



APRIL/MAY NEWSLETTER 2021

Issue 6

MACALESTER GEOGRAPHY

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A (last) letter from your GTU co-Presidents:

Greetings Mac Geographers!

It's been quite a year and we have thoroughly enjoyed being your GTU co-Presidents-- drawn close by your care and engagement despite the physical distance between us all. Since our election in September, we've been honored to represent students of the department and connect our community, even in isolation. Even without bowling or button-making, fun dinners or field trips, we've still managed to find joy in each other's company and embrace our shared interests.

As our time in these roles is coming to an end, we wanted to take a moment to reflect and offer gratitude. Principally, we want to thank Department Coordinator Laura Kigin and Chapter Advisor Laura Smith. Whether it's been navigating and promptly responding in countless long email chains, providing logistical and emotional support as we've adjusted to these roles in our new pandemic reality, or giving us grace when we've encountered difficulties and stress along the way, they have both been steadfast in their support of our goals and development in these roles and we couldn't be more thankful for that.

We also want to thank the geography faculty for their support this year. While their level of care, thoughtfulness, and concern shouldn't surprise anyone, we got a front row seat to this over the course of the year. Always looking for feedback and insight from our perspectives, we appreciate the strong sentiment around student well-being that exists in this group, especially during a historically trying academic year.

Finally, we want to thank all of our fellow students for engaging with us over the last seven months. From joining us for tea and trivia or reading our newsletters and attending MUGS this past weekend, we're happy to have had some fun and grown a little closer, despite not being together in-person. The breadth of interests, stimulating personalities, and collaborative culture that define Macalester Geographers are what make this department so truly special. We look forward to watching the department grow as alumni in the years to come.

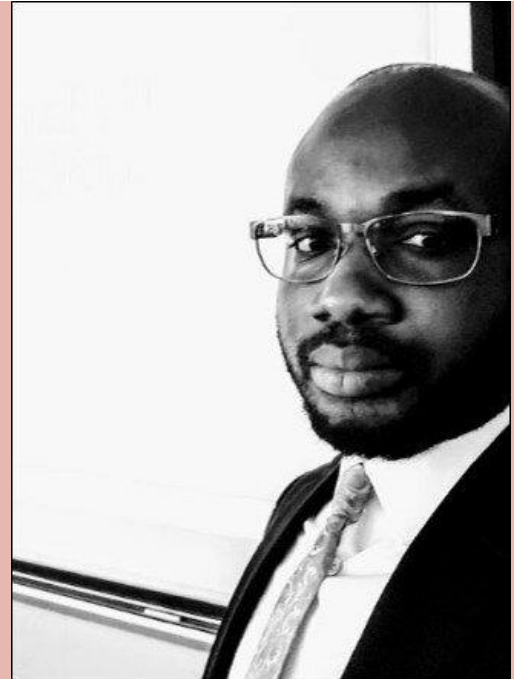
Best wishes,
Anisha and Jim



Department Announcements!

Introducing **Professor Kwame Adovor Tsikudo**, joining us for 2021-2022!

[Dr. Kwame Adovor Tsikudo](#) will be a visiting assistant professor in the geography department next year. Kwame garnered his PhD at the UMN with Dr. Abdi Samatar (examining the environmental, socio-cultural, and politico-economic dimensions of the China-sponsored Bui Dam in Ghana) and is looking forward to returning to the Twin Cities after a year of teaching at the University of Illinois.

