

ARIEL OTRUBA, PHD

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EDUCATION

2019	Rutgers University , PhD in Geography
2012	Arcadia University , MA in International Peace and Conflict Resolution (Distinction)
2009	Juniata College , BA in Peace and Conflict Studies (Cum Laude and Honors Distinction)

TEACHING

Arcadia University Glenside, Pennsylvania

2022-24 **Historical and Political Studies (HAPS) Department Adjunct Professor**
Graduate courses: Introduction to Peace and Conflict Resolution; Territory and Conflict; and Geographies of Displacement in Georgia (Global Field Study)

Moravian University Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

2022-23 **InFocus War and Peace Scholar in Residence**
Undergraduate courses: Conflict Transformation; World Geography and Global Issues (Online, Asynchronous); and Reel Power: War, Crisis, and Popular Geopolitics

2020-22 **Interdisciplinary Studies Department Adjunct Professor**
Undergraduate courses: World Geography and Global Issues (Online, Asynchronous)

2019-20 **Sociology and Anthropology Department Visiting Assistant Professor**
Undergraduate courses: Power and Conflict; Migration; Basic Research Methods, Advanced Research in Anthropology; and World Geography and Global Issues

Rutgers University New Brunswick, New Jersey

Spring 2022 **Department of Geography Part-Time Lecturer**
Undergraduate courses: Eastern Europe and Eurasia

2012-19 **Department of Geography Part-Time Lecturer and Teaching Assistant (Instructor of Record)**
Undergraduate courses: Human Geography: Space, Place, and Location (Online/Winter and Summer Sessions); World Cultural Regions; Eastern Europe and Eurasia; and Political Geography

Summer 2015 **School of Engineering Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Summer Institute Writing Instructor**
Undergraduate courses: EOF Writing C

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Virginia Tech Blacksburg, Virginia

2023-Present **Institute for Policy and Governance Non-Resident Research Associate**

Educational Testing Services (ETS)Cincinnati, Ohio

2016-22 **Advanced Placement Human Geography Reader**

Rutgers UniversityNew Brunswick, New Jersey

2016-19 **Rutgers Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (RASTL) Graduate Fellow**Summer 2019 **Department of Geography Graduate Assistant**Summer 2015 **Center for European Studies Graduate Assistant**

Arcadia UniversityGlenside, Pennsylvania

2010-12 **International Peace and Conflict Resolution Graduate Assistant and “Engaging Peace” Conference Organizer**

The Peace CenterLanghorne, Pennsylvania

2010-12 **Paul Zimmerman Intern**

Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) Cyprus CenterNicosia, Cyprus

Fall 2011 **International Peace Research Intern**

European Union (EU) / Irish College LeuvenBrussels, Belgium

Spring 2008 **European Parliament Intern for the Office of Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Zbigniew Zaleski of Poland.**

PUBLICATIONS

Referred Journals

Isaacs, Jenny R, and **Ariel Otruba**. 2019. “Guest Introduction: More-than-Human Contact Zones.” *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space* (Print) 2 (4): 697–711.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/2514848619855369>.

Book Chapters

Otruba, Ariel. 2022. “No (Wo)Man’s Land: Risking Detention along the South Ossetian Administrative Boundary Line.” In Diener, A.C., and Hagen, J. (Eds.) *Invisible Borders in a Bordered World: Power, Mobility, and Belonging*, 1st ed., 1:25–40. Routledge.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429352515-3>.

Isaacs, Jenny R, and Ariel Otruba. 2021. “Animality/Coloniality: COVID-19 and the Animal Question.” In Hovorka, A.J., McCubbin, Van Patter, L. (Eds.), *A Research Agenda for Animal Geographies*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. ISBN: 978 1 78897 998 6

Khabbaz, Tashina L., Ariel Otruba, and Heather Evans. 2021. “Black Bodies and the Role of Schools in Sex Trafficking Prevention.” In English, F. (Ed.) *The Palgrave Handbook of Educational Leadership and Management Discourse*, 1339–56. Cham: Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-99097-8_113.

