Dear friends of SGD,

First, many, many, thanks to Professor Lynn Staeheli who stepped down as Director of the School in June 2019 and will continue as a faculty member in human geography following a well-deserved research leave. I am honored to take over as Director of the School with its remarkable faculty, students and alumni. So far this year we have lost and found in terms of new faculty and staff. Drs. Tracey Osborne and Sapana Doshi moved to the University of California-Merced and student advisor Debbie Marlow is leaving. Dr. Jennifer Mason joined the Geographic Information Systems and Technology (GIST) cluster of faculty, and in January 2020 we will welcome Jason Jurjevich in human geography and Yoganand Korgaonkar in GIST. Andrew Comrie returned to the faculty from his stint as provost. We are hoping to add a couple more faculty in 2020. In 2020 we will officially become the School of Geography, Development and Environment to reflect the full range of degrees and expertise in the School. This newsletter reports just some of the many awards, grants and publications produced by SGD faculty and students. We would like to report more news from alumni so please let us know what you are up to. Just in the last few weeks we we proud to see PhD alum David Brown appointed as the Executive Director of the Udall Foundation, and MDP alum Natalie Lucas representing US climate activists in meeting the US Congressional delegation to the international climate negotiations in Madrid.

Wishing you a happy and peaceful 2020,
Diana Liverman, Director, School of Geography and Development

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SGD UNDERGRADS WIN DEPARTMENT AND COLLEGE AWARDS!

Every semester SGD honors six majors for their outstanding scholarship and overall contributions to the school and broader community. You can find out more about the awards here. Meet our Fall 2019 Award Winners!

Hecht Senior Award:
Rebecca Van Rhee
I have loved my time in the School of Geography and Development because it takes a holistic approach to understanding the climate, physical geography, social geography, mapping techniques and more. I have been able to research topics that I am passionate about and apply them in my everyday classroom experience and beyond. I love the wide variety of disciplines and subjects I have been able to study for the past three years and I know I will continue to use what I learned in my future career and studies.

Environmental Studies Award:
Sophie Schuring
As a student in the School of Geography and Development. I have been beyond blessed to have the best professors, teaching assistants and mentors. Throughout my journey as an undergrad I have been inspired, encouraged and uplifted by the faculty and peers around me. Not only have I learned important topics about sustainability and biodiversity, but I developed a passion for the field that I am about to start my career in thanks to the University of Arizona SGD!
**Professor Stefano Bloch publishes new book “Going All City”**

This fall saw the publication of Stefano Bloch’s powerful new monography “Going All City” by University of Chicago Press ($19 for the paperback). As reported in the LA Weekly the book describes how “In the 1990s, the Angeleno teen known as CISCO went “all-city,” getting his name up all over Los Angeles with graffiti. At the same time, brutal police task forces hunted him down while he coped with his mother's heroin addiction, homelessness and continuous instability. In his new memoir, Stefano Bloch recalls the challenges and rewards of exploring the city and leaving his mark on it. Going All City: Struggle and Survival in L.A.’s Graffiti Subculture is his first book, a brave portrait of a highly criticized subculture and a look inside the reality of growing up in low-income Los Angeles. “We had to create a place for ourselves as a matter of social and existential survival, regardless of the potential costs to our freedom,” reads an especially moving passage from the book. “We could have been called a lot of things: brazen vandals, scared kids, threats to social order, self-obsessed egomaniacs, marginalized youth, outsider artists, trend setters, and thrill seekers. But, to me, we were just regular kids growing up hard in America and making the city our own”

