

Sohrob Aslamy

Department of Geography and the Environment
Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs, Syracuse University
144 Eggers Hall, Syracuse University, NY 13244
staslamy@syr.edu
saslamy@geneseo.edu
www.sohrobaslamy.com

Critical human geographer specializing in political economy, development, and nature–society relations. Recipient of the National Science Foundation’s Graduate Research Fellowship for doctoral research on state-led urban megaprojects, economic restructuring, and the environmental legacies of war and uneven development in Afghanistan. Experienced educator dedicated to cultivating curiosity and critical thinking through inclusive, research-based teaching that connects geographic theory to lived experience and fosters understanding of the structural forces shaping people, places, and environments across the Global North and South.

Education:

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| August 2018- April 2026
(expected) | Ph.D. candidate in Geography and the Environment, Syracuse University
Supervisor: Tod Rutherford, Professor, Geography and the Environment, Syracuse University

Proposed Dissertation: Reconstructing the City of Broken Dreams: A Political Economy of the “Kabul New City” Project

Proposed Defense Date: April 22, 2026 |
| August 2016—May 2018 | M.A., Geography, Syracuse University
Supervisor: Natalie Koch, Geography and the Environment, Syracuse University

<i>Thesis: Redefining the "border between two worlds": waterscapes of division, devotion, and development along the Panj River in the Pamir Mountains of Tajikistan.</i> |
| September 2010—June 2014 | B.A., Magna Cum Laude,
Political Science & Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC),
University of Washington |

University Teaching & Employment:

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| August 2025—
May 2026 | Lecturer, Department of Geography and Sustainability Studies, The State University of New York College at Geneseo <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taught undergraduate courses on Human Geography and Sustainability.• Developed and implemented research-based, inclusive curricula.• Mentored students through applied projects linking geographic theory to social and environmental issues. |
| May –August 2025 | TA Mentor, Graduate Teaching Assistant Orientation, Syracuse University <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advised incoming international and U.S.-based graduate teaching assistants.• Led orientation sessions on 1) effective strategies for discussion sections in the social sciences and humanities and 2) motivating students in the classroom. |
| August 2024—
May 2025 | Instructor of Record, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University (Fall 2024 & Spring 2025) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborated in an interdisciplinary team of instructors from different departments in the Maxwell School to ensure smooth delivery of course |

content in weekly plenary sessions for MAX 123: Critical Issues for the United States

- Taught two discussion sections per week, graded and assessed student essays, and led lecture for plenary session

June 2024

Instructor of Record, Department of Geography and the Environment, Syracuse University

- Developed and delivered curriculum and lectures and facilitated class discussions for GEO 171: Human Geography
- Created grading criteria for assignments and exams to ensure fair assessment.

May 2024

Instructor of Record, Department of Geography and the Environment, Syracuse University

- Developed and delivered curriculum and lectures and facilitated class discussions for GEO 105: World Urban Geography as an online course
- Created grading criteria for assignments and exams to ensure fair assessment.

December 2023—
January 2024

Instructor of Record, Department of Geography and the Environment, Syracuse University

- Developed and delivered curriculum and lectures and facilitated class discussions for GEO 105: World Urban Geography as an online course
- Created grading criteria for assignments and exams to ensure fair assessment.

July 2023

Instructor of Record, Summer University Pre-College Programs, Syracuse University

- Developed and delivered curriculum and lectures and facilitated class discussions for college-level course, Environment and Society, to high school students participating in Syracuse University's Pre-College program.
- Created grading criteria for assignments and exams to ensure fair assessment.

May 2023

Instructor of Record, Department of Geography and the Environment, Syracuse University

- Developed and delivered curriculum and lectures and facilitated class discussions for GEO 105: World Urban Geography as an online course
- Created grading criteria for assignments and exams to ensure fair assessment.

January—May 2023

Instructor of Record, Department of Geography and the Environment, Syracuse University

- Developed and delivered curriculum and lectures and facilitated class discussions for GEO 105: World Urban Geography.
- Created grading criteria for assignments and exams to ensure fair assessment.

August 2016—
May 2024

Teaching Assistant, Department of Geography and the Environment, Syracuse University

- Designed and conducted weekly discussion sessions that reviewed and expanded on course concepts and materials and facilitated collaborative and peer-to-peer learning.

- Graded assignments and exams, providing feedback to students, and maintaining accurate grading records.
- Held regular office hours to offer additional assistance to students.
- Coordinated with primary instructor and other teaching assistants to handle logistical aspects of the course, such as managing online grading and learning platforms.
- Courses assisted include:
 - GEO 105, World Urban Geography: Fall 2016, Fall 2017
 - GEO 372, Political Geography: Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2019
 - GEO 171, Human Geography: Fall 2018
 - GEO 108, Mapping Today—Technology and Spatial Thinking: Spring 2019
 - GEO/PSC 360, Sustainability Science and Policy: Fall 2019
 - GEO 103: Environment and Society: Spring 2020, Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Academic publications:

Aslamy, Sohrob. 2025. “Rethinking Geography’s Explanations of Contemporary Imperialism after the U.S. Occupation of Afghanistan.” Human Geography. DOI:10.1177/19427786251355044

Technical Reports:

Balasubramanya, Soumya, Marie-Charlotte Buisson, Sohrob Aslamy, Katherine MacDonald, Panchali Saikia, and Archisman Mitra. 2016. “Creating Water User Associations for Improved Agricultural Productivity in Tajikistan: Opportunities and Challenges.” Paper presented at the 2nd World Irrigation Forum, Chiang Mai, Thailand, November 6–12, 2016.

