

ELANE WESTFAUL

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EDUCATION

PhD	The University of California, Irvine, Political Science Subfields: International Relations; Feminist Methods Dissertation: "Prayer in the Pluriverse: resisting extractivism across worlds" <i>Interests:</i> Environmental justice, religion and spirituality, anti-colonial thought, pluriversal thought, ethics, methods, social movements	expected 2025
MA	The University of Memphis, Political Science Subfields: International Relations/Comparative Politics; Political Theory Thesis: "Eco-terror? Exploring conceptualizations of violence in environmental activism"	May 2020
BA	Mississippi University for Women, Psychology Minor: Women's Studies	May 2018

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Finalist, Charlotte W. Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship	2024-2025
Fellow, UC Humanities Research Initiative Climate Action Training	Summer 2024
Research grant, Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies	Summer 2022, Spring 2024
Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation Summer Fellow	2022
Travel grant, International Studies Association	2024
Summer research grant, The University of California, Irvine	2021
Outstanding Women's Studies Student, Mississippi University for Women	2017
Whitfield Award, Mississippi University for Women	

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

65th Annual International Studies Association Conference	April 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Faith work: prayer and care as embodied resistance to extractivism"• "Expanding Methodologies, Accounting for Complexity" roundtable	
12th Annual International Feminist Journal of Politics Conference	September 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Faith work: prayer and care as embodied resistance to extractivism"	
International Studies Association Western Conference	September 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Faith work: prayer as embodied resistance to extractivism"• "Expanding Methodologies, Accounting for Complexity" roundtable• "Relationality and Pluriversality: An Approximation" roundtable	
Gregynog Ideas Lab	Summer 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gregynog Ideas Lab is an annual workshop which hosts scholars interested in critical and creative writing methods in Newtown, Wales.	
International Studies Association Annual Conference (<i>declined</i>)	Spring 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Land defenders or terrorists? Securitized frames of environmental resistance"	
9th Annual International Feminist Journal of Politics Conference	March 2020

- “Eco-terror? Exploring conceptualizations of violence in environmental resistance”

International Studies Association Midsouth Conference October 2019

- “Eco-terror and settler sovereignty”

12th Annual Creative Arts Festival, Jackson State University Spring 2018

- “Wedding of the Classes at Mississippi State College for Women”

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher May 2022; Summer 2023

Dr. Cecelia Lynch, The University of California, Irvine

- Contributed to research on the relationship between religion and environmentalism in Africa for potential grant opportunities
- Aided in the publication process of edited volume

Graduate Research Assistant August 2018 to May 2020

Dr. Nicole Detraz, The University of Memphis

- Aided in research tasks such as qualitative coding and transcribing interviews for *Women and Climate Change: Examining Discourses from the Global North* (MIT Press, 2023)

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Instructor, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona August 2023- present

Teaching Assistant, The University of California, Irvine September 2020- present

Graduate Research Assistant, The University of Memphis August 2018 to May 2020

Writing Center Tutor, Mississippi University for Women Spring 2018

PUBLICATIONS

“Pluriversalizing Prayer: Epistemologies of Resistance to Extractivism”, eds: Marcos Scauso and Gabriella Colello, forthcoming. In *Indominable Others and Liberal Violence: Critique, Contestation, and Resistance in Global Politics*. Bristol University Press.

“Feminist methodologies” in *SAGE International Encyclopedia of Politics and Gender*, ed. Cynthia Stavrianos, forthcoming.

“Wedding of the Classes,” *Merge*, vol. 2, Mississippi University for Women: spring 2018.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Podcast Guest, “Proofing and Lies: White Chocolate Flower Cake and Climate Activism and Repression with Elane Westfaul” (October 4, 2021)

Balbi, Clara. “Ecoativistas na Europa trocam sopa e purê por tinta e atraem ira das autoridades.” *Folha de S.Paulo*, June 13, 2023, sec. Mundo. <https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/mundo/2023/06/ecoativistas-na-europa-trocam-sopa-e-pure-por-tinta-e-atraem-ira-das-autoridades.shtml>.

UNIVERSITY INVOLVEMENT

Co-Organizer, “Worlding Beyond the West” International Relations Working Group 2023-2024
University of California, Irvine

Graduate Social Coordinator, University of California, Irvine 2021-2022

Study Abroad entitled “Conservation, Culture, and Environmental Change” 2020

- Conservation program based in Utila Bay, Honduras, organized by the Anthropology department at the University of Memphis; accepted and cancelled due to COVID-19

COURSES TAUGHT AS LEAD INSTRUCTOR

Research Methods in Political Science Fall 2023
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Environmental Political Theory Spring 2024
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

INSTRUCTIONAL TEAMS AIDED AS A TEACHING ASSISTANT

Introduction to International Relations Fall 2021, 2022; Winter 2022; Spring 2023; Winter 2024

People in Society Fall 2023

Approaches to Peacebuilding Winter 2023

Personality Theory Spring 2022

Sexuality and Politics Spring 2021

Introduction to Law Fall 2020, Spring 2024

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Cecelia Lynch, Professor
Department of Political Science
The University of California, Irvine
Email: clynch@uci.edu

Erin Lockwood, Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science
The University of California, Irvine
Email: eklockwo@uci.edu

John Gamber, Associate Professor
Department of Comparative Literature
The University of California, Irvine
Email: jgamber@uci.edu