**David Plane honored in new edited volume by alum Rachel Franklin**

Alum Rachel Franklin is the editor of a 2019 book published in honor of David Plane “ Population, Place, and Spatial Interaction: Essays in Honor of David Plane”. This volume is devoted to the geographical—or spatial—aspects of population research in regional science, spanning spatial demographic methods for population composition and migration to studies of internal and international migration to investigations of the role of population in related fields such as climate change and economic growth. If spatial aspects of economic growth and development are the flagship of the regional science discipline, population research is the anchor. People migrate, consume, produce, and demand services. People are the source and beneficiaries of national, regional, and local growth and development. Since the origins of regional science, demographic research has been at the core of the discipline. Contributions in this volume are both retrospective and prospective, offering in their ensemble an authoritative overview of demographic research within the field of regional science. The book includes essays by SGD faculty and alums (e.g. Daoqin Tong, Rachel Franklin, Gordon Mulligan, Jason Jurjevich, and Beth Mitchneck) as well as distinguished geographers and regional scientists from elsewhere.

**SGD welcomes new faculty**

**Welcome Yoganand Korgaonkar**

Yoganand (Yoga) joins us as an Assistant Professor of Practice in GIST from the Watershed Management and Ecohydrology Program in UA’s School of Natural Resources and the Environment (SNRE). His research focuses on incorporating and modeling Low Impact Development (LID) best management practices into urban hydrological models.

Yoganand has also worked with the USDA-ARS Southwest Watershed Research Center and the U.S. EPA Office on the development and maintenance of functionality for the Automated Geospatial Watershed Assessment tool (AGWA).

**Welcome Jason Jurjevich**

Jason joins us in January 2020 as an Associate Professor of Practice in human geography from Portland State University where he was at the Nohad Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning and Director of the Population Research Center.

As a broadly trained human geographer (with a 2010 PhD from UA SGD), his research interests focus on the socio-spatial implications of demographic change, with a particular emphasis on mobility and migration. One of Jason’s recent projects is Census 20/20, which aims to foster community preparedness and inspire individual action to support a fair and accurate census in 2020.

**SGD faculty in the media**

The media has shown considerable interest in our research, and several of the faculty have had op-eds accepted in media outlets. For example: Stephanie Buechler provided commentary in Wired Magazine on women and climate change. Andrew Comrie was quoted in an article on mosquitoes and the spread of Dengue in the New York Times. Liz Oglesby continued to provide media commentary on issues of Guatemala, migration and the border in the Hill, and Diana Liverman did several interviews as a lead author of the IPCC report on 1.5C and provided congressional testimony to the US House Committee on the Climate Crisis. Margaret Wilder wrote about her work on the vulnerability of Arizona renters to extreme heat in the Arizona Daily Star.
Koren Manning, BA Geography, Class of 2004: Planning Administrator for the City of Tucson

Koren Manning is Planning Administrator for the City of Tucson where she leads a team of long-range planners working to shape the future of our city through neighborhood planning code updates, rezoning, and historic preservation. She was previously a Senior Planner and Team Leader in the Brooklyn Office of the NYC Department of City Planning. In this role she served as project manager for the East New York Neighborhood Plan, a comprehensive plan to develop over 6,000 units of housing as well as commercial space and community infrastructure to foster growth and sustainability. Koren received her Masters of Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia.

“My geography degree gave me a lens to view cities and places that I have used throughout my career. Sallie Marston’s class on New York City gave me a background in urban history that was essential in understanding my role as a planner continuing to shape NYC. Classes with Derek Rushbrook that touched on spatial justice and equity were also formative. My work as an urban planner requires me to consider issues such as land use, transportation, climate science, demographic trends, economic cycles, cultural dynamics and more. My undergraduate education in geography gave me the foundation for meaningful engagement with this wide range of topics and allowed me to build a rich and rewarding career.” – Koren

Daniel Besinaiz, BS Urban and Regional Development, Class of 2017: Project Assistant for the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture, Master’s Student University of Wisconsin Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture

