia. Valuing Plastics in Thailand's Circular Economy: The Limits of Turning Waste into Capital. In preparation for submission to *Globalizations*.

CONFERENCE

Paper Presentations

- 2023 "Volumetrics and Plastic Waste: The Contradictions of Microplastics in the Circular Economy." *American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting*, Denver, Colorado, USA. March 25.
- 2022 Discussant, panel on "Violent Atmospheres: Political Ecologies of Pollution and Health Crises in Southeast Asia." *Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference*, Honolulu, Hawai'i, USA. March 26.
- 2022 "Contradictory Subjectivities: Interrogating the Trope of 'Uncaring' Environmental Subjects in Thailand's Plastic Waste Discourse." *21st Annual International Graduate Student Conference (IGSC)*, East-West Center (virtual). February 20.
- 2022 "'Uncaring' Environmental Subjects: Interrogating the Cultural Politics of Thailand's Plastic Waste Discourse." *AAG Political Geography Specialty Group Pre-Conference* (virtual). February 18.
- 2022 "'Plastic Addicts': Troubled Subjectivities and the Circular Economy in Thailand." *UH Comparative Asia Working Group* (virtual). February 11.
- 2021 "Troubling the Notion of 'Plastic Addicted' Subjects: Power, Essentialized Identities, and Subjectivity in Thailand." *Wisconsin Intensive Summer Language Institute (WISLI) Student Conference* (virtual). June 26.
- 2021 "Countering Plastic Addicted Subjects: Power, Essentialized Identities, and Expertise in Thailand." *American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting*, Seattle, Washington, USA (virtual). April 11.
- 2019 "The Plastic Pileup in Thailand: Tensions, Coalitions, and Frictions in the Grassroots Response." *UK Asian Studies Forum II*, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, USA. December 13.
- 2019 "The Plastic Pileup in Thailand: Illuminating Local Voices and Perspectives on the Causes and Grassroots Solutions." *2019 Global Symposium on Waste Plastic*, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, USA. September 19 - 20.

Conference Participation

- 2021 **Facilitator.** Critical Restoration Reading Group. *11th Annual Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference*. Kentucky Political Ecology Working Group, University of Kentucky. Lexington, KY, USA. February 18 - 20.

- 2019 **Workshop Participant.** *KOI Political Ecology Workshop.* Indiana University Bloomington.
- 2019 **Chaired Session.** Undergraduate Symposium (Session I, Session II) *9th Annual Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference.* Kentucky Political Ecology Working Group, University of Kentucky. Lexington, KY, USA. February 21 - 23.

Appearances and Invited Lectures

- Spring 2024 **Panelist.** *Geography Student Labor Organizing Forum.* AAG Graduate Student Affinity Group and Socialist & Critical Geography Specialty Group.
- Spring 2024 **Panelist.** *GEO 696: Research Design/Methods in Geography.* Department of Geography and Environment - University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.
- Spring 2024 **Presenter.** *ANTH 711: Seminar in Research Design.* Department of Anthropology - University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.
- 2023 **Co-Presenter.** Collaborative Field-Based Learning in Southeast Asia: Value and Challenges. *University of Hawai'i Center for Southeast Asian Studies Webinar Series* and *Department of Geography and Environment Lecture Series.* Honolulu, HI. September 8.

PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- January 2023 – Present **LuceSEA Transitions Research Assistant.** Geography and Environment. University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Honolulu, Hawai'i.
- June 2020 – June 2021 **The Food Connection Research Assistant.** College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment. University of Kentucky. Lexington, Kentucky.
- November 2020 – January 2021 **Field Organizer.** United Campus Workers of Kentucky. Lexington, Kentucky.
- September – November 2020 **Voter Empowerment Staff.** Kentuckians For The Commonwealth. Lexington, Kentucky.
- Summer 2018 **International Field Studies Assistant.** *GEOG 491: International Studies.* James Madison University - Department of Geography.
- May – October 2017 **Department of Horticulture Assistant.** Kasetsart University - Faculty of Agriculture, Bangkok, Thailand.
- June – August 2016 **Department of Horticulture Intern.** Kasetsart University - Faculty of Agriculture, Bangkok, Thailand.
- September 2015 – May 2016 **Global Ambassador.** International Studies Abroad (ISA).
- December 2015 **Presenter.** James Madison University - Capstone Seminar in Environmental Problem Solving.

