

**Dr. Ria Mukerji**  
Curriculum Vitae  
Postdoctoral Research Associate  
Washington State University  
School of the Environment

EDUCATION

- 2025      Ph.D.    Geography, University of New Mexico (UNM)  
*Dissertation: Pathways of Participation: Community Engagement and Collaborative Adaptation in Disaster Contexts Across Diverse Environments*  
*Committee – Dr. Benjamin Warner (Chair), Dr. Yolanda Lin, Dr. Eric Magrane, Dr. Jami Nelson-Nunez*
- 2020      M.S.    Geography, Louisiana State University (LSU)  
*Thesis: Changing Geographies of Flood Mitigation Policies: A Case Study of Central, Louisiana*  
*Chair – Dr. Craig Colten*
- 2016      B.A.    Environmental Studies, Minor: Politics, University of California, Santa Cruz  
*Thesis: Where Are They Now? An Inside Look at Forced Resettlement in the Volta Basin of Ghana*  
*Advisor – Dr. Jeffrey Bury*
- Certificate      Geographic Information Science (GIS) Focus: Visualization – Louisiana State University

APPOINTMENTS

- 2025 – present    Postdoctoral Research Associate, Washington State University  
School of the Environment | Center for Environmental Research, Education & Outreach (CEREO)
- 2020-2025      Graduate Teaching & Research Assistant, University of New Mexico
- 2021-2022      Visiting Research Associate, Princeton University  
Andlinger Center for the Environment (Behavioral Science for Policy Lab)
- 2018-2020      Graduate Research Assistant, Louisiana State University  
Coastal Sustainability Studio (CSS) | Department of Geography & Anthropology

PUBLICATIONS

- 2026      **Mukerji, R.** (2026). Precarious place, powerful participation: The Historicization of floods and community resilience in Pajaro, California. *Journal of Historical Geography*, 91, 1–10. <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:ddfe40b5-74fb-4056-8da2-152015177da6>
- 2025      Tawse-Garcia, C., Valdez, R., Gustine, R., Tracy, E. E., Larsen, W., Auerbach, D., Pertuze, M. V., **Mukerji, R.**, Fremier, A., Warner, B., and Boll, J. (2025). “‘To Irrigate or Not?’ Is the Wrong Question: Exploring the Triple Bottom Line of Climate Adaptation for Dairy Farmers in Los Lagos, Chile.” *Case Studies in the Environment* 9 (1): Article 2470531. <https://doi.org/10.1525/cse.2025.2470531>

