**Amber Ashley Orozco**

Department of Geography, University of Georgia

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*UGA Presidential Fellow*

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**EDUCATION**

2020- Present PhD Candidate, Department of Geography

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

*Advisor:* Dr. Jerry Shannon

*Committee Members:* Drs. Nik Heynen, Jennifer Rice, Hanna Garth

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**

Community Geography, Black Food Geographies, Black Geographies, Latinx Geographies, Critical Food Studies, Critical Cartography, Feminist Qualitative Methodologies & GIS

**PUBLICATIONS**

*(a) Peer- Reviewed Articles*

*In Progress* Berry, R., **A. Orozco**, M.B. Henderson, A. Hysjulien, M. Rao, & J. Shannon. “Cartographies of Black Presence: Mapping Praxis through Community Geography and Black Geographies”. Planned submission Spring 2025.

*In Progress* **Orozco, A.** & M.B. Henderson. “(Un)Abstracting Place Through Indigenous and Black Scholarship”. Planned submission Spring 2025.

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>

*(b) Other Publications*

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>

**HONORS & AWARDS**

2024 Social Science Research Council- Mellon Mays Graduate Initiative Program,

Graduate Enhancement Grant ($1,950)

2024 Conference Travel Grant, Graduate School, UGA ($800)

2024 Conference Travel Grant, Department of Geography, UGA ($250)

2023 Graduate Paper Award, Globe Award for Conceptual Advancement, Department of Geography, UGA ($250)

2022 Social Science Research Council- Mellon Mays Graduate Initiative Program,

Graduate Enhancement Grant ($1,500)

2022 Conference Travel Grant, Department of Geography, UGA ($250)

2022 Conference Travel Grant, Graduate School, UGA ($600)

2020- 2025 Graduate Presidential Fellowship, UGA ($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, Whittier College ($20,000)

2013 Outstanding Student of the Department of Environmental Studies, Whittier College

2011- 2013 Mellon Mays National Undergraduate Fellowship, Whittier College ($18,000)

**PRESENTATIONS**

*(a) Paper Presentations*

2025 Orozco, A. “Situating Corner Store Intervention Programs: Cartographies of Alternative Food Movements and a Black sense of place in Los Angeles”, American Association of Geographers. Detroit, MI. *(Forthcoming)*

2024 Shannon, J., **A. Orozco,** M. Henderson, M. Rao, R. Berry, J. Martinez, & A. Hysjulien. “Mapping Black Presence (and Absence) in Athens, GA”, International Geographical Congress. Dublin, Ireland.

2024 **Orozco, A.**, J. Shannon. “Counter-mapping the archive in the Athens 1958 Directory Project to Center Black Geographies”, Dimensions of Political Ecology. Lexington, KY.

2023 **Orozco, A.**, J. Shannon. “Counter-mapping the archive in the Athens 1958 Directory Project to Center Black Geographies”, Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference. Washington, D.C.

2023 Shannon, J., **A. Orozco**, M. Henderson, M. Rao, R. Berry, J. Martinez, & A. Hysjulien. “Mapping Black Presence (and Absence) in Athens, GA”, Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference. Washington, D.C.

2023 **Orozco, A.** “Archives of Mortality: *Cariño* as Method in Latinx Oral Histories and Digital Geographies on Year One of the COVID-19 Pandemic”, American Association of Geographers. Denver, CO.

2023 **Orozco, A.** & M.B. Henderson. “(Un) Abstracting Place Through Indigenous and Black Scholarship: A Critical Analysis of the Anti-CRT Movement in Oklahoma”, American Indian Studies Conference. Phoenix, AZ.

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. 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. Los Angeles, CA.

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. 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. Camarillo, CA.

2011 **Orozco, A.** “The Pokomo and Wardei: Their Indigenous Knowledge of the Tana River Forests”, Mellon Mays Undergraduate West Coast Regional Conference. Yakama, WA.

2011 **Orozco, A.** “The Pokomo and Wardei: Their Indigenous Knowledge of the Tana River Forests”, Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research. Walnut, CA.

*(b) Poster Presentations*

2022 Obando, M., **A. Orozco**, S. Rivera, V. Washington, “Archives of Mortality: Cariño as Method in Latinx Oral Histories on Year One of the COVID-19 Pandemic”, Oral History Association Conference. Los Angeles, CA.

2016 **Orozco A**., A. Ward. “The Distribution of Race, and Power, and Representation: An Analysis of USDA’s County Committees”, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA.

2016 **Orozco, A.**, A. Ward. “The Distribution of Race, Power, and Representation: An Analysis of USDA’s County Committees”, Just Food? Forum on Land Use, Rights, & Ecology Conference. 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 Forest”, Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Arts Conference. Whittier, CA.

