

Amber Ashley Orozco

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EDUCATION

- 2020- Present PhD Student, Department of Geography
University of Georgia, Athens, GA
Advisor: Dr. Hilda Kurtz
- 2014- 2016 M.A., International Affairs
American University, Washington, D.C.
Thesis: Documenting USDA Discrimination: Community-Partnered Research on Farm Policy for Land Justice
- 2014- 2016 M.A., Natural Resources and Sustainable Development
United Nations - Mandated University for Peace, Costa Rica
- 2009 – 2013 B.A. Environmental Studies, Minors: Anthropology, Art History
Whittier College, Whittier CA

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Areas:* Critical Urban Food Studies, Abolition Ecologies, Racial Capitalism
- Methodologies:* Community Scholar/Geography, Feminist Qualitative Methodologies & GIS

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020- 2025 Graduate Presidential Fellowship, University of Georgia (\$27,000 per year)
- 2016- 2017 Associate Fellowship, Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers
- 2015 Mahmoud Hamid Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Global Environmental Politics, American University
- 2014- 2016 Merit Scholarship, American University (\$10,000)
- 2013- 2014 Teaching and Research Graduate Fellowship, Center for Engagement with Communities, Whittier College (\$20,000)
- 2013 Outstanding Student of the Department of Environmental Studies, Whittier College
- 2011- 2013 Mellon Mays National Undergraduate Fellowship, Whittier College (\$12,000)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer- Reviewed Articles

- In Progress Henderson, M.B. & **Orozco, A.**, “Revisiting Place-Based Organizing in Urban Social Movements: Insights from Black and Indigenous Feminisms”. Planned submission Fall 2022.
- 2018 **Orozco, A.**, A. Ward, and G. Graddy-Lovelace. 2018. “Documenting USDA Discrimination: Community-Based Research on Farm Policy for Land Justice” *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies*. 17(4): 999-1023. <https://www.acme-journal.org/index.php/acme/article/view/1514>

Published Report

- 2015 **Contributing Author**. 2015. “Can farmers’ markets simultaneously address food and farm security? A case study of San Jose, Costa Rica” Open Knowledge Network-University for Peace. 1-75. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283013884_Can_farmers%27_markets_simultaneously_address_food_and_farm_security_A_case_study_of_San_Jose_Costa_Rica

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Paper Presentations

- 2016 **Orozco, A.**, A. Ward, and G. Graddy-Lovelace. “Bridging the Struggles of Urban & Rural Discrimination: Cultivating Solidarity –Sustainable Agriculture”. Association of Environmental Science and Studies (AESS) Conference at American University, Washington, D.C.
- 2013 **Orozco, A.** “The Indigenous Knowledge of the Pokomo and Their Impact on the Tana River Forests”. Mellon Mays West Coast Regional Conference at the University of California, Los Angeles.
- 2013 **Orozco, A.** “Indigenous Knowledge Leads to Effective Conservation of Forests by the Pokomo of Kenya”. Whittier College Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Arts Conference (URSCA), Whittier, CA.
- 2012 **Orozco, A.** “The Indigenous Knowledge of the Pokomo and Their Impact on the Tana River Forests”. Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research (SCCUR) at California State University Channel Islands, Camarillo, CA.
- 2011 **Orozco, A.** “The Pokomo and Wardei: Their Indigenous Knowledge of the Tana River Forests”. Mellon Mays Undergraduate West Coast Regional Conference at Heritage University, Yakama, Washington.
- 2011 **Orozco, A.** “The Pokomo and Wardei: Their Indigenous Knowledge of the Tana River Forests”. Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research (SCCUR) at Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut, California.

Poster Presentations

- 2016 **Orozco, A.** A. Ward. “The Distribution of Race, and Power, and Representation: An Analysis of USDA’s County Committees”. American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- 2016 **Orozco, A.**, A. Ward. “The Distribution of Race, and Power, and Representation: An Analysis of USDA’s County Committees”. Just Food? Forum on Land Use, Rights, & Ecology Conference at Harvard University, Boston, MA.
- 2013 **Orozco, A.** “The Effective Conservation of the Tana River Forests by the Pokomo of Kenya”. Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology, Denver, CO.
- 2012 **Orozco, A.** “The Indigenous Knowledge of the Pokomo of the Tana River Forests”. Poster Presenter at the Whittier 2012 College Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Arts Conference (URSCA), Whittier, CA.