After graduating from UA in 3.5 years, Daniel moved to Wisconsin to earn his Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning with a concentration in Sustainability and Social Equity at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also has worked in Minnesota as a community development and city management intern, attended five local and national conferences, earned a position as the APA Latinos and Planning Division’s Midwest Student Representative, and taught 80 UW-Madison students about cultural anthropology and human diversity. He recently presented his master’s degree project titled “Inclusive Planning for Latinxs: Implementing Robust Latinx Urbanism in the Upper Midwest”. In this project, Daniel used communities in Chicago, Minneapolis, Detroit, and Milwaukee to find neighborhoods that embrace, support, and strengthen the Latinx populations that reside within them. He hopes to present this work at both the American Planning Association and American Association of Geographer’s national conferences. Daniel continues to credit his experience at SGD for much of his success. Most of all, he thanks SGD faculty members who gave him the foundational skills to answer complex research questions and taught him to consider social, environmental, and economic systems as he plans for healthy neighborhoods in the future.

SGD UNDERGRADS WIN DEPARTMENT AND COLLEGE AWARDS!

SGD UNDERGRADS WIN DEPARTMENT AND COLLEGE AWARDS!

SBS Outstanding Senior Award: Michela Wilson

I was drawn to the Urban and Regional Development major because of my interest in the built environment and its capacity to affect us as individuals and as a society. I appreciate the critical and theoretical lenses the discipline of geography applies to these issues, including an emphasis on social justice. A highlight of my education has been learning about local history through courses such as Metropolitan Tucson and Arizona and the Southwest. The past and present issues faced here have been unique but also illuminate patterns found across the United States. Completing a research internship with Drs. Mark Kear and Margaret Wilder was one of the most valuable experiences I had, giving me the opportunity to collect data first-hand, be a part of a research team, and learn about a local issue by studying quality of life in manufactured housing.

Other winners:
Outstanding Student in Regional Development Award: Brian Markus
Buttery GIS/Remote Sensing Award: Sean Holloway

Continued on page 7...
Some of our SGD grad students have recently finished projects and published their work, here they tell us about their research.

**Eden Kinkaid, PhD Student**

I recently published an article in Geoforum entitled “Embodied political ecology: Sensing agrarian change in north India.” This project focused on farmers’ narratives of agrarian change and their perspectives on organic agriculture. As I interviewed farmers about the changes in agriculture they witnessed over their lifetimes, I was struck by how the telling of these histories relied on sensory memories and embodied perceptions. Farmers contrasted the fresh air, sweet water, strong bodies and flavorful vegetables of the village’s past to today’s polluted air, chronic disease, and tasteless food. These embodied perceptions of the links between health, food, agriculture, and the environment were not merely passive observations; rather, these sensory modes operated as a way of understanding the impacts of different farming practices, judging their relative merits, and choosing between them. Given the role of these embodied perceptions and “visceral” judgements in farmers’ decision-making, I argue that we ought to attend more closely to these embodied micro-histories of agrarian change. Doing so can shed light on the categories and logics through which Indian farmers understand and respond to changing agricultural environments and can inform culturally relevant policies to support sustainable agrarian transitions in India.

**Lauren Fritzche, PhD Student**

In September, Lise Nelson and I had an article published in Social and Cultural Geography entitled “Refugee Resettlement, place, and the politics of Islamophobia.” This article draws on fieldwork conducted in Missoula, Montana in 2017 and focuses on the responses and reactions of local residents to a recently reinitiated refugee resettlement program. While interviewing residents, it became clear that meanings and histories of place provide a critical lens to understand local politics, Islamophobia, national security, and refugee resettlement. In the paper, we make visible the intimate connections between place, identity, and racialization in relation to refugee resettlement. Further, we argue that Islamophobia is flexible, as it takes up local meanings and becomes situated and contested through place. This project provides the foundation for my dissertation research which will be conducted on refugee resettlement policies, initiatives, and experiences in Missoula, MT and Baton Rouge, LA.