*(c) Invited Lectures*

2024 “Introduction to Agri-Food Geographies”. GEOG 2011 Introduction to Human Geography, Department of Geography, University of Georgia.

2023 “Scholar-Activism in Agri-Food Studies”. UGA Sustainable Food Systems Initiative, University of Georgia.

2022 “Connecting Food Justice and Urban Racialization in Athens, GA”. *Youth Space Community Art Garden* in Athens, GA, a project curated by PhD student, Lisa Novak of UGA’s Lamar Dodd School of Art.

2020 “From LA to Georgia: Centering Community resistance in the struggles for food and farm justice”. School of International Service, American University.

2020 “From LA to Georgia: Centering Community resistance in the struggles for food and farm justice”. California State University, Northridge.

*(d) Panelist*

2023 Conversation on Graduate School and Geography. Undergraduate Capstone class. Department of Geography, UGA.

2020 Navigating the Graduate School Application Process”, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, Whittier College. Whittier, CA.

2014 “Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Alumni: Graduate School Panel”, West Coast Mellon Mays Undergraduate Conference, Whitter College. Whittier, CA.

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

2020- 2022 Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Geography, UGA

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

**COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP EXPERIENCE**

2021- “The Athens 1958 City Directory Project”, Community Mapping Lab, University of Georgia

2022 Student, Community GIS course, UGA

2021 Community Workshop Organizer, Linnentown Mosaic Project, Social Theory Seminar, Fall 2021, UGA

2016 Graduate Practicum Consultant, U.S. Agricultural Policy: International & Domestic Impacts Practicum, American University

2011- 2013 Researcher, People for Conservation and Conservation for People (PCCP), Tana River Delta District, Kenya

**PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP**

2023 “Archives of Mortality” Podcast, co-host. California State University, Fullerton

2022 “Critical Geography & Neighborhood Markets”. Invited guest on the Educational Theory & Practice Podcast, hosted by Educational Theory & Practice Graduate Student Organization of UGA. <https://sites.google.com/view/etapgso/podcast?authuser=0>

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*University Level*

Fall 2024 TA, GEOG 1101 Introduction to Human Geography, University of Georgia

Spring 2024 TA, GEOG 1101 Introduction to Human Geography, University of Georgia

Fall 2023 TA, GEOG 1101 Introduction to Human Geography, University of Georgia

Spring 2023 Instructor of Record, GEOG 2011 Introduction to Geographic Information Science, University of Georgia

Fall 2022 Teaching Assistant, GEOG 2011 Introduction to Geographic Information Science, University of Georgia

*High- School*

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

2013 Instructor, *Research Preparedness for High School Students,* Pioneer High School, Whittier, CA

Administrative Associate Los Angeles Food Policy Counc

**SERVICE & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

*Department and Service*

2022- Member, Georgia Community Geography Collective, University of Georgia

2023- 2024 Co-Chair, Geography Graduate Student Association, UGA

2022- 2023 Human Geography Chair, Geography Graduate Student Association, UGA

2020- 2021 Social Justice Committee, Geography Graduate Student Association, UGA

*External Department Service*

2023- 2024 Student Representative, Community Geographies Collaborative, AAG

2023- 2024 Mentor, UGA’s Sustainable Food Systems Initiative and Spelman College’s Food Studies Program partnership

2021- 2022 Program Assistant, Summer Undergraduate Research Academy, Department of Chicano and Chicana Studies, California State University, Fullerton

*Peer Review*

2024 Geographical Review Journal, Routledge Taylor & Francis Group

2023 Book Proposal, Routledge Taylor & Francis Group

*Community Service*

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

2015Hunger 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 DEVELOPMENT**

2023 “Food Systems, Equity, Education, and Professional Development”, Workshop at the University of Georgia in Partnership with Spelman College.

2023 TA Café: “Cultivating a Culture of Engagement in the Classroom and Online”, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Georgia.

2023 “Anti-Racism in Agri-Food Studies” Workshop at Spelman College in Partnership with University of Georgia.

2023 American Indian Studies *Graduate Pre-conference sessions* (Session I Critical Race Theory: Roundtable, Session II Graduate Student and Mentor Networking, Session III Creating Communities of Care Beyond Academics) at Arizona State University.

**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

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

2023- Community Geographies Collaborative

2022 - Association for the Study of Food and Society

2022 - Oral History Association

2021 - Community Mapping Lab, University of Georgia

2020 - American Association of Geographers

2013 Society for Applied Anthropology