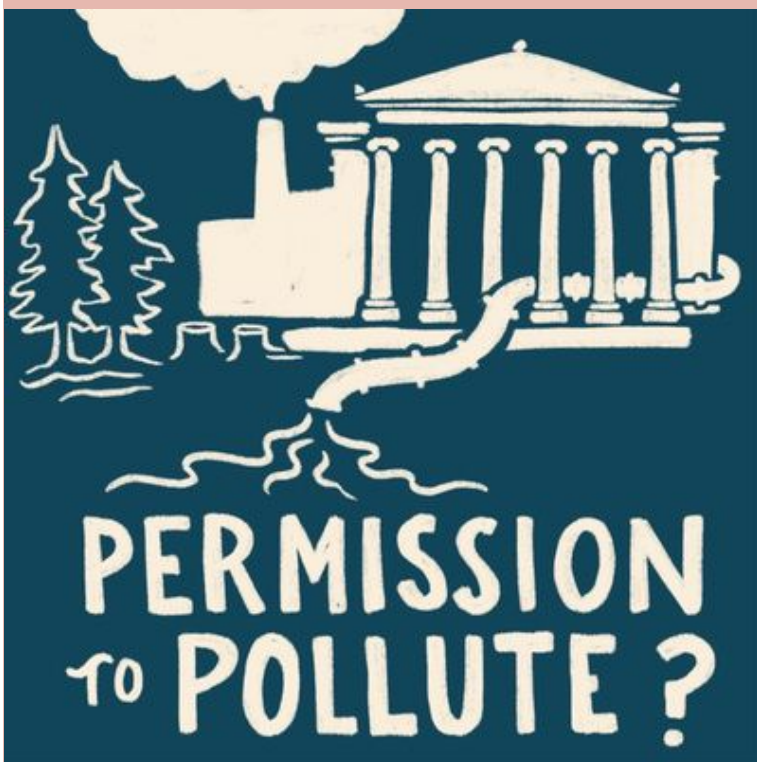


Professor Bill Moseley is pleased to announce that he was awarded a visiting scientist fellowship at the University of Montpellier (France) for the fall 2021 semester. During his sabbatical, Professor Moseley plans to work on a book project, tentatively entitled *A Geographic Revolution: Prioritizing Food Access and Agroecology in African Development*.

Updates from **Professor Eric Carter**:

Students in **Medical Geography (GEOG-256)** are finishing up a great class project, the COVID-19 pandemic oral history project, which will be part of the College Archive. We will end up with about 75 oral history interviews, mostly with members of the Macalester community, as a chronicle of this unprecedented year. In **Health GIS (GEOG-368)**, students are finishing up their group project Story Maps, covering a wide array of public health topics. Look for more information about all these projects, soon.

I also want to send a special thanks to all the students, faculty, and staff who have helped us manage learning during this complicated and difficult time of the last 14 months or so. Congratulations especially to all the graduating seniors for persevering through so many challenges.



Graduating senior **Likhwa Ndlovu '21** has created a podcast about Line 3!

“Permission to Pollute explores the structural deficiencies of the environmental regulatory process. This podcast series will discuss the social, environmental and economic politics of permitting Enbridge's Line 3 replacement project in Minnesota, USA.”

This work has expanded out of Likhwa's Geography capstone project. Check it out here:

<https://anchor.fm/permission-to-pollute>

Reminders for 2021 Grads:

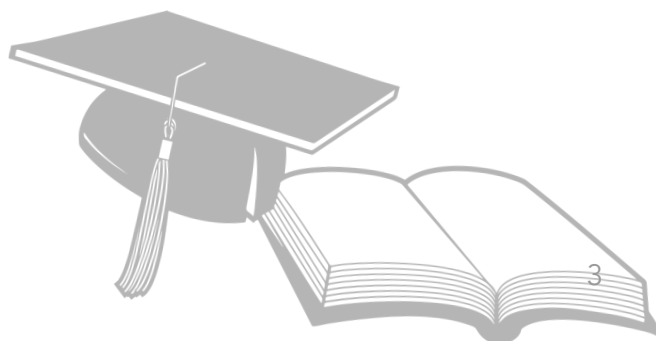
- 1) Complete the RSVP for the Virtual Geography Reception for Grads & Families on Friday, May 14th, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm (CST). Pre-registration is required for all attendees (make sure to share this information with your families):

<https://forms.gle/vmfzkmtAqbi2fbCHA>

- 2) Email Laura Kigin (kigin@macalester.edu) to confirm your attendance at the Geography Senior Social on Wednesday, May 12th, 4:30pm - 5:30 pm.

