

2018 APCG Women's Network Travel Grant Award Winners

APCG Women's Network Coordinators: Lily House-Peters (CSU Long Beach) & Katherine Sammler (CSU Maritime)

Maria Antonia (undergraduate student, U.C. Berkeley)

Bio: Maria Antonia is a geography and film major, global poverty and sustainability minor, undergraduate student at the University of California, Berkeley. She holds two Associate degrees in humanities and natural sciences from Pasadena City College, including Outstanding Achievement in Geography during the 2017-2018 academic year, awarded by the Natural Sciences department. Her main interests are the demographic and geographic impacts of gentrification on communities of color throughout the Los Angeles area, and the film industry's significant role in these changes. She has lived in over eleven different neighborhoods during her nine years in Los Angeles, working in the entertainment industry and observing many of these transformations first-hand. Her focus includes television's "pilot season" and the turnover rate of people moving to Los Angeles from all over the country and the world during this time. She fully intends on pursuing graduate school in hopes of becoming a professor at one of California's Community Colleges, as well as producing films that are written and directed by women.



Aliona Galkina (undergraduate student, San Diego State University)

Bio: As an undergraduate student in Human Geography and Global Studies program in San Diego State University, Aliona has watched her interest in the field of Geography grow and evolve into a life-time passion. Aliona's primary areas of study are concentrated around the issues of environmental (in)justice, migration, marginal communities within the US and around the globe, and the effects of the climate change on the developing countries. In Spring 2017, Aliona took part in undergraduate community research project in Mt Hope (Southeastern San Diego), an area identified as a "food desert" by USDA. With predominantly Hispanic/Latino, Afro-American, and Asian population, 30% living below the poverty line, Mt Hope has a strong sense of identity and a vision for creating a healthier and stronger community through the Good Food District initiative and a community garden. The group did research on food options currently available to the residents, given consideration to low mobility rates and income insecurity. Having immigrated to the U.S. on her own at the age of 17 in search of education and equality, Aliona is hoping to be able to incorporate personal experience into her work, promoting natural environment and healthy living conditions in a society that thrives on diversity.



Lourdes Ginart (M.S. student, University of Oregon)

Bio: Originally from Miami, Florida, Lourdes Ginart is currently pursuing a M.S. in Geography at the University of Oregon. With a focus on human geography, Lourdes' research aims to investigate the role of science diplomacy in the science-policy interface, specifically in regards to global change research and policy in Latin America. Her research works to develop the AAAS-driven concept of science diplomacy as a logic and a practice that allows for a renegotiation of power and power dynamics between scientists, academia, policy and decision-makers, and other institutions. Through a case study of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), Lourdes' research explores how the renegotiation of power, the practice of science diplomacy, is crucial in (1) facilitating collaborative, international, and transdisciplinary work, and (2) minimizing geopolitical tensions and scientific colonialism.



Tatiana Lopez (M.A. student, CSU LA)

Bio: I will be graduating from Cal State LA in 2019 with a Master of Arts Degree in Geography. I'm a full-time NASA-Direct STEM researcher as well. I'm passionate about researching climate change and the causes such as anthropogenic and environmental. My thesis research project is "Validating NASA's GPM (Global Precipitation Measurement) satellite data with ground-based stations in Arctic regions". The core of my research project is to confirm GPM is running accurate in that region and to then further develop other future research in that region. Although my research topic leans towards physical geography, I'd like to be able to investigate more anthropogenic factors that correlate to climate change such as policies and urbanization. Lastly, I'm also aspiring to become a community college professor in Geography.



Barbara Quimby (PhD student, San Diego State University & UC Santa Barbara)

Bio: Barbara Quimby is a PhD Candidate in Geography in the Joint Doctoral Program at San Diego State University and the University of California, Santa Barbara, and will complete her dissertation in May of 2019. Her dissertation employs a mixed-methods approach to examine issues of social equity and community participation in small-scale fisheries and coastal resource management in Samoa. Her research interests include human-environment dynamics, gender and power in natural resource governance institutions, sense of place in marine contexts, and environmental conservation and sustainability. Barbara recently led research on urban subsistence fishing in Santa Barbara County, and studied small-scale fishing practices in Indonesia for her Master's thesis. She has taught courses in Sustainable Places and Practices, the Geography of the U.S., and Cultural



and Physical Anthropology. Barbara grew up in Long Beach, California, and prior to graduate school, worked for The Nature Conservancy.

Kate Shields (PhD student, University of Oregon)

Bio: Kate Shields is a PhD student at the University of Oregon. She has previously worked in a biochemistry lab, been the technical director of a small theater in Istanbul, Turkey, and conducted applied development research at the Water Institute at UNC on water, sanitation and hygiene. She holds master's degrees from the University of Michigan in International Health & Epidemiology and Middle Eastern and North African Studies. Kate's current interests in geography revolve around human-environment interactions and the political ecology of health. Her dissertation research will interrogate the imaginary of catastrophe of the Aral Sea region of Uzbekistan and re-tell the story to consider how residents understand and remember loss – of their sea, their communities, their livelihoods, and sometimes even the lives of their children and parents from toxic exposure.



Thyda Uy (B.A., CSU Long Beach)

Bio: I am a student at California State University, Long Beach studying physical geography with an emphasis on urban environments using geospatial methods (GIS). Currently, I am interested in sustainable urban planning and the merge between natural environments/resources and urban landscapes. My research analyzes disparities in access to green space which functions as an ecosystem service providing recreation, climate change mitigation and improved psychological health. Access to green space is widely known as an indicator for improved public health in metropolitan areas which are increasingly becoming more densely populated, polluted, and congested. Studies have proven that these spaces are not equally dispersed among socio-demographic groups. Using geospatial techniques, I will visualize where the disparities lie and which factors are the greatest influencers. I hope that my research can someday contribute to the introduction of natural features back into urban landscapes in order to reduce environmental degradation for a more sustainable and equitable future.