- 2024 **Mukerji, R.**, Lin, Y. C., Zhang, S., Stone, M., Hushman, C., Moreu, F., Vigil, L., Eshelman, T., Rotche, L., Baca, A., Nodine, M., Faulkner, M., & Johnson, C. (2024). Co-design as participation: Creating meaningful pathways for collaboration in flood risk adaptation in Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 113, 104843. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2024.104843>
- Lin, Yolanda C., Marisol C. Meyer-Driovinto, Tybur Q. Casuse-Driovinto, Asa B. Stone, Ashley R. Apodaca-Sparks, Naomi DeLay, Abigail B. Granath, Aralis Haskamp Buchanan, Lisa Hurst, Malcolm King, Sonia Luevano, Melinda Morgan, **Ria Mukerji**, Anjali Mulchandani, Mandolin J. Rainsong, Mark Stone. (2024). “Shared.Futures: Fostering Convergence and Envisioning Possible Futures through ArtScience.” *Ecology and Society* 29, no. 4 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-15551-290444>.
- 2023 Lin, Y. C., E. Lev, **R. Mukerji**, T. P. Fischer, C. Connor, W. Stovall, M. P. Poland, A. M. Iezzi, C. Wauthier, J. Gonzalez-Santana, H. Wright, S. Wolf, and T. Kasali. (2023). Lessons learned from the 2022 CONVERSE Monogenetic Volcanism Response Scenario Exercise. *Volcanica* 6 (2):345–366. <https://doi.org/10.30909/vol.06.02.345366>
- 2021 **Mukerji, R.** (2021). Wetlands in a Dry Land: More-than-Human Histories of Australia's Murray-Darling Basin by Emily O'Gorman. *Historical Geography*, 49(1), 121-124. <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/896251>
- Warner, B. P., T. Colvin, and **R. Mukerji**. (2021). Recentralizing state power in decentralized small drinking water system governance in New Mexico, USA. *International Journal of Water Resources Development* 0 (0):1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07900627.2021.1976116>
- Under Review Baca, A., **Mukerji, R.**, Lin, Y., Vigil, L., Rotche, L., Zhang, S., Hushmann, C., Stone, M., Moreu, F. Developing Fragility Curves to Assess the Risk of Post-Wildfire Flooding in Ohkay Owingeh. Submitted to *Southwestern Geographer*. 1<sup>st</sup> round of edits received 6/3/26
- Mukerji, R.**, Marziliano, A., Nunez, J., Padowski, J., Fremier, A., Boll, J., Walsh-Dilley, M. A Star Scaffold for Wicked Science: Building Capacities for Interdisciplinary, Convergence Scholarship Across the Transect of the Americas. Submitted to *Ecology and Society* 5/30/26
- Mukerji, R.**, Padowski, J. Bridging the Gap: Integrating Compounding Hazard Frameworks with Community-Based Approaches to Address Wildfire-Water Risks in the American West. Submitted on 6/10/26 to *Society and Natural Resources*
- In prep **Mukerji, R.**, Padowski, J., Bernal, J. Uneven Governance and Growing Risk: Comparing Water Utility Responses to Wildfire Impacts in the Pacific Northwest (2020–2025). Target Journal: *Journal of the American Water Resources Association (JAWRA)*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2025 – present    Postdoctoral Research Associate  
*Washington State University*  
-Conduct communications and collaborations with various partners [Pacific Northwest USDA Forest Service Research Station, Oregon State University (OSU), Montana State University (MSU), University of Idaho (UI)] on wildfire and water security research in rural Washington and Oregon.  
-Direct development of a wildfire risk and vulnerability mapping tool, applying GIS and statistical methods to create weighted indices and vulnerability scores.  
-Produce policy-oriented communication materials, including congressional briefs, legislative reports, and policy summaries.  
-Lead integration of cross-disciplinary data (hydrology, biological sciences, economics, modeling) for a large multidisciplinary project.
- 2024                Junior Fellow  
*Climate and Community Project* (Berkeley, CA)  
Develop better bargaining contracts for 3 large healthcare labor unions across the US Southwest to protect healthcare workers in the face of the climate crisis and potential of increased disaster events. Wrote memos for legislators, policy memos and project labor agreements (PLA's).
- 2023 – 2024      Research Assistant, UNM Intermountain West Transformation Network (NSF#: 2115169)  
*University of New Mexico, Dept. of Geography*  
Conducted interviews, performed qualitative analysis, created maps for a paper focusing on the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon (HPCC) Fires in northern New Mexico. I contributed most understanding disconnects between federal and local policy and response.  
University Partners: Washington State University (WSU), Northern Arizona University (NAU), Utah State University (USU), Colorado State University (CSU), New Mexico Tech University (Tech), University of Arizona
- 2023 – 2024      Program Assistant, College of Public Health  
*University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center*  
Assist in research concerning public health outcomes and interventions centering on the built environment and its impact on social determinants of health throughout New Mexico as part of the larger Academic Health Program run by the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) and funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH).
- 2021 – 2024      Graduate Research Assistant, NSF CIVIC Greater Preparedness and Resilience to Post-Wildfire Flooding in Native American Communities (NSF #: 2133334)  
*University of New Mexico, Dept. of Geography*  
Spearhead planning and execution of scenario workshops pertaining to post-wildfire flood risk in the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo in New Mexico. Work to foster a sense of human centered collaboration and to decolonize the co-design process collaboratively with the Tribal Council of Ohkay Owingeh.
- 2021 – 2024      Pathways Fellow  
*National Science Foundation – Partnerships Along the Headwaters of the Americas for Young Scientists (NSF IRES #: 2505480)*  
One of 8 fellows for the 2022-2023 academic year in which fellows participate in

program that pairs students with host sites in Latin America to conduct research along headwater mountain systems. Also worked as a teaching assistant and helped plan the summer school for the following cohort. Host Site: Universidad de Cuenca, Ecuador. Project Title: Understanding Risk Perceptions Around the Construction of the Soldados Dam in Cuenca, Ecuador.