- 3) Complete the "After Macalester Contact Information Form":

<https://forms.gle/ChWM3BFHLcx dgVYXA>



For 2021 Grads:



YOU'RE INVITED

GEOGRAPHY SENIOR SOCIAL

May 12th - 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

372 S Macalester Street
Professor Moseley's Backyard

RSVP to kigin@macalester.edu

GEOGRAPHY VIRTUAL RECEPTION FOR GRADS & FAMILIES

May 14th - 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Register to receive the Zoom link

<https://forms.gle/KbyopCxHPwe9NMJx8>

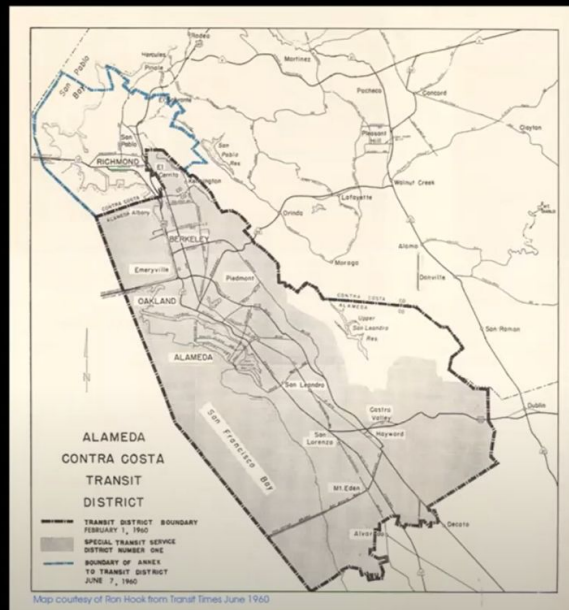
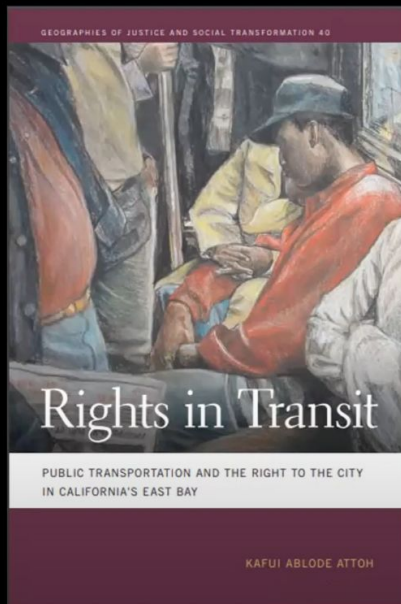


Geography Speaker Series Wrap-Up

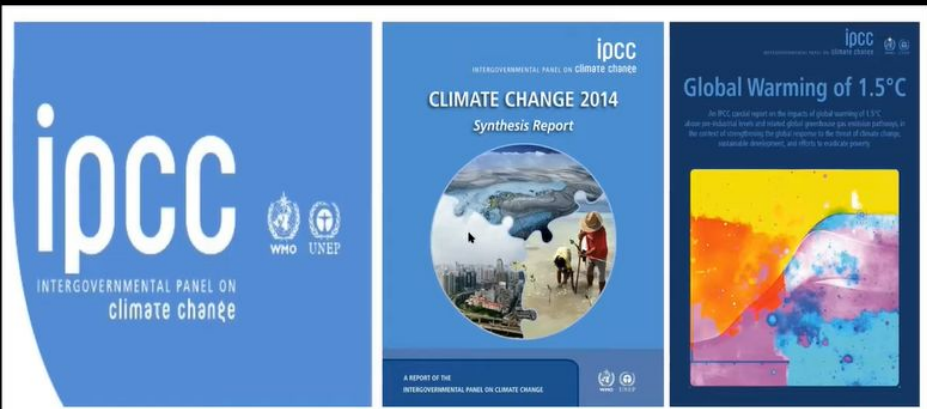
This year, the Macalester Geography Department put on a speaker series to highlight young scholars working on socially relevant issues at the forefront of our society. A big thank you to the organizing faculty and staff in our department for all their coordinating efforts and to all of you participated!