Manuscripts Under Review or Commissioned

Otruba, Ariel, Max O. Stephenson Jr., and Yannis Stivachtis (Eds). *Violent Infrastructure: Protracted Displacement and Housing (In)Justice in the South Caucasus and Beyond*. Virginia Tech Publishing.

Otruba, Ariel. “Queering Veganism: Food Nationalism as a New Frontier of Anti-Genderism in Georgia.” In Fábíán, K. (Ed.) *The War on Gender and The Gender of War in Central and Eastern Europe*. Lexington Books.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Otruba, Ariel. *Decay as Slow Violence: Emotional Ecologies of Humiliation, Fear, and Escape in Georgia’s Abandoned Soviet Spas*.

Otruba, Ariel, Nino Dzotsenidze, Mariam Orjonikidze, and Natia Kekenadze. *Careless Infrastructures of Resettlement*.

Otruba, Ariel. *Borderization from the Frontlines: Uncertainty and Abandonment in the Space between War and Peace*.

Otruba, Ariel, and Jesse Swann-Quinn. *Uncertain Ecologies*.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2023	Honoraria for Lectures and Workshops Program Fellow, Proposal Titled: “Capturing the South Caucasus with Photovoice” from the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC)
2022	Research Fellowship, Project Titled: “Ecologies of Care and the Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Tskaltubo,” from the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC)
2021	Junior Research Fellowship, Project Titled: “Geographies of Slow Violence and Displacement in Georgian’s Abandoned Soviet Spas,” from the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC)
2016-17	Seminar Fellowship for the Rutgers University Institute for Research on Women (IRW) “Feminist In/Security: Vulnerability, Securitization, and States of Crisis”

2016	Graduate Fellowship, Project Titled: “The Elastic Geography of the South Ossetian Administrative Boundary Line: A Study of the Lived Geopolitics of Borderization and Creeping Occupation in Georgia,” from the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC)
2015	Field Research Travel Award from Eurasian Specialty Group (formerly RCEE) of the American Association of Geographers (AAG)
2014-15	Excellence Fellowship from the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) at Rutgers University
2014	Pre-Dissertation Travel Award from the Graduate School of New Brunswick (School of Graduate Studies) at Rutgers University
2014	Graduate Teaching Excellence Award for the Rutgers University Department of Geography
2012	Alpha Epsilon Delta (Honor Society for Academic Excellence) at Arcadia University
2012	Graduate Dean’s Distinguished Honor List at Arcadia University
2010-12	International Peace and Conflict Resolution Scholarship at Arcadia University

EXHIBITION CURATION

Violent Infrastructure: Ecologies of Decay and Displacement (Traveling Photovoice Exhibition)

Spring 2024	Arcadia University at the Landman Library in Glenside, Pennsylvania
December 2023	Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Fall 2023	Virginia Tech at the Athenaeum in the Newman Library in Blacksburg, Virginia
Summer 2023	Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC) Conference, “New Frontiers: The South Caucasus Amidst New Challenges,” at the Hilton Garden Inn in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia
Fall 2022	Moravian University at the H. Paty Eiffe Gallery in the Hauptert Union Building (HUB) in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Summer 2022	Pop Up Display at Mziuri Park and Batumi Boulevard in Tbilisi and Batumi, Republic of Georgia

PEER EDUCATION WORKSHOP DESIGN AND FACILITATION

Research Methods Workshops

October 2023	Photovoice Workshop at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia
September 2023	Capturing the South Caucasus with Photovoice for the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC) by Zoom
June 2023	Empowering Research Subjects with Photovoice in the South Caucasus for the 9th Annual Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC) Conference, “New Frontiers: The South Caucasus Amidst New Challenges,” in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia

Moravian UniversityBethlehem, Pennsylvania

- March 2023 **Navigating Conflict: Appreciative Inquiry**
- February 2023 **Navigating Conflict: Dialogue**
- October 2022 **Navigating Conflict: Active and Reflective Listening**
- September 2022 **Navigating Conflict: Perspectives on Conflict**
- June 2020 **Active and Engaged Learning in the “New Normal”: Part 1: Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement: Online, Hybrid, and Hyflex Learning and Part 2: Constructing Engaging and Transformative Online, Hybrid and Hyflex Learning Experiences for the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC)**
- October 2019 **Recognizing Your Teaching as Scholarly Work for Teaching and Learning Center’s (TLC) “New Voices in Faculty Development: Pedagogy, SoTL, and Beyond”**

Valley Against Sex Trafficking (VAST)Allentown, Pennsylvania

- November 2023 **Overview and Signs of Human Trafficking for Star Community Health in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania**
- March 2022 **Overview and Signs of Human Trafficking for DeSales University in Center Valley, Pennsylvania**
- March 2022 **Overview and Signs of Human Trafficking for Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy Human Rights Conference in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania**
- August 2021 **Overview and Signs of Human Trafficking for Agora Cyber Charter School by Microsoft Teams (Online)**
- June 2020 **Zoom to Zoom for the Speakers’ Bureau Train the Trainer Workshop Series**
- March 2020 **Human Trafficking Prevention for Freemansburg Elementary School, Bethlehem Area School District in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania**
- August 2019 **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Human Trafficking: What You Need to Know! for Northeast Middle School, Bethlehem Area School District in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania (B-Flex/Act 48 Workshop)**
- July 2019 **Human Trafficking Prevention Workshop for Issues in Education (Ed.D. Residency Panel) at Gwynedd Mercy University in Gwynedd Valley, Pennsylvania**
- October 2018 **Sex Trafficking in the Lehigh Valley for the Sexual Health, Intimate Relationships and Wellness Conference at Lehigh Carbon Community College in Schnecksville, Pennsylvania**
- April 2018 **Interpersonal Conflict Resolution Workshop for Sex Trafficking Survivors for the Survivor Leadership Series in Allentown, Pennsylvania**

**Rutgers Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (RASTL)
Teaching Assistant Project (TAP)**New Brunswick, New Jersey

- October 2018 **Integrating Instructional Methodologies for Engaged Learning**

August 2018	Leading Group Work and Discussion and Life as a Graduate Student TA in Your Discipline
March 2018	Online and Hybrid Teaching: An Overview
November 2017	Refreshing Your Syllabus
April 2017	Defining Faculty-Student Relationships
October 2016	Teaching Non-Majors
October 2016	Language [Diversity] in the Classroom

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Session Organization

November 2022	Migration and Urban Futures in the South Caucasus for the Association for the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Convention in Washington, DC
November 2020	Anxious Post-Socialist Political Ecologies for the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Convention Online
November 2019	Gendered Mobilities: Movement as a Politics of Resistance in the Caucasus for the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Convention in San Francisco, California
April 2017	The Contact Zone 1: Environments in Contact, The Contact Zone 2: Where Species Meet, and The Contact Zone 3: w Mary Louise Pratt – Navigating Multispecies Contact Zones for the American Association of Geographers (AAG) in Boston, Massachusetts

Presentations

November 2023	Teaching the South Caucasus: Decolonizing General Education for the Association for the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
November 2023	Who Is Colonizing Whom? Liberations and Oppressions in the Anti-Gender Politics of Central and Eastern Europe for the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
May 2023	Intimate Infrastructures of Resettlement in Georgia for the 27th Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) at Columbia University in New York, New York
November 2022	Migration and Urban Futures in the South Caucasus for the Association for the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Convention in Chicago, Illinois
May 2022	IDPs, Infrastructural Violence, and Ecologies of Care in Georgia's Decaying Soviet Sanatoria for the 26th Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) Virtual Conference
March 2022	The Frontline Is Multispecies: Examining the Elevation of Risk and Violence Where Species Meet for the American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Virtual Meeting