- 2022 – 2023 Graduate Research Assistant, NSF Community Network for Volcanic Eruption Response (CONVERSE) (NSF Award #2223911)  
*University of New Mexico, Dept. of Earth and Planetary Science*  
Assisted in planning community workshops and analysis on the efficacy of said workshops. Planned an annual meeting of nation-wide CONVERSE teams to share and exchange highs and lows from other workshops.
- 2021 – 2022 Visiting Research Associate, Andlinger Center for Policy and the Environment  
*Princeton University*  
Led literature review and method selection for the NSF DRMS grant. Supported the project in investigating how community organizations (homeowners associations, neighborhood associations, etc.) shape individual and collective behaviors around natural disaster response and preparedness in the Gulf Coast (Texas and Florida). Participated fieldwork across coastal Texas, from Brownsville to Galveston.
- 2022 Shared Futures Fellow, UNM Transformation Network  
*University of New Mexico*  
Shared Futures pairs together scientists and artists to create interactive exhibits at Explora! (the Albuquerque children's museum), encouraged art-science collaboration. I served as a scientist from January – August of 2022. Our exhibit was titled “a talk with Land” and my artist partner was a documentary filmmaker. Film currently on show at the Poeh Cultural Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- 2018-2020 Graduate Research Assistant, LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio  
*Louisiana State University*  
Worked on the “Inland from the Coast” Project, a three (3) year, \$2.9 million project funded by the Gulf Research Program of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). Worked with a team of engineers, landscape architects and geographers to address flooding in greater Baton Rouge. University Partners: University of Florida (UF), Southeastern Louisiana University (SELA). Research was used in the 2023 Louisiana Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast. Contributed to writing in Section 2: Understand (on history of coastal change).

#### EXTERNAL FUNDING/AWARDS

- 2026 Padowski, J. (PI), **Mukerji, R.**, McLarty, S., Yoder, J. (Co-PIs). *Resilient Washington Water Futures: A Campus–Community Partnership (Track 1)*. Competitive internal seed grant, Washington State University Presidential Big Ideas Initiative (Track 1), [Submitted 2 January 2026, moved to second stage 18 March 2026]. - \$400,000. [UNDER REVIEW]
- Gaolach, B. (PI), Mukerji, R., Padowski, J. (Co-PI's). *Disaster Resilience Extension Capacity Across the Western Land-Grant Network*. USDA-NIFA Smith-Lever Special Needs Competitive Grants Program. Amount requested: \$85,954. Submitted June 2026; [UNDER REVIEW]

- 2025      Jeanne S. Kasperson Student Paper Award - \$250  
Hazards, Risks and Disasters Specialty Group  
Meeting of the Association of American Geographers 2025 (Detroit, MI)
- 2023      Graduate Student Success Scholarship – \$10,000  
University of New Mexico, School of Graduate Studies
- Rogers Field Research Grant – \$1,500  
University of New Mexico, Graduate and Professional Student Association
- Environmental Defense Fund - \$14,500  
EDF Summer Research Grant, Awarded to Dr. Benjamin Warner (PI) & Ria Mukerji  
(named student researcher)
- 2022      Departmental Citizenship Award – \$250  
University of New Mexico, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
- New Mexico Research Grant – \$3,000  
UNM Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)
- NSF PATHWAYS Fellowship - \$11,000  
National Science Foundation Award # 2505480
- 2021      Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Summer Fellowship (Quechua) - \$3,500  
UNM Latin American Iberia Institute
- 2020      Rodman E. Snead Scholarship – \$1,500  
University of New Mexico, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
- 2019      Robert C. West Graduate Student Research Grant – \$2,000  
Louisiana State University, Department of Geography and Anthropology
- 2019      First Place. Graduate Student Poster Competition. Southwest Regional Meeting of the  
Association of American Geographers (SWAAG) – \$250