GUEST LECTURES & PANELIST

- 2022 “Connecting Food Justice and Urban Racialization in Athens, GA”
For *Youth Space Community Art Garden* in Athens, GA, a project curated by PhD student, Lisa Novak of UGA’s Lamar Dodd School of Art.
- 2022 “Critical Geography & Neighborhood Markets”
Invited guest on the Educational Theory & Practice Podcast, hosted by Educational Theory & Practice Graduate Student Organization of UGA. February 4th.
<https://sites.google.com/view/etapgso/podcast?authuser=0>
- 2020 “Navigating the Graduate School Application Process”. Presented to the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Cohort at Whittier College, Whittier, CA. May 2020.
- 2020 “From LA to Georgia: Centering Community resistance in the struggles for food and farm justice”. Presentation for Dr. Garrett-Graddy Lovelace’s course. American University. November 2020.
- 2020 “From LA to Georgia: Centering Community resistance in the struggles for food and farm justice”. Presentation for Dr. Natale Zappia’s course. California State University, Northridge. October 2020.
- 2014 “Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Alumni: Graduate School Panel” at the West Coast Mellon Mays Undergraduate Conference, Whittier, CA.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistantships

- 2020- 2022 Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Geography, University of Georgia
- 2016 Graduate Practicum Consultant, School of International Service, American University

- 2016 Graduate Research Assistant, School of International Service, American University
- 2013- 2014 Research Fellow, Center for Engagement with Communities (CEC), Whittier College
- 2011- 2013 Research Fellow, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Department of Environmental Studies and Science, Whittier College
- 2011 Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, Whittier College

Collaborative Research

- 2021- Present “Archives of Mortality: A Multi-Generational Oral History of Chicanx and Latinx Mortality during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Southern California and Houston, Texas”, hosted at California State University, Fullerton.
- Collaborators: Dr. Mario Obando (Assistant Professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies), Stephanie Rivera, & Krys Orenday

TEACHING EXPERIENCE & CURRICULUM DESIGN

University Level

- 2022 Teaching Assistant, *GEOG 1101 Intro to Human Geography*, University of Georgia

High- School

- 2013- 2014 Workshop Instructor, *Introduction to Human Rights: Violence Against Women and Girls*, Pioneer High School, Whittier, CA
- 2013 Workshop Instructor, *Research Preparedness for High School Students*, Pioneer High School, Whittier, CA

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- 2016 – 2020 Los Angeles Food Policy Council, Los Angeles, CA:
Positions Held: Senior Contracts Associate, Program and Research Associate, Administrative Associate, Research and Policy Intern
- 2015 Hunger Action Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
Program Intern
- 2014 Forest Trends, Washington D.C.
Communications Intern

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2022 Human Geography Co-Chair, Geography Graduate Student Association, UGA
- 2021- 2022 Program Assistant, Summer Undergraduate Research Academy (SUREA), California

State University, Fullerton

2020- 2021 Social Justice Committee, Department of Geography, UGA

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

2022 “Tell the Whole Story”, History of Slavery at UGA Community Event

2022 “Cultivating Connections” Conference in Athens, GA, Association for the Study of Food and Society and Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society Athens, GA

2020 Community Fridge, Athens, GA

2015 Hunger Action Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

2014 Classroom and Garden Assistant, Garden School Foundation, Los Angeles, CA

2013 Food Recovery Network, Whittier College, Whittier, CA

2012 -2013 Sustainable Urban Farm, Whittier College, Whittier, CA

2011 350.org, Los Angeles Chapter, CA

2010- 2011 Heal the Bay, Los Angeles, CA

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2020- Present American Association of Geographers

2022 Association for the Study of Food and Society

2021- Present University of Georgia Community Mapping Lab

2013 Society for Applied Anthropology