

Kimberley Anh Thomas

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

PhD Geography, Rutgers University

Dissertation title: "The River-Border Complex: Governing Flows in South Asia"

Received the Nystrom Dissertation Award from the American Association of Geographers

MSc Biological Oceanography, University of Hawaii

BSc Biology and Environmental Studies, with Distinction, University of Victoria

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor (2018–)

Department of Geography and Urban Studies

Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Visiting Research Scholar (2018–2019)

Center for Southeast Asian Studies

Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

Assistant Professor (2017–2018)

Department of Geography

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

A.W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow (2015–2017)

Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Department of South Asia Studies

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

COURSES OFFERED

Graduate

Climate Change & Security

The Politics of Water

Undergraduate

Environment and Society

Extracting Labor: Capitalism & the Environment

AWARDS AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

American Institute of Bangladesh Studies Conference Travel Award

April 2019

UC Berkeley Formal Demography Workshop Grant

March 2019

Kyoto University Center for Southeast Asian Studies Research Fellowship

November 2017

Institute of Human Geography Grant

November 2017

CAORC Multi-Country Research Fellowship

April 2017

U.S. Global Change Research Program Workshop Grant

February 2017

J. Warren Nystrom Dissertation Award

April 2016

Rutgers Graduate School Conference Travel Award

July 2014

Rutgers University Excellence Fellowship in Geography

April 2014

American Institute of Bangladesh Studies Conference Travel Award	February 2014
Fulbright IIE Graduate Research Fellowship	April 2013
American Inst. of Indian Studies Advanced Language Scholarship	March 2013
U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship	February 2013
American Institute of Bangladesh Studies Junior Fellowship	November 2012
Rutgers University Excellence Fellowship in Geography	August 2012
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship – Honorable Mention	April 2012
Rutgers Graduate School Special Study Award	April 2012
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship	March 2012
South Asia Summer Language Institute Scholarship	March 2012
U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship	February 2012
American Institute of Bangladesh Studies Conference Travel Award	February 2012
Rutgers Graduate School Conference Travel Award	November 2011
South Asian Studies Research/Travel Award	May 2011
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship – Honorable Mention	2005, 2006

PUBLICATIONS (Thomas, also published as Weersing)

Peer-reviewed research articles

Thomas, K. 2020. The problem with solutions: Development failures in Bangladesh and the interests they obscure. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/24694452.2019.1707641>

Thomas, K. 2020. Shifting baselines of disaster mitigation. *Climate and Development*. 12(2): 147–150. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2019.1605875>

Thomas, K. and B. Warner. 2019. Weaponizing vulnerability to climate change. *Global Environmental Change*. 57: 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2019.101928>

Thomas, K. *et al.* 2019. Explaining differential vulnerability to climate change: a social science review. *WIREs Climate Change*. 10(2): e565.
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/wcc.565>

Hardy, D. *et al.* 2018. Social Vulnerability: Social Science Perspectives on Climate Change, Part 1. Washington DC: United States Global Change Research Program.

Thomas, K. 2017. The Ganges Water Treaty: 20 years of cooperation, on India's terms. *Water Policy*. 19(4): 724–740. <https://doi.org/10.2166/wp.2017.109>

Thomas, K. 2017. Governing international rivers in the Anthropocene. IN: Clarke-Sather *et al.* The shifting geopolitics of water in the Anthropocene. *Geopolitics*. 22(2): 332–359.

Thomas, K. 2017. The river-border complex: A border-integrated approach to transboundary river governance illustrated by the Ganges River and Indo-Bangladeshi border. *Water International*. 42(1): 34–53. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02508060.2016.1247236>

Bryant, J. *et al.* 2016. Diversity and activity of communities inhabiting plastic debris in the North Pacific Gyre. *mSystems*. 1(3): e00024-16.

Thomas, K. 2012. Water Under the Bridge? International Resource Conflict and Post-Treaty Dynamics in South Asia. *South Asia Journal*. 5: 11–28.

Weersing, K. and R. Toonen. 2009. Population genetics, larval dispersal, and demographic connectivity in marine systems. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. 393: 1–12. *Feature Article*.

