

# AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

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## The American Geographical Society Awards 2020 Council Fellowships

*Description: The American Geographical Society (AGS) announces the recipients of the 2020 AGS Council Fellowship.*

[New York City, NY] – [April 8, 2020] — The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced the recipients of the 2020 AGS Council Fellowships to support master's and doctoral research. Established in 2013, the Council Fellowships are valued at \$1,500.00 each. The recipients are Ms. Xochizeltzin Castaneda Camacho, a Ph.D. candidate at The University of Texas at Austin, Ms. Audrey Denvir, a Ph.D. candidate also at The University of Texas at Austin, Ms. Lauren Fritzsche, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Arizona and Ms. Jennifer Langill, a Ph.D. candidate at McGill University. Graduate students from universities across the United States and Canada are eligible for the Fellowships. A record number of applications were received this year. The winners were chosen by a selection committee of leading academics and business professionals on the AGS Council. AGS will recognize the Fellowship recipients at its annual Fall Symposium at Columbia University on November 19 and 20, 2020.

Ms. Xochizeltzin Castaneda Camacho will use the fellowship award to fund her Ph.D. research, *Changes in Forest Cover Patterns and Related Social Effects in Three Protected Areas of Arid Northern Mexico*. Upon receiving the scholarship, Ms. Castaneda Camacho said, "Based on the political ecology approach, I am investigating changes in vegetation cover and social composition in three Mexican Protected Areas in the Chihuahuan Desert. Deserts are understudied in comparison to the human tropics and the goal is to understand what is causing vegetation change and their implications. The AGS Council Fellowship award will help me to develop the 2020 summer fieldwork."

Ms. Audrey Denvir's award will allow her to complete her study with the research titled, *Avocados Become a Global Commodity: Consequences for Landscapes and People*. When asked about her research, Ms. Denvir noted, "My research investigates human-environmental systems of global commodity production, specifically avocados in Michoacan, Mexico, and how they impact local forests and people."

Ms. Lauren Fritzsche's fellowship will allow her to advance her dissertation research, *Geographies of Exclusion and Belonging: Refugee Resettlement in the United States*. "I am honored to receive the AGS Council Fellowship", said Ms. Fritzsche. "This award will contribute toward my dissertation research in Montana and Louisiana where I examine how changing national refugee policies impact local resettlement practices and the experiences of refugees", she added.

Ms. Jennifer Langill will use the fellowship funds to support part of her initial fieldwork for her project titled, *From Opium to Oranges: Intergenerational Livelihood Change in a Hmong Village in Northern Thailand*. Ms. Langill stated, "I am extremely grateful to AGS for their support. The Council Fellowship will greatly benefit my dissertation fieldwork in Thailand, where I am researching gendered, generational, and ethnic implications of livelihood changes for highland Hmong populations."

"Members of the American Geographical Society have always believed that exploration and discovery are at the very heart of our discipline," 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. We look forward to reading about their discoveries, and hopefully the award recipients will publish in future issues of the *Geographical Review* or *Focus on Geography*."

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 169 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 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.



**Ms. Xochizeltzin Castaneda Camacho**  
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**Ms. Lauren Fritzsche**  
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