Recaps from the final three speakers are presented below and if you were unable to attend the talks, recordings can be accessed on our [website](#).

March and April Lectures:



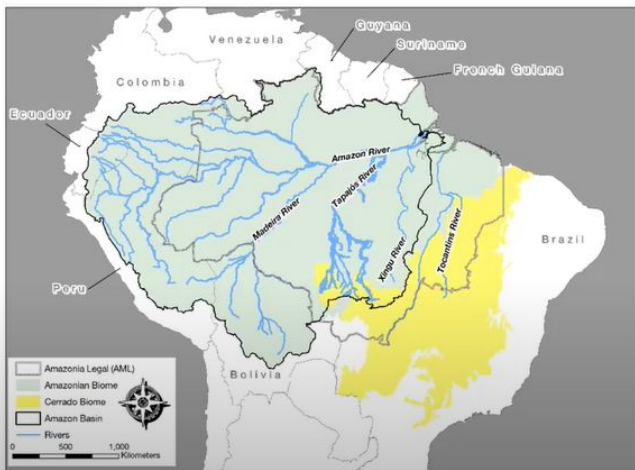
On March 24th, Professor [Kafui Attoh](#) '06 from City University of New York, CUNY School of Professional Studies presented a talk titled "Public Transportation and the Right to the City" Access a recording of Kafui's talk [here!](#)



IPCC Assessment Reports (AR5) and 1.5°C

On April 1st, Professor [Hanson Nyantakyi-Frimpong](#) from the University of Denver gave a talk titled "Farming the Floodplain: Gendered Surplus People and Maladaptation to Climate Extremes in Northern Ghana." This talk was co-sponsored by the Food Agriculture & Society Program, Geography Dept, Environmental Studies Dept, Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies Dept, African Studies Program and International Development Program. Access a recording of the presentation [here!](#)

Terminology



WHICH AMAZON?

- Hydrological
- Political
- Ecological

Brazil: 8,511,000 km²
 US: 8,080,000 km²
 (48 states)