Gaidos, E. *et al.* 2007. The Precambrian emergence of animal life: A geobiological perspective. *Geobiology*. 5(4): 351–373.

Woodson, C.B. *et al.* 2007. Diurnal upwelling driven by sea breezes in northern Monterey Bay: A local mechanism for larval delivery to the intertidal? *Cont. Shelf Research*. 27: 2289–2302.

Peer-reviewed education articles

Thomas, K. 2019. Water security across borders. *Geography Review*. 32(3): 34–37.

Thomas, K. 2017. The “mundane violence” of international water conflicts. *Education About Asia*. 22(2): 36–41.

Thomas, K., B.C. Bruno, K. Achilles, S.B. Sherman. 2011. A Watery-Who Dunit: The case of the missing zooxanthellae. *Science Scope*. 34(7): 44–54.

Weersing, K., J. Padilla-Gamiño, and B.C. Bruno. 2010. What microbe are you? *The Science Teacher*. 77(6): 40–44.

Book sections and chapters

Thomas, K. 2020. Taking borders seriously: the river-border complex. IN: M. Zeitoun, N. Mirumachi, and J. Warner (Eds.), *Water Conflicts: Analysis for Transformation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Thomas, K. Enduring infrastructure. IN: S. O’Lear (Ed.), *Geographies of Slow Violence: A Research Agenda*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing. *Under contract*.

Publications for general audiences

Thomas, K. 2019. Putting climate change in its place. *Environmental Scientist*. 28(4): 10–13. <https://www.the-ies.org/resources/reframing-and-responding>

Thomas, K. 2019. Shifting deltas: Multi-sited fieldwork in Bangladesh and Viet Nam. Center for American Overseas Research Centers. <https://www.caorc.org/single-post/2019/04/18/Shifting-Deltas-Multi-sited-Fieldwork-in-Bangladesh-and-Viet-Nam>

Thomas, K. 2019. Causes of unequal climate change vulnerability. *Advanced Science News*. <https://www.advancedsciencenews.com/causes-of-unequal-climate-change-vulnerability/>

Thomas, K. 2017. Is India sharing the Ganga’s water fairly? *The Third Pole*. <https://www.thethirdpole.net/2017/08/18/is-india-sharing-the-gangas-water-fairly/>

INVITED LECTURES

Tracing the cracks in climate fragility logics. Department of Geography. Portland State University. 27 November 2019. Portland, OR.

Weaponizing vulnerability to climate change. Center for the Humanities at Temple Climate Speaker Series. Temple University. 14 November 2019. Philadelphia, PA.

Salt, Sweet, Acid, Heat: Recipes for disaster in the Mekong Delta. Department of Geography and the Environment seminar series. Villanova University. 24 October 2019. Villanova, PA.

Capitalizing on climate change in the Mekong Delta. Northwest Power and Conservation Council. 21 November 2018. Portland, OR.

Private interests in the public good: Financing climate change adaptation in the Mekong Delta. Department of Geography and Environment seminar series. University of Hawai'i. 15 November 2018. Honolulu, HI.

Business as usual: The unchanging climate of development in Vietnam. Center for Southeast Asian Studies Colloquium. Kyoto University. 25 October 2018. Kyoto, Japan.

Sweating the small stuff: A One Health journey from microbes to microplastics. One Health Committee Lecture. Penn State University. 1 October 2018. University Park, PA. Webinar.

Streams of consciousness: A political ecology of hazards and development in the Ganges and Mekong Deltas. Department of Geography. Dartmouth College. 23 February 2018. Hanover, NH.

Troubled waters: Politics, power, and profit in two Asian river basins. Environmental Studies. Bryn Mawr College. 29 November 2017. Bryn Mawr, PA.

Locating the border in transboundary river governance. Water Security Research Centre. University of East Anglia. 20 November 2017. Norwich, UK.

International river or river-border complex? The Geopolitics of Water Symposium. Drexel University. 19 July 2017. Philadelphia, PA.

The business of climate change: Adaptation finance in Vietnam and Bangladesh. Weatherhead East Asian Institute. Columbia University. 24 March 2017. New York City, NY.