**Talia Anderson, MA Student**

I recently published an article titled “Multiscale trends and precipitation extremes in the Central American Midsummer Drought” in Environmental Research Letters. I was motivated to explore recent changes in rainfall because reports from the past year and anecdotal evidence from people we have worked with in Guatemala have suggested that the timing and intensity of summer rainfall is changing. I specifically looked at changes related to the midsummer drought, which is a decrease in rainfall that typically occurs between July-August and influences when farmers decide to plant and harvest crops. In evaluating local scale trends, I found that the timing and the amount of summer rainfall has not changed significantly over the last four decades in most places, indicating that the year-to-year variability in rainfall is still greater than the underlying climate change signal. However, there are few specific locations that have witnessed significant local changes. For example, the midsummer drought has gotten significantly longer along the Pacific coast of Guatemala and the northwest Nicaragua. The most important takeaway from this study is that multiscale analyses are fundamental in assessing current and future changes in rainfall and that regional generalizations are unable to capture distinct local patterns, particularly across the complex Central American landscapes.

WHERE ARE OUR PHD ALUMNI NOW?

PhD (2017), Jacob Miller, Lecturer, Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK

PhD (2018) Sarah Kelly, Postdoctoral Researcher, Dartmouth University

PhD 2019. Casey Lynch, Assistant Professor, University of Nevada Reno

PhD (2017) Lily House-Peters, Assistant Professor, California State University-Long Beach

PhD (2017) Katharine Sammler, Assistant Professor, California State University-Maritime Academy

PhD (2017) Miriam Gay-Antaki, Lecturer, University of Edinburgh, Scotland

PhD (2017) Sonya Ziaja, Climate Policy & Research, California Public Utilities Commission,

PhD (2017) Mariasa Isaak, Assistant Professor, Central Mexico Community College, Albuquerque, NM

PhD (2016) Zachary Sugg, Program Manager, Babbit Center for Land and Water Policy, Lincoln Institute for Land Policy, Phoenix, AZ

PhD (2015) Melinda Butterworth, Assistant Professor, Willamette University, OR


PhD (2015) Jeremy Slack, Assistant Professor, University of Texas-El Paso

PhD (2014) Manuel Prieto-Montt, Instituto de Investigaciones Arqueológicas y Museo, Chile

PhD (2015) Jamie McEvoy, Assistant Professor, Montana State University

OTHER GRAD STUDENT PUBLICATIONS: see page 7...

SOME GRAD STUDENT AWARDS:

**Taylor Miller**: GPSC Research & Project (REaP) Grant - Summer 2019, GPSC Travel Grant - Fall 2019, CMES Travel Grant - Fall 2019, SBSRI Dissertation Grant - Fall 2019

**Elisa Sperandi**: GPSC travel award to attend National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA)

**Özlem Ozgur**: In recognition of her film “Taste Bud Memories” she received an Emmy Nomination and in recognition of her film “Josepha’s story” she received an International Merit Award at the Women’s International Film Festival.
SGD GRADUATE PROGRAM

Meet some of our newest SGD Grad students!

Padmendra Shrestha, PhD Student

Padmendra Shrestha is a first year PhD student from Nepal. He holds a master’s degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Prior to joining School of Geography and Development, he worked with range of actors from government, non-profit, private sector and international organizations on issues of public policy related to water, energy and natural resource governance. He carries out multi-disciplinary research in water resource management, primarily at the intersection between infrastructure, environment and society. For his PhD, he plans to carry out his research on how costs and benefits of large hydropower dams are negotiated in his home country, Nepal. Currently, he is a discussion instructor for the course GEOG 170A - Earth’s Environments: Introduction to Physical Geography. As a new student in Tucson, Padmendra is learning to adapt to a new desert environment. In leisure time, he goes hiking and cycling to explore the natural and built environment in Tucson.

Elena Louder, PhD Student

I am originally from Twin Falls, Idaho, but spent many years in Missoula, Montana where I earned a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in International Conservation and Development. Here at the University of Arizona, I am a first year PhD student in Geography working with Dr. Carl Bauer. My research interests include environmental governance, biodiversity conservation, and the politics of renewable energy development in Chile.