#### WORKSHOPS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2026      Fellow, Investigations in Disasters and Emergencies: Advancing Applied Learning in  
Disaster Research Response (IDEAAL DR2)  
Center for Disaster Resilient Communities, University of Washington, 2026–2027  
- Selected participant in a national fellowship program focused on environmental and  
public health disaster research methods, disaster response, ethical and reciprocal research  
practices, and applied disaster research design.
- After the Flames Workshop: Tools and Tactics for Communities and Agencies Impacted  
by Wildfire  
Host: Washington Department of Natural Resources  
April 6-9, 2026 | Cle Elum, WA

- 2025            Compounding, Cascading, and Critical Risks to U.S. Infrastructure and Security: A Systems-Focused Compound Hazard Workshop  
Host: Washington State University, Vancouver (WSU-V) & UCLA  
August 4-7, 2025 | Portland, OR

### MENTORING

- 2021 – present    NSF PATHWAYS Program – serve as a mentor to incoming cohorts on conducting research in South America. Attend summer school launching program (2-week program in June in Cuenca, Ecuador, yearly) and advise graduate students on developing research questions for theses and dissertations and facilitating community connections to do justice-oriented community engaged research in South America. Student projects range in topics from hazards research, hydrological modeling, physical geography, political ecology and biophysical processes.
- 2020 – present    Graduate Student Mentoring  
-Ani Baca: Assisted with her thesis, which focused on developing fragility curves to assess flood risk in Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, New Mexico. Helped guide her through the process of developing interview questions and general assistance working with the Pueblo Tribal Council and through publication of her work.  
-Kinsey Ayers: assisted in qualitative methods development with her dissertation topic on collaboration within cross-jurisdictional water quality governance in the Pacific Northwest. Also provided guidance in writing, editing, and journal submissions.
- 2023 – 2024       Undergraduate Mentoring  
-Through work on the Transformation Network (see Research Experience) and advised by Richard Rushforth (School of Informatics) and Sean Ryan (Center for STEM Teaching & Learning) at Northern Arizona University, guided three undergraduate students on the process of writing literature reviews and annotated bibliographies on compounding hazards in the American Southwest, with a particular focus on Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Weekly check ins. Gave feedback on writing and advised on research.

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2026            **Mukerji, Ria** and Julie Padowski. Bridging the Gap: Integrating Compounding Hazard Frameworks with Community-Based Approaches to Address Wildfire-Water Risks in the American West. Association of American Geographers. March 2026. San Francisco, CA.
- 2025            **Mukerji, Ria** and Julie Padowski. Integrating Compounding Hazard Frameworks with Community-Based Approaches to Address Wildfire-Water Risks in the American West. Natural Hazards Workshop & Researcher's Meeting. July 2025. Broomfield, CO.
- 2025            **Mukerji, Ria**. Pathways of Participation: Community Engagement and Collaborative Adaptation in Disaster Contexts Across Diverse Environments. Association of American Geographers. April 2025. Detroit, MI.
- 2024            **Mukerji, Ria**, C. Tawse-Garcia, B.P. Warner, M. Montoya, R. Ehrenfeucht. Disaster response in the wake of the Hermit's Peak and Calf Canyon Wildfire's in New Mexico. Association of American Geographers. April 2024. Honolulu, HI.
- 2024            **Mukerji, Ria**, E. A. Vargas, R. Cellieri. Protest and Power: Examining Community Participation Amid Environmental Concerns in the Yanuncay Basin. Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference (DOPE). February 2024. Lexington, KY.
- 2023            **Mukerji, Ria**, Y.C. Lin. Co-design of flood risk adaptation measures in Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo. Association of American Geographers. March 2023. Denver, CO