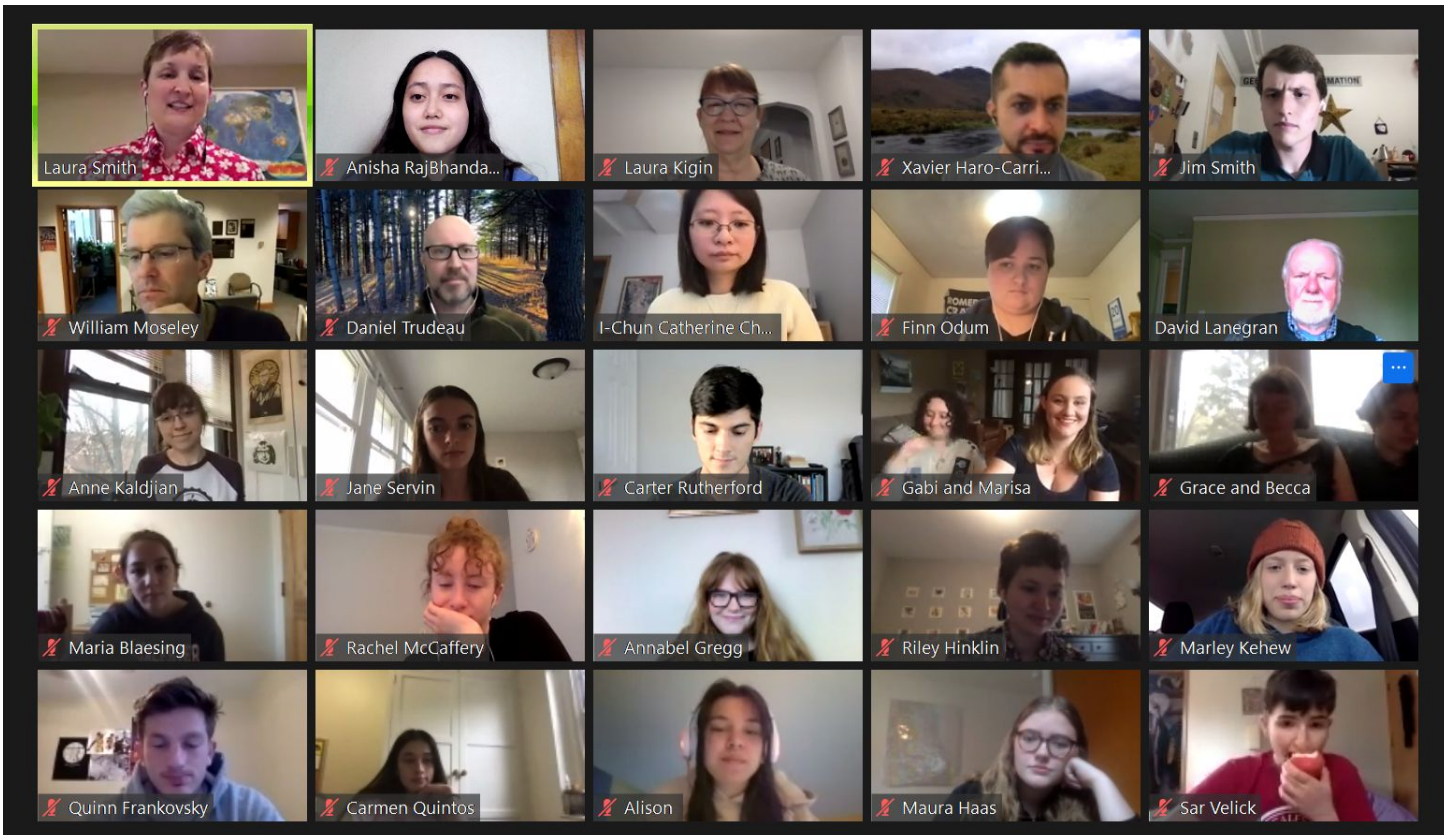
Amazon Basin
 6,300,000 km²
 7,050,000 km² + Tocantins

Amazonian Biome (= The Forest)
 5,500,000 km²
 4,100,000 km² in Brazil



On April 5th, co-sponsored with the Latin American Department, the Macalester Geography Department hosted a talk by Professor [Robert T. Walker](#) from the Department of Latin American Studies & Department of Geography at the University of Florida. The talk was titled "Avoiding Amazonian Catastrophes in the 21st Century." Access the recording of the presentation [here!](#)

Geography Spring Social Recap



Thanks to all who attended the Geography Spring Social on 4/26!

On Monday April 26th, the Geography Department held our end-of-year departmental social! At the event, Professor Kwame Adovor Tsikudo (who will be joining us next year!) was introduced, new GTU members were initiated, next year's GTU co-presidents were announced, and Geography Honors and Awards were presented. Thank you to everyone who came! Check out the next few pages for more details on new GTU inductees and honors & awards.

2020-2021 Honors & Awards

Geography Department Award Recipients!

Hildegard Binder Johnson Prize in Geography Recipients

The Hildegard Binder Johnson award is named after the distinguished founder of our department and is presented to academically outstanding junior geography majors. This award comes with a certificate and a \$200 cash prize.

Karson Hegrenes

Gabrielle Isaac-Herzog

Grace Jones

Marley Kehew

David A. Lanegran Award Recipients

*The David A. Lanegran Award is named after our department's beloved longest-serving faculty member and is presented annually to senior geography majors in recognition of their significant contributions to the **community life** of the department. This award comes with a certificate and a book that the faculty have specially chosen and signed for each student given their individual passions.*

Margaret Jaenicke - "Life in Oil" by Michael Cepek

Finn Odum - "Milwaukee Then and Now" by Sandra Ackerman

Anisha RajBhandary - "The Making of Asian America: A History" by Erika Lee

Jane Servin - "French Beans and Food Scares" by Suanne Freidberg

Jim Smith - "Hearing Birds Fly: A Nomadic Year in Mongolia" by Louis Waugh

Macalester Geography Award for Excellence in Scholarship Recipient

The Award for Excellence of Scholarship is awarded annually to an outstanding senior majoring in geography. Criteria used in identifying nominees include: academic performance, GTU membership and participation, departmental service, dedication, and enthusiasm. This award comes with a certificate and a \$200 cash prize.

Anisha RajBhandary

Geography Majors That Received Community Recognition Awards

Presidential Leadership Award for Outstanding Seniors

This award recognizes seniors for their scholarship and outstanding contributions to the Macalester community throughout their college careers. To be considered for this award, a student must: (1) Be a member of the senior class in good academic standing (GPA of 3.3 is required); (2) Have a history of significant contributions in a variety of areas of campus life throughout their career at Macalester College; (3) Have been a positive role model at Macalester College; (4) Have worked to promote one or more of the core values of the college (i.e. internationalism, multiculturalism, or service)

Likhwa Sifiso Ndlovu '21

Hamre Award

The Hamre Award, named for Laurie Hamre, former Macalester Vice President for Student Affairs, is presented annually to at least one member of each class. The award honors students who live out the mission of the college not only by promoting one or more of Macalester's stated values, but also by demonstrating a genuine love of the community through service to the college. To be considered for this award, a student must: (1) Have demonstrated efforts to promote college values during the current academic year; (2) Be enrolled full-time at Macalester College; (3) Be in good academic standing (minimum GPA of 2.7)

Alison Bautista '21

Servant-Leader Award

The Servant-Leader Award recognizes those whose actions are congruent with their values, and who thus inspire others to develop their own leadership potential. Servant leaders exhibit outstanding leadership skills and often serve as guide or facilitator. They listen intently, demonstrate compassion and maintain a sense of ethics and humility.

Jim Smith '21

MUGS in Review

Thanks to all who participated in [MUGS 2021](#) on Saturday, April 24th! By the numbers, the conference featured....

46 STUDENT PRESENTERS from

7 INSTITUTIONS and

>100 TOTAL ATTENDEES!



ST. CATHERINE
UNIVERSITY



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



GUSTAVUS 
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY OF
St. Thomas



Laura Smith welcomes fellow geographers from across the midwest to MUGS 2021!

Polluted Parishes: Narrating Illness and Industry in Louisiana's Petrochemical Corridor

Grace Armon
Macalester College
aarmon@macalester.edu



Grace Armon '22 and Finn Odum '21 were among the Macalester students who presented at MUGS this year!

COVID-19 and the Right to Information for Indigenous Peoples in Arica and Parinacota

Finn Odum - Macalester College, SIT Arica



Geography Honors Projects

This past month, all four Geography honors students successfully presented and defended their theses! Each of the Geography honors projects are now available on [Macalester Digital Commons](#)!

“Pulling the Food System Up by the Roots: How do we build an equitable food system in the Twin Cities?”

Aubrey Hagen, Macalester College

“COVID conspiracy narratives: Dissecting the origins of misinformation in digital space”

Finn Odum, Macalester College

“Hmong in the Twin Cities: Diaspora Experiences and Personal Identities”

Anisha RajBhandary, Macalester College

“The Hidden Safety Net: Wild and Semi-wild Plant Consumption and Nutrition Among Women Farmers in Southwestern Burkina Faso”

Jane Servin, Macalester College



GEOG 341 Last Day Photo Shoot

Professor Dan Trudeau's City Life course wrapped up Module 4 with an interpretative photo shoot -- in which 'City Life' was skillfully spelled out!



A year of change for Carnegie Hall..

You may have noticed that our cover photos for these newsletters were always current photos of our (sadly empty!) Carnegie Hall home. Here they are all together, throughout a year (October-May) of much change, both seasonal and otherwise:





February



March



April/May