Kangsan Lee, PhD Student

I am a new Ph.D. student in SGD and Arizona Remote Sensing laboratory. Since the beginning of my remote sensing studies, I have used integrated knowledge of environmental structures and image processing skills to support synthesized geospatial decision-making process. During my service as a military image analyst, I learned key background knowledge of natural environments and how to deal with remotely sensed datasets to maximize the livability of soldiers. In academia, I believe that remote sensing helps scientists view our ‘unseen’ world.

Lara Tarantini, PhD Student

A chapter from her Master’s thesis titled “Constructing an Imagined Community in Al-Qaeda’s Magazine Inspire” is forthcoming in The Handbook of Magazine Studies (Wiley, 2020). While her current research as a Ph.D. student in SGD has moved from the Middle East to her hometown in Italy, Bologna, her focus remains grounded in the ways in which notions of belonging and community are articulated and contested in the context of neoliberal urban restructuring.

Elisa Sperandio, PhD Student

I am a first-year PhD student and an international student from Italy. My research interests are at the intersection of feminist political geography and social theory with a focus on immigration and bordering in Italy. Along with this line of research, I am pursuing training in critical pedagogy and teaching in higher education, with an interest in course design. In my dissertation project, which is still in the early stages of development, I will focus on the Italian system of “diffused welcome.” This term refers to the nation-wide network which enlists the collaboration of municipalities, non-profits and private establishments for the housing of asylum seekers and refugees in non-traditional facilities. These facilities can range from vacant subsidized housing units to decommissioned hotels and buildings owned by religious organizations. The project will center questions around the production of citizenship and the spatial politics of in/exclusion within the system of diffused welcome.
Fall Colloquium: “My Arizona” Lecture Series

This fall, SGD was proud to host UA Regents’ Professor of Law Rebecca Tsosie as the speaker for the annual “My Arizona” lecture series. Her talk entitled “Indigenous Sustainability and Resilience to Climate Extremes: Traditional Knowledge and the Systems of Survival,” gave an informative and inspirational overview of environmental practices in indigenous cultures and the ways in which they can inform our current political and social systems. Professor Tsosie has published widely on sovereignty, self-determination, cultural pluralism, environmental policy and cultural rights and is of Yaqui descent. SGD thanks “My Arizona” co-sponsors the Udall Center, Native Nations Institute and University of Arizona Native Faculty for helping to organize the event.

2019 APCG in Flagstaff

The 2019 Association of Pacific Coast Geographers meeting was held this past October in Flagstaff, Arizona and was well-attended by SGD graduate students, undergraduate students, faculty and alumni. SGD attendees presented on numerous topics including Res-ball, community gardens, food systems in southern Mexico, manufactured housing, and urban climate adaptation among many others. The meeting was also a great opportunity to reconnect with alumni including Lily House Peters, Kate Sammler and Casey Lynch as well as friends from other institutions. APCG 2020 will be held in San Marcos just outside San Diego and convenient for a weekend trip to the coast. Also, congrats to Kangsan Lee (lower left in the photo) for the Best Applied Geography/Earth Systems Student Paper!

Geographer Scott Warren

Scott Warren is a cultural geographer with a PhD from ASU on the borderlands who works out of Ajo, Arizona with “No More Deaths” – a humanitarian organization that seeks to provide urgent assistance to migrants in the desert. Scott was arrested in Jan 2018 for providing assistance to undocumented migrants, a case of great concern to humanitarian and religious groups who see humanitarian aid, such as placing water stations in the desert, as a moral obligation and not a crime.

Members and alumni of SGD followed Scott’s case closely and organized a petition of geographers and other academics to support him. After almost 2 years of uncertainty and 2 trials Scott was found innocent a few weeks ago. This past fall, Scott attended our Climate and Migration in Central America and Mexico workshop and we hope to interact with him in the future.