- November 2021 **Queering Veganism: Food Nationalism as a New Frontier of Anti-Genderism in Georgia for the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana**
- September 2021 **Justice for Sex Trafficked Black Girls: Historic Oppression, Vulnerability Factors and Future School Response for the International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Virtual Conference**
- May 2021 **“Sausage-Wielding Extremists”: Meat, Masculinity, and Nationalism in Tbilisi’s Kiwi Café for the 25th Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) Virtual Conference**
- April 2021 **Animality/Coloniality: COVID-19 and the Animal Question for the American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting Virtual Conference**
- November 2021 **Toxic Healing: Slow Violence, Displacement and Georgia’s Abandoned Soviet Spas for the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Virtual Convention**
- June 2020 **Migrant Stories: Teaching Migration with Creative Writing and Ethnographic Fiction for the Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS) Annual Meeting, Virtual Juried Proceedings**
- June 2020 **Even the Pigs Don’t Recognize the Border: A More-than-Human Approach to Borderization in Georgia for the Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS) Annual Meeting, Virtual Juried Proceedings**
- November 2019 **“You are Not a Real Man if You Haven’t been Detained in Tskhinvali Once”: Risking Detention and Traumatic Masculinity along the South Ossetian Administrative Boundary Line for the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Convention in San Francisco, California**
- October 2019 **A More-than-Human Perspective on Borderization for the Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers (MSAAG) Annual Meeting at Kutztown University in Kutztown, Pennsylvania**
- October 2019 **Animality/Coloniality: Dehumanization as Power for the Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers (MSAAG) Annual Meeting at Kutztown University in Kutztown, Pennsylvania**
- April 2019 **“We are forgotten by everyone”: Abandonment and Abjected Space in Georgia’s No-Man’s Land for the Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS) Annual Meeting in San Diego, California**
- April 2019 **Teaching Eurasian Geographies for the American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting in Washington, DC**
- April 2018 **No (Wo)man’s Land: Gendered Geographies of Arbitrary Detention and Creeping Annexation in Georgia for the American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana**
- April 2017 **Performing Precarity: Embodied Georgian Victimhood in the “Public Relations Zone” for the American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts**

- April 2016 **Bordering and Detainment along Georgia's South Ossetian Administrative Boundary Line for the American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California**
- March 2013 **Normalizing the Buffer Zone: The Policy and Governance of Partition in Cyprus for the American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, California**
- April 2012 **A Narrative Analysis of Western Media Representations at the Height of the 2008 South Ossetia War for the 7th Annual Graduate Student Conference at the American Graduate School in Paris in Paris, France**

INVITED TALKS

- December 2023 **Discussant of Laura Luciani's "Geopolitics, (in)security and the EU's evolving engagements in Armenia after the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war: a feminist perspective" for the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Sovereignty, Statehood and Conflict Research Network by Microsoft Teams (Online)**
- October 2023 **Violent Infrastructure: Ecologies of Decay and Displacement for the Department of Geography Speakers Series at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey**
- October 2023 **Violent Infrastructure: Ecologies of Decay and Displacement at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia**
- October 2022 **Amplifying the Voices of Displaced Persons with Feminist Research for Finding Our Voice: Women in Politics at Cedar Crest College in Allentown, Pennsylvania**
- June 2023 **Careless Infrastructures of Resettlement for Works-in-Progress (WiP), jointly organized by the Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC), American Councils for International Education, and the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC) in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia**
- July 2022 **Infrastructures of Care and Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Tskaltubo for Works-in-Progress (WiP), jointly organized by the Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC), American Councils for International Education, and the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC) in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia**
- 2021-22 **Queering Veganism: Food Nationalism as a New Frontier of Anti-Genderism in Georgia for Animals and Society at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**
- July 2021 **A Political Ecology of Emotion and Displacement in Georgia's Abandoned Soviet Spas for Works-in-Progress (WiP), jointly organized by the Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC), American Councils for International Education, and the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC) in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia**
- June 2021 **109th Annual Commencement Address to the Class of 2021 for North Penn-Mansfield Jr/Sr High School in Blossburg, Pennsylvania**
- April 2021 **Borderization from the Frontlines: Uncertainty and Abandonment in the Space Between War and Peace for the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC) Spring Lecture Series by Zoom (Online)**

