



# AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

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## The American Geographical Society Awards 2021 Council Fellowships

*Description: The American Geographical Society (AGS) announces the recipients of the 2021 AGS Council Fellowship.*

[New York City, NY] – [March 16, 2021] — The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced the recipients of the 2021 AGS Council Fellowships to support master's and doctoral research. Established in 2013, the awards are funded by a gift from the estate of Dr. Marshall E. Bowen and each recipient receives \$1,500.00. The recipients are Mx. Eden Kinkaid, a Ph.D. candidate at The University of Arizona, Mrs. Hilda Onuoha, a Ph.D. candidate at Kansas State University, Ms. Özlem Ayse Özgür, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Arizona and Ms. Alana Rader, a Ph.D. candidate at Rutgers the State University of New Jersey. Graduate students from universities around the world are eligible for the Fellowships. AGS will recognize the Fellowship recipients during its annual Fall Symposium, streaming online November 15-19, 2021.

Mx. Kinkaid will use the fellowship award to fund their research, *Governing Crisis: A Political Ecology of Food Systems in the Time of COVID-19*. Upon receiving the scholarship, Mx. Kinkaid noted, "This award will support my research on the impacts of COVID-19 on southern Arizona's food system. Working with a team of collaborators, I am examining the effects of the pandemic on the food producers, distributors, and institutions that compose the regional food system. This research will document COVID-19's impacts on southern Arizona's food system, how various food system actors are responding to those impacts, and what broader lessons can be learned from this moment of crisis in food and agriculture."

Mrs. Hilda Onuoha's award will fund part of her Ph.D. research titled, *A Spatio-temporal Valuation of Grassland Ecosystem Services in the U.S. Great Plains*. When asked about her research, Mrs. Onuoha explained, "My research is on the analysis of long term grasslands conditions in the U.S. Great Plains and how any changes in grassland conditions impact the provision of benefits grasslands provide for humans."

Ms. Özlem Ayse Özgür's fellowship will help pay for the translation and transcription of her research, *Effects of Community Gardening on Socio-Economic Wellbeing of Sub-Saharan African Refugee Women in Southern Arizona*. "The objective of this research is to investigate how shared activity spaces such as community gardens within community economy networks influence resettlement and socio-economic well-being of Sub Saharan refugee women in a neoliberal context by using mixed methods," said Ms. Özgür.

Ms. Alana Rader will use the fellowship funds to facilitate a community mapping exercise to analyze the relationship of historical to current land uses and patterns of forest regeneration in Mexico to complete her dissertation, *Beyond Deforestation: Dynamics of Tropical Forest Regeneration and Land Use in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, Mexico*. Ms. Rader said, "My research interests lie at the intersection of ecology, land use, and landscape recovery across scales. I examine this intersection in tropical forests of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor in Mexico for my dissertation, to assess how the process of tropical forest regeneration following environmental and human disturbances is driven by the feedback of biophysical processes and land use."

"Members of the American Geographical Society Council believe that supporting researchers who address contemporary issues is fundamental. To ensure the health of the discipline, we must support young scholars," said Dr. Marie Price, Chair of the Selection Committee and President of AGS. "We are delighted to fund four promising young scholars in their field investigations through the AGS Council Fellowships and we look forward to reading about their discoveries," added Dr. Price.

Dr. Marshall E. Bowen, an emeritus professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Mary Washington where he taught thousands of students over 36 years before retiring in 2001, was a long-time member of AGS. A gift from his estate is funding the awards for this year's fellows and will continue to fund the initiative for the next two years. "Marshall thought highly of AGS and I am pleased that his bequest will support their efforts to assist the next generation of geographers," said Dr. Dawn Bowen, wife of Dr. Marshall Bowen and also a Professor of Geography at the University of Mary Washington.

The American Geographical Society is a 21st-century learning society dedicated to the advancement of geographic thinking, knowledge, and understanding across business, government, academe, social sectors, and most importantly with teachers and students. Established in 1851, AGS is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States. It is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education for 170 years. The mission of AGS is to convene a diverse global community of innovators, thinkers, and practitioners; create and curate geographical knowledge, learning and exploration; and advance geographic science and technologies to address society's challenges and opportunities. The Society maintains its headquarters in New York City.



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