Some remarks from departing SGD Undergraduate Advisor Debbie Marlow

When did you first join SGD? I joined in fall of 2013.

What were some things you enjoyed about working here? I really enjoyed helping the students work through their degrees and then seeing what they do after graduation. I also really liked the SGD staff and the sense of humor they bring to their work. Also, the faculty were top notch and impressed me with their passion for what they do. I was impressed by the undergraduate mentors, who managed to be remarkably helpful for our undergraduates even though they themselves are busy students. Lastly, I’ve really enjoyed working with Dr. Rushbrook. She has a great sense of humor and I’ve never met anyone more committed to social justice, working that commitment into everything she does. I also never figured out how she juggles so many responsibilities.

Anything you will miss about SGD? SGD by the nature of its degree programs attracts a lot of students who love the outdoors and I’ll miss trading stories with them about camping and hiking adventures. Also all the great people at SGD, I think they do important work teaching our students who go on to work to improve communities and better the environment.

What are you doing next? I’m going to work with UA philosophy students from the Philosophy, Politics, Economics, and Law degree programs. I fell in love with philosophy when I was an undergraduate and took philosophy courses for most of my honors credits. If I hadn’t loved history even more, I would have majored in philosophy.
Buttery GIS/Remote Sensing Award: Joey Wozniaki

I am really thankful for choosing to spend the past four years taking SGD courses. Each professor I had strengthened my knowledge in the fields of Geography, GIS, and Remote Sensing. I thank every one of them for the time they put in to making each course very enjoyable. With my degree, I hope I can now be an essential part of the Tucson GIS community, in whatever office or company that may be.

Congratulations to our fall 2019 graduates!

This fall we had 28 graduates from the SGD undergraduate program, from the B.A. in Geography, B.S. in Geography, B.S. in Urban and Regional Development, B.A. in Environmental Studies, and B.S. in GIST majors. To the right are some of the students that attended the SGD graduation reception in ENR2.

SGD selected publications

Both faculty and grad students are prolific in their publications. Here are just a few from 2019!


STAY IN TOUCH WITH SGD!
The School of Geography and Development is revitalizing its connections to
alumni and friends so please send us your news and contact information!

You can leave SGD a message and update here or email our front office by con-
tacting amandab@email.arizona.edu.

To read a detailed history of the School, click on the old department sign to the right.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AND DEVELOPMENT
We work very hard to support our students, secure research grants, and connect to the community. We are always
grateful for any contribution to support deserving students, invest in faculty research, encourage our outreach
activities, or fund lectures, fieldwork and internships.

For more information and to donate please go to: https://geography.arizona.edu/donate. Thank You!

School of Geography and Development
ENR2 Building, South 4th floor
P.O. Box 210137
Tucson, AZ 85721-0137
Tel: (520) 621-1652
Fax: (520) 621-2889
Hours: 8:30am - 4:30pm, Monday thru Friday

SPRING 2020 SGD COLLOQUIUM SERIES TO FEATURE SEVERAL SPECIAL
LECTURES
This spring, we can expect great talks from numerous visitors. If you want to get on the mailing list for our speakers,
please send a note to Amanda Percy (amandab@email.arizona.edu)

On April 3rd SGD will hold the 14th Annual Jan Monk Lecture, which features a femininist geographer in honor of SGD Professor Emerita Jan Monk. This year we will host Dr. Rachel Pain, Professor of Human Geography, from Newcastle University’s School of Geography, Politics, and Sociology.

January 31st is the Annual SAGA (Southern Arizona Geographers Association, the SGD grad student body) annual lecture, which features an invited speaker. This year’s lecture features Dr. Robin C. Reineke, an Assistant Research Social Scientist in Anthropology at the University of Arizona’s Southwest Center.

This newsletter was edited by James Cunningham (james45@email.arizona.edu) with assistance from Andrew Comrie and Diana Liverman. Please be in touch with any comments or corrections. Thank you to everyone that submitted photos or a written segment!