Fluid problems, fixed solutions: Water policy and environmental justice in South and Southeast Asia. Environmental Studies. Franklin & Marshall College. 10 November 2016. Lancaster, PA.

Hydrological crises in Bangladesh: Does conventional wisdom hold water? Asian Studies Program Lecture Series. University of Delaware. 12 April 2016. Newark, DE.

Shifting Regimes of Water Rights. Globalization TrendLab Preconference Workshop. University of Pennsylvania. 22 March 2016. Philadelphia, PA.

Floodwater management in Bangladesh: A cautionary tale. Keynote address for Model United Nations Conference on Water. University of Pennsylvania. 18 January 2016. Philadelphia, PA.

Water: A Human Right. Student Sustainability Association at Penn Element Series. University of Pennsylvania. 23 November 2015. Philadelphia, PA.

Of dirges and deluges: Instrument-effects of development in Bangladesh. Center for South Asia Lecture Series. University of Wisconsin. 19 February 2015. Madison, WI.

Trash talk: Marine debris in the Pacific Ocean. Featured speaker at the Surfrider Foundation Executive Committee Meeting. 19 May 2009. Honolulu, HI.

Trash talk: Marine debris in the Pacific Ocean. Featured speaker at the Hawaii Water Environment Association Quarterly Luncheon. 28 January 2009. Honolulu, HI.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

Looking backward to move forward: Historicizing climate disaster risk in Asia. Human Response to Disaster in Southeast Asia. Kyoto University. 14–15 January 2019. Kyoto, Japan.

Bordering non-water flows: Explaining upstream-downstream power asymmetries in the Ganges Basin. Association of American Geographers Meeting. 29 April–2 May 2016. San Fran., CA.

Mobilizing Transnational Actors. Water: Scarcity, Excess, and the Geopolitics of Allocation. Globalization TrendLab. University of Pennsylvania. 23–24 March 2016. Philadelphia, PA.

Farming out responsibility: Human rights and injustice in Bangladesh's shrimp industry. A New Politics of Human Rights: Rethinking Violence, Health, Land and Water in the Twenty-First Century. University of Wisconsin. 6–7 November 2015. Madison, WI.

Research Through the Ages: The C-MORE Scholars Program and Cascadia Research. Interview with Carlie Wiener, Hawaii's Tomorrow 760AM. 29 January 2014. Honolulu, HI.

Lessons from our litter: Marine debris in the classroom. 17th Annual Hawaii Conservation Conference. 28–30 July 2009. Honolulu, HI.

Scientists launch new investigation in Pacific plastic patch. Interview with Barbara Heggen, Radio Australia. 21 August 2008.

Population genetics, larval dispersal, and demographic connectivity in marine systems. 16th Annual Hawaii Conservation Conference. 29–31 July 2008. Honolulu, HI.

Population genetics, larval dispersal, and demographic connectivity in marine systems. 11th International Coral Reef Symposium. 7–11 July 2008. Fort Lauderdale, FL.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Workshop Participation

Ordering the Anthropocene: Law & Environment in the Indian Ocean World. 4 October 2019. Drexel University, Philadelphia. Presenter.

Blue Collar Geographers. 3 April 2019. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. Panelist.

Connectivity and 'Cartographic Anxieties': Territory, borders, and geopolitics in 'Zomia' Asia. 1 October 2018. Graduate School of Asian and African Studies. Kyoto University, Kyoto. Presenter.

Japan-ASEAN Platform on Transdisciplinary Studies. 10 July 2018. Kyoto University, Kyoto. Discussant.

Climate Finance Architecture - Enhancing collaboration, seizing opportunities. Forum of the United Nations Standing Committee on Climate Finance. 5–6 July 2018. Songdo Convensia, Songdo. Observer with the Research and Independent Non-governmental Organizations (RINGO) Delegation.

Green Infrastructure? A Symposium on the Technologies of Nature and the Nature of Technologies. 10 May 2018. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Discussant.

Rising to Coastal Challenges: Social Science Perspectives on Research Needs for Responding to Rising Seas. 6 December 2017. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Washington, D.C. Invited participant.

