

# AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

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## **American Geographical Society Awards Alexander and Ilse Melamid Medal to Dr. Diana Liverman at Fall Symposium**

*Description: The Alexander and Ilse Melamid Medal, awarded by the American Geographical Society (AGS), is one of several prestigious honors given by the Society. Dr. Diana Liverman, Regents Professor of Geography and Development at the University of Arizona received the medal on November 17th, 2017 during the AGS Fall Symposium, "Geography 2050: The Future of Mobility", held at Columbia University.*

[New York City, NY] – [November 27, 2017] — In recognition of her distinguished work in human-environmental interactions and policy, the American Geographical Society (AGS) awarded the Alexander and Ilse Melamid Medal to Dr. Diana Liverman at the Society's Fall Symposium at Columbia University on November 17, 2017. Dr. Christopher Tucker, Chairman of AGS, Dr. Marie Price, President of AGS, and Dr. Deborah Popper, Vice President of AGS and Chair of its Honors and Awards Committee made the presentation.

The Melamid Medal recognizes "outstanding work on the dynamic relationship between the natural world and humans." Dr. Liverman has centered her work on humanity's most critical global challenge: to understand the dynamic of climate change and its impacts on everyone, especially those who are the most vulnerable.

Throughout her career, Dr. Liverman has combined the skills of the scientist and the humanist, raising the power of her work. She has worked to shape environmental and climate policies as an active member of national and international advisory committees on global change including the U.S. NAS Committee on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change and the Inter American Institute (IAI) for Global Change Research. In directing her doctoral students to explore local resilience strategies, she fosters research that offers concrete steps for constructive action and hope.

"Diana has been involved with a breathtaking number of initiatives on global climate change. The geographical perspective she brings to climate research adds the complexity of scale, and makes sure the analysis accounts for impacts on society from the most global to the most local levels." said Dr. Popper in a recent interview, "She has trained many people to continue the tradition of using geography to help understand larger patterns in the Earth's system and their effects on all of us, especially on the food security of the most vulnerable."

Dr. Liverman stated, "I am very honored and grateful to receive this award which is a wonderful recognition of the human-environment tradition of geography and its commitment to a more sustainable world. We are at a critical moment in the human relation to nature. Our activities increasingly affect the whole planet, with serious implications for future generations, today's economies, and livelihoods at greatest risk such as those of small islands and least developed countries."

The Alexander and Ilse Melamid Medal was established in 2002 through an endowed gift from Ms. Ilse Melamid, who also designed the medal. It rewards outstanding work on the dynamic relationship between the natural world and humans and was named after AGS Councilor Alexander Melamid. The AGS Fall Symposium is one of the most important and recognized geography/geospatial events in North America during the Fall Semester. Participants include CEOs and senior executives from preeminent geospatial companies along with leading experts and representatives from government, not-for-profits, and academia.

The American Geographical Society (AGS) 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 over 166 years. The mission of AGS is to advance and promote geography in business, government, science, and education. Our goal is to enhance the nation's geographic literacy so as to engender sound public policy, national security, and human well-being worldwide. AGS seeks to engage the American public, from its youngest to its oldest citizens, with new and amazing ways to understand and characterize our changing world. The Society maintains its headquarters in New York City.



*Pictured left to right: Dr. Marie Price (AGS President), Dr. Diana Liverman (Regents Professor of Geography, University of Arizona), and Dr. Christopher Tucker (AGS Chair).*

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