LEADERSHIP

- April 2024 – Present **Student Representative.** AAG Political Geography Specialty Group.

October 2021 – Present	Member. Comparative Asia Working Group. University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.
August 2021 – Present	Graduate Student Representative. UH Mānoa Political Ecology Working Group.
February 2022 – April 2024	Student Representative. AAG Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group.
May 2023 – March 2024	Peer Mentor. UH Department of Geography and Environment. University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.
January – December 2022	Social Chair. UH Department of Geography and Environment. University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.
September – November 2021	Group Host Facilitator. The Exchange, East-West Center.
September 2019 – May 2020	Graduate Student Representative. Library Acquisitions Committee, University of Kentucky.
August 2019 – May 2020	Conference Chair. <i>10th Annual Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference.</i> University of Kentucky.
May 2019	Mentorship Program Organizer. Geography Graduate Student Union. University of Kentucky.
April 2019 – May 2020	President. Political Ecology Working Group. University of Kentucky.
March 2019	Workshop Organizer. <i>Critical Professionals: Using Your Academic Skills Within and Beyond the Classroom.</i> Co-organized with E. Barrett, E. Clancy, E. Sperandio, & I. Spangler. Lexington, KY.
January 2019 – May 2020	Member. Critical Pedagogy Working Group. University of Kentucky.
September 2018 – May 2019	Secretary. Geography Graduate Student Union, Department of Geography, University of Kentucky.
August 2018 – February 2019	Graduate and Undergraduate Student Paper Competition Coordinator. <i>9th Annual Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference.</i> University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, USA. February 21 - 23.
September – December 2014	Public Relations/Events Manager, JMU Geography Club.

COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

January 2023 – Present	Communications Committee & Gender Justice Committee. <i>Academic Labor United.</i>
August 2023 – December 2023	Communications Chair. <i>Academic Labor United.</i>
February – September 2022	Unionization Committee. <i>Academic Labor United.</i>
January – May 2021	Social Media Committee Chair. <i>United Campus Workers of Kentucky.</i>
January 2016	Activist. <i>Chesapeake Climate Action Network.</i>
September 2014 – May 2016	Co-Founder and Core Facilitator. <i>Climate Justice Coalition: Divest JMU.</i>

September 2015 **Campus Lead.** *350.org.*
January 2013 – December 2014 **Student Coordinator.** *Take Back the Tap: Food and Water Watch.*
September 2013 – December 2014 **Member.** *JMU EARTH.*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2023 **Graduate Teaching Assistant.** *GEO 102: World Regional Geography.*
Department of Geography and Environment - University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.
Spring 2020 and Spring 2021 **Teaching Assistant.** *GEO 135: Global Climate Change and GEO 161 Global Inequalities.* University of Kentucky - Department of Geography.
Fall 2019 and Fall 2018 **Teaching Assistant.** *GEO 162: Intro to Global Environmental Issues.* University of Kentucky - Department of Geography.
Spring 2019 **Teaching Assistant.** *GEO 109: Digital Mapping.* University of Kentucky - Department of Geography.
September 2014 - May 2016 **Teaching Assistant.** James Madison University - Department of Geography.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

January 2023 – Present American Geographical Society
January 2022 – January 2024 Association for Asian Studies
August 2021 – Present East-West Center Student Affiliate Program
August 2021 – Present East-West Center Participant Association
August 2018 – May 2021 University of Kentucky Graduate Student Union
January 2019 – Present American Association of Geographers
December 2014 – Present Gamma Theta Upsilon Honor Society

COMPUTER SKILLS

ArcGIS
Social Explorer

QGIS
Premiere Pro CC

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English (Native), Spanish (Highly proficient), Thai (Intermediate proficiency)