- October 2016 **Invited Talk in International Relations for the Human Society Department at Bryn Athyn College in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania**
- July 2016 **The Lived Geopolitics of (Non)Recognition and the Elastic Geography of Borderization for the Series of Anthropological Seminars at Ilia State University and the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC) in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia**
- November 2015 **The Elastic Geography of Borderization and Creeping Occupation along Georgia's South Ossetian Administrative Boundary Line for Works-in-Progress (WiP), jointly organized by the Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC), American Councils for International Education, and the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC) in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia**
- May 2013 **Peacebuilding as an Academic Discussant at the Professional Exchange for the International Peace and Conflict Resolution Program at Arcadia University in Glenside, Pennsylvania**

CAMPUS AND DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

Moravian University Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

- March 2022 **The Russian Invasion and the War with Ukraine Discussant for the Friday Forum and Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)**
- April 2020 **Increasing Inequalities, Mass Migration, and the Denial of Climate Change Discussant for the InFocus Symposium '20: Scarcity, Poverty, and Inequality**
- November 2019 **Being a Scholar-Activist for Writing as Activism**

Rutgers University New Brunswick, New Jersey

- October 2017 **Fieldwork in Closed Contexts for the Political Science Graduate Student Association (Department of Political Science)**
- April 2017 **No (Wo)man's Land: Gendered Geographies of Arbitrary Detention for the Mapping New Directions in International Research Graduate Symposium at the Centers for Global Advancement and International Affairs**
- November 2014 **Staying Healthy During Fieldwork for the Professional Development Forum at the Graduate Geographers Project (GGP) (Department of Geography)**

PODCAST INTERVIEWS

- October 2023 **Using Photovoice to Grapple with Displacement on Trustees without Borders produced by the Institute for Policy and Governance (IPG) and the Community Change Collaborative (CCC) at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia**
- January 2019 **TAPcast S1E9: Ariel Otruba on Narrative Based Learning produced by the Teaching Assistant Project (TAP) at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey**

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Reviewer

Caucasus Survey

Caucasus Environmental Outlook, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space

Geopolitics

Professional Fellows Program for American Councils in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia

Guest Editor

Special Section: More-than-Human Contact Zones, *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Moravian University

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

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| 2022-23 | InFocus War and Peace Faculty Seminar on Reconciliation Leader and Administrative/Programmatic Support Personnel |
| 2021 | Honors Oral Examination Panel |
| 2019-20 | Undergraduate Advising |
| 2019-20 | Leader of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Community of Practice at the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) |
| 2019-20 | Faculty Participant of the InFocus Seminar on the Interrelation between Inequality, Climate Change Denial, and Migration |

Rutgers University

New Brunswick, New Jersey

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| 2016-19 | Teaching Assistant Project (TAP) Workshop Leader |
| 2013-14 | Graduate Geographers Project (GGP) Co-President |
| 2014 | Center for European Studies Conference Organizer, "Mobilization and Movement in Eastern Europe and Eurasia" |

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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|--------------|---|
| 2017-24 | Valley Against Sex Trafficking (VAST) Speakers' Bureau and Zen Den Volunteer |
| 2005-Present | North Central Pennsylvania (NCPA) Odyssey of the Mind Regional Tournament Judge |

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Geographers (AAG)

Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS)

Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)

Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN)

Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS)

American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC)