

# **Kimberley Anh Thomas**

302 Walker Building, University Park, PA 16802

[kimthomas@psu.edu](mailto:kimthomas@psu.edu)

[kimberley.thomasresearch.org](http://kimberley.thomasresearch.org)

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

PhD Geography, Rutgers University (2015)

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 (2007)

BSc Biology and Environmental Studies, with Distinction, University of Victoria (2001)

## **ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

**Assistant Professor** (2017–)

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**

Environment and Society in a Changing World

Climate Change & Security

The Politics of Water

Capitalism, Labor, and the Environment

Development in South Asia

## **AWARDS AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS**

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

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

## **PUBLICATIONS (Thomas, also published as Weersing)**

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

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

Thomas, K. 2017. The Ganges Water Treaty: 20 years of cooperation, on India’s terms. *Water Policy*. 19(4): 724–740.

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.

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.

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.

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.

## **INVITED LECTURES**

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. 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**

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. 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawaii Conservation Conference. 29–31 July 2008. Honolulu, HI.

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

## **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

### **Workshop Participation**

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

Asia Symposium: Vulnerability, Security, and Environmental Risk. Association of American Geographers 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.

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

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

### **Panels Organized**

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 Conference. 24–28 February 2012. New York City, NY. Co-organized with K. 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**

Foreign investment in Vietnam's water sector: Lessons from Bangladesh. The 12<sup>th</sup> 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 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. 43<sup>rd</sup> 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**

Gearing Up for the People's Climate March. A public teach-in. 28 April 2017. World Resources Institute, Washington D.C.

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>

## **ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

**Assistant Program Manager** 2013 – 2014  
*University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii*

- Co-managed an undergraduate research internship program at four institutions on two islands.
- Recruited Native Hawaiian and other underrepresented students into community college and university degree programs.
- Taught monthly professional development workshops, including resume writing, interview skills, and oral presentation techniques to prepare undergraduates for post-graduate positions.
- Conducted interviews and authored and designed the annual program newsletter.

**Editorial Associate** 2012 – 2013  
*South Asia Journal, Dhaka, Bangladesh*

- Served as a liaison between the academic community and the magazine staff.
- Augmented the Journal's visibility and readership through targeted marketing to scholars of South Asia at academic institutions and conferences.
- Solicited and edited submissions for publication.

**Marine Science Education Program Manager** 2007 – 2010  
*University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii*

- Served as co-chief scientist on two cruises, including a 12-day research expedition across the North Pacific Ocean to investigate the ecosystem effects of marine debris.
- Administered a nationwide microbial science grant program for public school educators.

- Managed a national program providing public school teachers with free access to portable, self-contained science kits.
- Supervised part-time office staff in the production of lesson materials.
- Created an educational tool that is featured in The Sant Ocean Hall at the Smithsonian.
- Established cooperative partnerships with other science education providers and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander interest groups.
- Designed and implemented diverse, standards-based education materials and programs in microbial oceanography for K-adult students and teachers.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### Peer Reviewer

<i>Annals of the American Association of Geographers</i>	since 2016
<i>Human Geography</i>	since 2015
<i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i>	2010
<i>Ecography</i>	2010

### University Service

<i>Master's Student Research Mentor</i> – University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania.	2016–2017
<i>Undergraduate Geography Student Mentor</i> – University of Wisconsin, Wisconsin.	2014–2015
<i>Undergraduate Student Research Mentor</i> – Rutgers University, New Jersey.	2012
<i>Professional Development Forum Coordinator</i> – Rutgers University, New Jersey.	2012
<i>Energy Auditor</i> – Hamilton Library, University of Hawaii, Hawaii.	2008
<i>Moderator</i> – Aloha Bowl. University of Hawaii, Hawaii.	2006, 2007, 2008, 2010

### External Service

<i>CAPE Councilor At-Large</i> – American Association of Geographers, DC.	2016–2018
<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

## 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