Fiji 2017 United Nations climate change conference (COP 23). 13–17 November 2017. World Conference Center, Bonn. Observer with the American Association of Geographers Delegation.

Social Science Perspectives on Climate Change. United States Global Change Research Program Workshop. 8–10 March 2017. NASA Headquarters, Washington D.C. Invited participant.

Asia Symposium: Vulnerability, Security, and Environmental Risk. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. 29 April–2 May 2016. San Francisco. Discussant.

Water: Scarcity, Excess, and the Geopolitics of Allocation. 23–24 March 2016. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Panelist.

Land, Water and the Environment: The Politics of Rights. 7–8 November 2014. University of Wisconsin, Madison. Panelist.

Fifth Annual Upper Midwest Nature-Society Workshop. 11–12 October 2014. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Presenter.

Counting our gains: Sharing experiences on identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation. 22–23 May 2014. United Nations, Geneva. Participant.

The Seventh International Workshop on Hydro-Hegemony: Contesting Hegemony. 10–11 May 2014. University of East Anglia, London. Panelist.

Sha-ken Social Science Dissertation Workshop. 4 April 2013. University of Tokyo, Tokyo. Presenter.

Panels Organized

[Re]producing and weaponizing vulnerability to climate change. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. 6–10 April 2020. Denver, CO. Co-organized with Ben Warner.

Prospects and pitfalls of transboundary climate change responses. An expert workshop on climate change adaptation. Kyoto University IPCC Week 2019. 7 May 2019. Kyoto University, Kyoto.

Linkage and Disjuncture: Rural-urban connectivity and livelihood change in Viet Nam. Center for Southeast Asian Studies Seminar. 24 April 2019. Kyoto University, Kyoto.

Re-envisioning “sustainable” deltas through critical physical geography. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. 10–14 April 2018. New Orleans, LA. Co-organized with Kimberly Rogers.

Bounding Space: Natural resources, borders, and state formation in Asia. Association for Asian Studies Conference. 26–29 March 2015. Chicago, IL.

Political Ecologies of Resolution: Assumptions, Policies, and Unintended Consequences. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. 24–28 February 2012. New York City, NY. Co-organized with Kathleen O'Reilly.

Climate Change, Equity, and Social Justice in South Asia. Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. 21–23 October 2011. Princeton, NJ.

Papers Presented

Natural borders and the contradictions of containment. Third Annual Conference on International Borders in a Globalizing World. 30 April–1 May 2020. Philadelphia, PA.

Competing to adapt: The biopolitics of climate finance in Southeast Asia. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. 6–10 April 2020. Denver, CO.

Should they stay or should they go? Land-use, livelihood, and demographic change in southern Viet Nam. Center for Southeast Asian Studies Seminar. 24 April 2019. Kyoto University, Kyoto.

Perfect environments for investment: disaster capitalism and climate change in Vietnam and Bangladesh. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. 3–7 April 2019. Washington, DC.

River borders and securitizing infrastructures in South Asia. Political Geography Specialty Group Preconference. 9 April 2018. New Orleans, LA.

The Ghost of Climates Past: Shifted baselines of disaster mitigation in Vietnam and Bangladesh. Association for Asian Studies Conference. 22–25 March 2018. Washington, DC.

Denaturing state borders: Floating fences, fugitive resources, and river flows in South Asia. 24th Annual Critical Geography Conference. 27–28 October 2017. University Park, PA.

Foreign investment in Vietnam's water sector: Lessons from Bangladesh. The 12th International Symposium on Southeast Asian Water Environment. 28–30 November 2016. Hanoi.

Dying for development: Foreign aid, flood control, and food production in Bangladesh. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. 21–25 April 2015. Chicago, IL.

Fault Lines: Rivers and borders in the formation of the South Asian state. Association for Asian Studies Conference. 26–29 March 2015. Chicago, IL.

Undercurrents: Non-water flows along a transboundary river. 43rd Annual Conference on South Asia. 16–19 October 2014. Madison, WI.

