

# ALEKSANDER K BERG

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## EDUCATION

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- PhD Candidate - University of Colorado Boulder (CU)** **Expected 2027**  
Geography  
Advised by Stefan Leyk
- MA Arizona State University (ASU)** **2022**  
Geography  
Thesis: *A High-resolution Recalculation of the Wildland Urban Interface Reveals Over \$1 Trillion of California's Residential Structures Are at Risk to Wildfire*  
Committee: Dylan Connor (Co-Chair), Peter Kedron (Co-Chair)  
Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen (Member), and Amy Frazier (Member)  
*Graduated with Distinction*
- BA University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)** **2021**  
Geography and Environmental Studies  
Minor - Geographic Information Systems and Technology (GIS&T)  
*Graduated with Departmental Honors*

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- Hazard exposure
- Wildfire risk and housing development
- Urban growth and change
- Geographic Information Science (GIS) & Spatial big data: GeoAI, modeling, and methodology

## PUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS

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1. **Berg, A.**, Gutmann, M., Leyk, S., & Kwon, H. (2026). Why it's so hard to match residence addresses to census blocks—and How to fix it. *Transactions in GIS*, 30(2), e70225. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tgis.70225>
2. **Berg, A. K.**, Howell, A., & Bagchi-Sen, S. (2026). Workforce patterns and income disparities in a growing US city. *Journal of Economic Geography*, lbaf071. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jeg/lbaf071>
3. **Berg, A. K.**, Connor, D. S., Kedron, P., & Frazier, A. E. (2024). Remapping California's wildland urban interface: A property-level time-space framework, 2000–2020. *Applied Geography*, 167, 103271. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2024.103271>
4. Connor, D. S., **Berg, A. K.**, Kemeny, T., & Kedron, P. J. (2023). Who gets left behind by left behind places? *Cambridge Journal of Regions Economy and Society*, 17(1), 37–58. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cjres/rsad031>

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**University of Colorado Boulder** **Summer 2023 to Present**

*Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Myron Gutmann*

- Conducting data processing and assisting in the application of geographical research methods for a project studying trends in U.S. mid-life mortality.

**Arizona State University** **Spring 2023**

*Research Assistant, Dr. Dylan Connor*

- Post-master's researcher assisting on multiple on-going projects focused on urban growth and change, urban wildfire exposure, and social mobility in the U.S.

**Arizona State University** **2022**

*Research Aide, Dr. Dylan Connor & Dr. Peter Kedron*

- Researcher on an ASU Institute for Social Science Research Seed Grant project centered on understanding the growth of urban areas into places of high wildfire risk.

**Arizona State University** **2021-2022**

*Research Aide, Dr. Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen*

- Research focusing on the economic geographies of growing cities specifically better understanding how labor markets are morphing through space and time.

**University of California, Los Angeles**

*Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Advisor: Dr. David Rigby*

**2021**

*The Spatialization of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States:*

*A nationwide county level analysis on the interplay of space, demographics, and COVID-19*

## TEACHING

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**Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research**

GIS and Spatial Analysis in Interdisciplinary Research (*Co-Instructor*)

**Summer 2025**

**University of Colorado Boulder**

Statistics and Geographic Data (*Instructor of Record*)

**Summer 2024, 2025**

*Departmental GIS Tutor*

**2024 & 2025**

Geographic Information Science: Mapping (*Teaching Assistant*)

**Fall 2023**

**Arizona State University**

Population Geography, Demography,  
and Inequality (*Instructor of Record*)

**Spring 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026**

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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**Programming:** R (Fluent), Python (Fluent), & Java Script (Applied in Google Earth Engine)

**Applications:** ArcGIS (Fluent), QGIS (Working knowledge), Google Earth Engine (Working Knowledge), Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom (Working knowledge), Microsoft Office Suite (Fluent)

**Platforms:** Cross platform experience both using Apple Mac OS, Microsoft Windows, and LINUX on high performance computational environments (research clusters)

## CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

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**Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting** **2026**  
*What does local level mortality data reveal about deaths of despair in the United States?*

**13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Geographic Information Science Christchurch - 2025**  
*Using Foundation Model Embeddings to Map Colorado's Built Hazard Interface for Wildfire*

**32nd International Cartographic Conference (ICC)** **Vancouver - 2025**  
*The Built-Hazard Interface: A Dynamic Framework for Mapping Hazard Zones*

**Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting** **2025**  
*Why it's so hard to match residence addresses to census blocks - and how to fix it!*

**Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting** **2024**  
*Methodological issues for fine-scale and place-based mortality research*

**Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting** **2023**  
*A High-resolution Recalculation of the Wildland Urban Interface Reveals Over \$1 Trillion of California's Residential Structures Are at Risk to Wildfire*

**ASU Spatial Analysis Research Center (SPARC) Student Talk Series** **2022**  
*A high-resolution recalculation of the wildland urban interface*

**Global Conference on Economic Geography (GCEG)** **Dublin - 2022**  
*COVID-19 as an accelerant of urban expansion into fire-prone wildlands?*

**Young Economic Geographers Network (YEGN)** **Cork - 2022**  
*The COVID-19 pandemic and the growth of the wildland urban interface*

## CONFERENCE SESSION ORGANIZING AND CHAIRING

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### **Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting** 2026

- *Geospatial Health Research Symposium Spatiotemporal Perspectives on Geographies of Mortality I & II*
- *Hazards Specialty Group Book 2: Systemic Risk in an Interconnected World*

## HONORS, AND AWARDS

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### **Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society Editors' Choice Award** 2025

Award for our journal article "Who gets left behind by left behind places?" which was recognized by the journal editors for their "Best Paper Award 2024 because it exemplifies the very best of scholarship: careful, conceptually based detailed analysis of a novel data set that addresses a key, challenging policy issue: namely, the lasting impact of being 'left behind' in 'left behind places'..."

### **Chancellor's Service Award: University of California, Los Angeles** 2021

The highest, non-academic, award given to graduating students. A highly selective honor recognizing a student's significant contributions to the UCLA or wider Los Angeles Community through a continued record of leadership and service.

## GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

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**National Science Foundation Travel Award to GIScience 2025** (\$2,000) 2025

**Institute of Behavioral Science Summer RA Award: CU Boulder** (\$1,000) 2025

**James A. & Jeanne B. DeSana Graduate Research Award: CU Boulder** (\$1,000) 2025

**Institute of Behavioral Science Summer RA Award: CU Boulder** (\$1,000) 2024

**James A. & Jeanne B. DeSana Graduate Research Award: CU Boulder** (\$2,000) 2024

**Graduate College Fellowship: Arizona State University** (\$10,000) 2022

**Conference Travel Grants: GPSA Arizona State University** (\$1,900) 2022

**Conference Travel Grant: GPSA Arizona State University** (\$950) 2021

**Graduate College Fellowship: Arizona State University** (\$10,000) 2021

**Max and Marion Caldwell Camp Counselor Education Grant** (\$1,000) 2019

**Alfrey Blue and Gold Scholarship: University of California, Los Angeles** (\$5,000) 2017

**Alumni Association Scholarship: Hollywood High School** (\$1,000) 2017

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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**I-GUIDE Summer School: Spatial AI for Extreme Events and Disaster Resilience 2025**

## ORGANIZATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

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**American Association of Geographers** **Member**

**Young Economic Geographers Network** **Fellow**

## OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

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**University of California, Los Angeles: Department of Residential Life** **2020-2021**  
*Apartment Resident Assistant*

**University of California, Los Angeles: Department of Residential Life** **2019-2020**  
*Lead Resident Assistant*

**University of California, Los Angeles: Department of Residential Life** **2018-2019**  
*Resident Assistant*

**Gold Arrow Camp** **2018-2021**  
*Counselor & Junior Counselor Director*

## COMMUNITY AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

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**University of Colorado Boulder: Department of Geography** **2024**  
*Graduate Representative*

- Acted as an advocate for graduate students in the department.
- Attended faculty meetings, participated in new faculty hiring process, and planned department events.

**University of California, Los Angeles: Alumni Association** **2022**  
*Scholarship Application Reviewer*

- Reader of freshman applications for the selective UCLA Alumni Scholarship program.

**University of California, Los Angeles: Undergraduate Admissions** **2017-2021**  
**Cub Tours Program**  
*Cub Tour Guide*

- Volunteered to give campus tours to K-8<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Worked closely with undergraduate admissions to promote the viability of a post-secondary education to predominately inner-city public-school kids.

**University of California, Los Angeles: Ski and Snowboard Team** **2019-2021**  
*Treasurer*

- Volunteered to manage the ~\$50,000 a year budget for a collegiate ski and snowboard team with over 100 full-time members.
- Assisted in the day-to-day operations of the team including managing relationships with the USCSA national league, team sponsors, and the university.
- Handled the booking and logistics of all competition trips which included inter and intrastate travel.