- 2022 **Mukerji, Ria.** Mountains in Peril: A Comparative Study of Disaster Risk Across Headwater Mountain Systems. Association of American Geographers. February 2022. New York City, NY.
- 2021 **Mukerji, Ria** and Warner, Benjamin. Violations in Drinking Water Systems in Rural New Mexico. Southwest Regional Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (SWAAG). October 2021. Oklahoma City, OK.
- 2021 **Mukerji, Ria.** Flood Insurance and Development: Qualitative Approaches to Understanding Mitigation Policies in the Amite River Basin. State of the Coast. June 2021. New Orleans, LA.
- 2020 **Mukerji, Ria.** Qualitative Approaches to Understanding Mitigation Policies in Southeast Louisiana. Association of American Geographers. April 2020. Denver, CO.
- 2020 Colten, Craig and **Mukerji, Ria.** Scenario Building Workshops: Adapting a Strategic Science Technique to Qualitative Purposes in the Amite River Basin. Association of American Geographers. April 2020. Denver, CO.
- 2019 **Mukerji, R.** Changing Geographies of Flood Mitigation Policies: A Case Study of Central, LA. Southwest Regional Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (SWAAG). October 10, 2019. Fort Worth, TX.
- 2019 **Mukerji, R.** Changing Geographies of Flood Mitigation Policies: A Case Study of Central, LA. Annual Meeting of the Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy (CNREP). May 20, 2019. New Orleans, LA.

#### INVITED TALKS/GUEST LECTURES

- 2024 Title: Pathways of Participation: Community Engagement and Collaborative Adaptation in Disaster Contexts Across Diverse Environments.  
University of New Mexico, Department of Geography & Environmental Studies  
Colloquium Series
- 2023 Title: Protest and Power: Examining Community Participation Amid Environmental Concerns in the Yanuncay Basin  
State University of New York, Oneonta, Department of Geography Colloquium Series
- 2022 Title: An Introduction to Political Economy  
Course: GEOG 365 Nature and Society, University of New Mexico
- 2021 Title: Where are They Now? An inside look at postcolonial policies and forced resettlement in the Volta Basin, Ghana.  
Course: GEOG 1175 World Regional Geography, University of New Mexico
- 2019 Title: Qualitative Research Methods in Cultural Anthropology  
Course: ANTH 1003 Introduction to Cultural and Social Anthropology, Louisiana State University
- 2018 Title: Qualitative Research Methods in Cultural Anthropology  
Course: ANTH 1003 Introduction to Cultural and Social Anthropology, Louisiana State University

#### SERVICE

##### **Service to the Department:**

- 2020-2024 President  
Gamma Theta Upsilon Geographic Honor Society, Delta Gamma Chapter, University of New Mexico
- 2020-2022 President  
Student Association of Geography and Environmental Studies (SAGES), University of New Mexico

2018-2019      Social Chair & Mardi Gras Chair  
Geography and Anthropology Society (GAS), Louisiana State University

**Service to the Profession:**

2020-present      Conference Session Organizer:  
Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) Yearly Session  
Session Title: Community Engagement in Hazard Preparedness & Response Across  
Differing Methodologies

**Service to the Community**

2020-present      Career Day Speaker  
Armijo Elementary School, yearly  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
2018-2020      Judge  
State of Louisiana Geography Bee hosted by National Geographic  
Baton Rouge, LA

NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

2016-2018      Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator and Environmental Educator (AmeriCorps Fellow),  
Watsonville Wetlands Watch, Watsonville, CA  
2015-2017      Research Intern, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, Moss Landing, CA

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Geographers (AAG), Member, Specialty Groups: Hazards, Risks &  
Disasters//Legal Geographies  
American Geographical Society (AGS), Member

SKILLS

ArcMap, ArcPro Desktop, ArcOnline  
Qualitative Data Coding/Transcribing  
Science Communication – Adobe InDesign, Adobe Illustrator, Canva, ProCreate  
Spanish (Intermediate/Conversational)  
Quechua - Cusco (Elementary)  
Twi (Elementary)  
Bengali (Fluent)