The costs of cooperation: Transboundary negotiations and international transactions in South Asia. Political Geography and the Environment, a meeting of the International Geographical Union Commission on Political Geography. 19–20 June 2014. Eugene, OR.

Undercurrents: Non-water flows along a transboundary river. Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference. 27 February–1 March 2014. Lexington, KY.

Beyond Treaties: 'International' River Governance in South Asia. Water and Waste Conference: The Future of Water and Sanitation in India. 7–9 February 2013. New Brunswick, NJ.

Water Under the Bridge? International Resource Conflict and Post-Treaty Dynamics in South Asia. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. 24–28 February 2012. New York City, NY.

Negotiating Water Equity in South Asia. Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. 21–23 October 2011. Princeton, NJ. Panel Chair.

Transport of marine debris by surface ocean currents. National Marine Educators Association Annual Conference. 29 June–3 July 2009. Asilomar, CA.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Climate Justice Public Forum: The Consequences of a Changing Climate on Communities Around the World. 30 October 2017. Pennsylvania State University, University Park.

Gearing Up for the People's Climate March. A public teach-in. 28 April 2017. World Resources Institute, Washington D.C. <http://www.wri.org/events/2017/04/gearing-peoples-climate-march>

DataRefuge efforts featured on *The Daily Show*. 9 March 2017. <http://www.cc.com/video-clips/9n7n5i/the-daily-show-with-trevor-noah-canada-holds-on-to-u-s--climate-data-for-a-bit>

Riparian Organism Personality Quiz. An interactive digital installation about river ecology. Ongoing since February 2017. The Mussel Hatchery at Fairmount Water Works, Philadelphia. <http://fairmountwaterworks.org/freshwater-mussel-hatchery/>

Humanizing Data: Climate and Environmental Research and Environmental Justice. A public teach-in organized by #DataRescuePhilly. 13 January 2017. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Survey of Underwater Plastic and Ecosystem Response (SUPER). A mini-documentary about the 2008 SUPER Cruise by the Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research and Education. Available from 2009. University of Hawaii, Honolulu. <https://vimeo.com/3724896>

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer Reviewer

Annals of the American Association of Geographers

Political Geography

Climate and Development

The Professional Geographer

Ecography

Human Geography

National Science Foundation

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

UK Economic and Social Research Council

Water International

University Service

Undergraduate Research Supervisor – Penn State University, Pennsylvania. 2018

Undergraduate Geography Student Mentor – University of Wisconsin, Wisconsin. 2014–2015

Undergraduate Student Research Mentor – Rutgers University, New Jersey. 2012

Professional Development Forum Coordinator – Rutgers University, New Jersey. 2012

Energy Auditor – Hamilton Library, University of Hawaii, Hawaii. 2008

Moderator – Aloha Bowl. University of Hawaii, Hawaii. 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010

External Service

CAPE Chair – American Association of Geographers, DC. 2018–2020

CAPE Councilor At-Large – American Association of Geographers, DC. 2016–2018

<i>Social Sciences and Sea Level Framing Meeting</i> – National Academies, DC	2017
<i>Volunteer Fundraiser</i> – Bread & Roses Community Fund, Pennsylvania.	2017
<i>Editorial Board Member</i> – Journal of Gender and Water, Pennsylvania.	2016–2017
<i>Fund Raising Volunteer</i> – Hawaii Public Radio, Hawaii.	2008–2010
<i>Board Member</i> – Hawaii Ultimate Frisbee Association, Hawaii.	2006–2009
<i>Web News Editor</i> – Vancouver Aquarium, British Columbia.	2003–2004

STUDENT ADVISING

Advisor

Hanbyeol Jang – PhD Geography and Urban Studies, Temple University	2019–
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Committee Member

Ramzi Tubbeh – PhD Geography, Penn State University	2017–
Ruchi Patel – MA Geography, Penn State University	2018–

Graduated

Denise Forrest – MA Environmental Studies, University of Pennsylvania	2016–2018
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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Association of Geographers	since September 2011
Association for Asian Studies	since June 2011
American Institute of Bangladesh Studies	since January 2012
American Association of University Women	since August 2013
Political Ecology Society	since July 2018