

Geography Department, Clark University
950 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01610

Phone: 703 927 6792
Email: lsauls@clarku.edu
Skype: lasauls

EDUCATION

- 2014-present **PhD in Geography**, Graduate School of Geography, Clark University (Worcester MA, USA)
PhD (expected 2019) on the Human-Environment track focusing on concepts of development and natural resource governance in Latin America. Specific areas of interest include forest policy, indigenous peoples and territory, social movements, and extractive industries. (Advisor: Prof. Anthony J. Bebbington)
- 2013-2014 **Graduate Certificate – Geographic Information Systems**, College of William & Mary (Washington DC, USA)
Professional post-graduate certificate focusing on analytical cartography and spatial analysis related to relevant environment and development policy issues.
- 2007-2009 **MPhil Development Studies**, University of Oxford (Oxford, UK)
Thesis: *Creating Space for Conservation and Development: The Global Environment Facility, Non-Governmental and Community-Based Organisations, and Biodiversity in the Dominican Republic* (Advisor: Dr. Diego Sanchez-Ancochea)
- 2003-2007 **B.A. International Relations & Environmental Science/Policy** (*summa cum laude*), College of William & Mary (Williamsburg VA, USA)
Honors Thesis: *Green Aid Meets Grassroots Development: Explaining Environmental Aid Flows to Central America since the Rio Earth Summit* (Advisor: Prof. Michael J. Tierney)
High Honors in International Relations, 2007 Award for Academic Excellence in Environmental Policy; Organization for Tropical Studies/Duke University Semester Study Abroad Program, Costa Rica (tropical ecology and conservation)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2014- present **Research and Teaching Assistant**, Clark University Graduate School of Geography (Worcester, MA)
Fall 2016: Research Assistant (Prof. Anthony Bebbington) on extractive industries and deforestation projects
Summer 2016: Research Assistant (Prof. Cythia Caron and Prof. Denise Bebbington) on gender and access to forest resources
Spring 2016: Teaching Assistant (Prof. Karen Frey) – The Climate System and Global Climate Change (GEOG 263/363)
Fall 2015: Teaching Assistant (Dr. Kathryn Meng) – Introduction to Quantitative Methods (GEOG 110/311)
Spring 2015: Research Assistant (Prof. Anthony Bebbington) on a global comparative study of the socio-economic impacts of extractive industries
Fall 2014: Teaching Assistant (Dr. Emily Gallagher) – Introduction to Environmental Information Systems (GEOG 087)
- 2015- present **Research Consultant**, PRISMA (San Salvador, El Salvador)
Undertake research, draft manuscripts, and help organize relevant events for this Central America-focused research non-profit in initiatives related to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) programming and other

environmental finance proposals in the region. Accompany research staff on fieldwork in the region. This position links to ongoing work as a PhD student.

- 2012-14 ***International Environmental Program Specialist***, Office of Global Affairs & Policy, Office of International & Tribal Affairs (OITA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (Washington DC)
Represented the U.S. on the Arctic Council Task Force for Action on Black Carbon and Methane. Coordinated international Arctic policy and project activities for EPA, including preparing position papers and external communications for senior officials. Managed projects and policy development on black carbon, Arctic contaminants, knowledge sharing, sustainable supply chains, and elements of the post-Rio+20 process.
- 2011-12 ***Special Advisor on Urban Sustainability***, Office of the Assistant Administrator, OITA, U.S. EPA, (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Washington DC)
Established EPA presence in Rio de Janeiro to support the development of the U.S.-Brazil Joint Initiative on Urban Sustainability (JIUS). Collaborated with Brazilian government, private sector, and non-profit stakeholders on improving environmental, climate, social, economic, and health outcomes from investment for the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics. Supported U.S. Consulate General – Rio de Janeiro interests related to environment, climate change, and Rio+20 negotiations.
- 2009-11 ***Presidential Management Fellow***, Office of Global Affairs & Policy, OITA, U.S. EPA (Washington DC)
Received this two-year U.S. Government fellowship to introduce select recent graduates to public service. Served on the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), supported interagency and international action on climate change, and represented EPA on the White House Council on Environmental Quality Climate Change Adaptation Task Force.

AWARDS and RESEARCH FUNDING

- Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship – for Miskitu Language study in Nicaragua, \$7500 (2016)
- Inter-American Foundation (IAF) Grassroots Development Dissertation Fellowship, \$20,125 (2016-17)
- Latin America Specialty Group (LASG) Field Study Award, American Association of Geographers (AAG) annual meeting, \$1000 (2016)
- LASG Best Co-Authored Paper Award, AAG annual meeting, \$200 (2016)
- Holzhauer Fund Enhancement Award, \$3500 (2014)
- Teaching and Research Assistantship, Clark University, \$17,000 (2014-present, annually)
- Queen Elizabeth House Travel Fund, University of Oxford, £500 (2008)
- St Cross Travel and Research Fund, University of Oxford, £400 (2008)
- Phi Mu Foundation Magic Carpet Scholarship, \$500 (2008)

SELECTED LEADERSHIP and SERVICE

- Co-Representative of the Clark University Geographical Society (PhD Student Association), Clark University Graduate School of Geography (Dec. 2015-present)
- Co-President of the Graduate Student Council, Clark University (2015-2016)
- Co-Chair, St Cross College Colloquia, University of Oxford (2008-2009)
- MPhil Course Representative, Queen Elizabeth House Department of International Development, University of Oxford (2007-2009)
- Library and Academic Committees Student Representative, St Cross College (2008-2009)
- Re-founding Board Member and Copy Editor, *The Monitor: Journal of International Studies*, College of William & Mary (2006-2007)

PUBLICATIONS and PRESENTATIONS

Presentation: Mitigation, conservation, and territorial autonomy: examining emerging institutional frameworks for REDD+ in Mesoamerica (with Andrew Davis and Susan Kandel). Latin American Studies Association. May 2016, New York, NY.

Presentation: Mitigation, land rights, and territorial autonomy: examining emerging institutional frameworks for REDD+ in Mesoamerica (with Andrew Davis and Susan Kandel). AAG. April 2016, San Francisco, CA.

Davis, Andrew, Susan Kandel, Fausto Luna, and **Laura Sauls**. Rights-based governance: Experiences of territorial authorities in Mesoamerica. October 2015. Report available in English and Spanish at: <http://www.prisma.org.sv/index.php?id=131>.

Presentation: Capturing Benefits, Neutralizing Threats, Promoting Alternative Visions: The Mobilization of Indigenous Peoples and Forest-dependent Communities around REDD+ in Mesoamerica (with Denise Humphreys Bebbington and Cynthia Caron). LandAC Conference. July 2015, Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Presentation: Rio+20 and Sustainable Development: U.S. Policy and Urban Environments since 1992. Guest Lecture, Kenyon College "Politics of Development" (PSCI 342, Professor Nancy R. Powers), December 2011, Gambier, OH, USA and Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil (via Skype).

Food, Fuel, and Biodiversity: The Role of Agricultural Transition in Influencing Biodiversity. 2007. *The Monitor: Journal of International Studies* 12(2): 21-31.

SKILLS AND AFFILIATIONS

Languages: Spanish (fluent), Portuguese (intermediate), French (intermediate), Miskitu (beginner)

Computer: ArcGIS 10.x, Idrisi, Stata, R-studio, Microsoft Office Suite

Affiliations: American Association of Geographers, Conference of Latin American Geographers, Latin American Studies Association, Society for Conservation GIS