Buisson, Marie-Charlotte, Katherine MacDonald, Panchali Saikia, Soumya Balasubramanya, Sohrob Aslamy, and Ted Horbulyk. 2016. Impact of Water Users Associations on Water and Land Productivity, Equity and Food Security in Tajikistan: Mid-Term Technical Report. Colombo, Sri Lanka: International Water Management Institute.

Balasubramanya, Soumya, Marie-Charlotte Buisson, Panchali Saikia, Katherine MacDonald, Sohrob Aslamy, Ted Horbulyk, Courtney Hannah, Marat Yakubov, and Albert Platonov. 2015. Impact of Water Users Associations on Water and Land Productivity, Equity and Food Security in Tajikistan: Baseline Technical Report. Colombo, Sri Lanka: International Water Management Institute.

Certifications and Professional Qualifications:

August 2024	Certificate of Advanced Studies—South Asian Studies. Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs, Syracuse University
May 2024	Certificate in University Teaching. The Future Professoriate Program, Syracuse University

Presentations, Talks, and Workshops:

September 2025	Invited Panel Speaker on the topic of sustainability and social change, “Ideas That Matter” Series, SUNY Geneseo
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October 2024	Presentation: “Geography’s explanations of 21 st century imperialism in review.” Workshop hosted by the Institute of Human Geography
September 2024	Paper presentation: “Placing ‘Kabul New City’ between dreams and reality.” Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) Fall Conference at Syracuse University
March, 2024	Lead organizer for academic workshop entitled, “Today’s Geographies of Imperialism,” at Syracuse University sponsored by the Department of Geography and the Environment and Funded by the Program for the Advancement of Research on Conflict and Collaboration by Syracuse University’s Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
March, 2023	Organized paper session with both in-person and virtual presenters on the topic of theorizing the concept of imperialism in geography for the annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers in Denver, Colorado
March, 2023	Paper presentation: “Developing dependency in Afghanistan: a case study of the Kabul New City project.” Annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers in Denver, Colorado
April, 2018	Paper presentation: “Redefining the ‘border between two worlds’: waterscapes of dependency, development, and devotion along the Panj River in the Pamir Mountains of Tajikistan.” Annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers in New Orleans, Louisiana
February 2018	Paper presentation: “Redefining the ‘border between two worlds’: waterscapes of Ismaili devotion along the Panj River in Tajikistan.” Duke-UNC Middle East and Islamic Studies Graduate Student Conference, "Map, Territory, Boundary," at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

Grants and awards:

2025	John F. Richards Fellowship: Afghanistan Research Grant, American Institute of Afghanistan Studies
2023	Mini-Grant through Syracuse University’s Program for the Advancement of Research on Conflict and Collaboration (PARCC) for the advancement of research on conflict and collaboration, including theory, practice and education. Co-authored application with Dr. Andre Ortega, and used to organize academic symposium, “Today’s Geographies of Imperialism.”
2021	The John H. Thompson and Jesse Burkhead Economics and Geography Program Fund, Syracuse University
2019	The Bharati and South Asia Summer Research Grant for field research, Syracuse University
2018—2023	Graduate Research Fellowship Program, National Science Foundation
2014	Princeton in Asia Fellowship
2013	Michael A. Williams Award for Excellence in Near Eastern Studies, University of Washington

2013	Naficy Family Fellowship for Excellence in Persian Studies, University of Washington
2013	Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Scholarship for study of Dari (Persian), U.S. Department of State
2012	Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Scholarship for study of Dari (Persian), U.S. Department of State

University Service:

2023—2024	Graduate colloquium representative for the Department of Geography and the Environment at Syracuse University
2018—Present	Founding member and member of the Executive Board for the Central Asia and Caucasus Student Union (CACSU), Syracuse University
2018—2019	Graduate Coordinator for the Future Professoriate Program in the Department of Geography at Syracuse University
2016—2017	Academic Program Senator for the Graduate Students in Geography Organization to the Graduate Student Organization at Syracuse University
2016—2018	Teacher Coordinator for the Syracuse University Program for Refugee Assistance at the North Side Learning Center in Syracuse, New York

Other Service:

2021—2022	English language instructor for Afghan refugees at Ariana Learning Center in Vahdat, Tajikistan
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Languages:

Persian: Fluent (Reading, Writing, Speaking)

Other Employment:

June 2025	At-Home Reader for the Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography Reading, Educational Testing Service (ETS) Scored student responses for the national AP Human Geography Exam (College Board)
June 2024	At-Home Reader for the Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography Reading, Educational Testing Service (ETS) Scored student responses for the national AP Human Geography Exam (College Board)
June 2023	At-Home Reader for the Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography Reading, Educational Testing Service (ETS) Scored student responses for the national AP Human Geography Exam (College Board)
April 2015—June 2016	Research Assistant, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Dushanbe, Tajikistan & Tashkent, Uzbekistan

- Authored chapters for technical reports.
- Reviewed and edited large-scale survey instruments in both English and Tajik (Persian).
- Coordinated and monitored large-scale survey implementation and data collection with a local survey company.
- Oversaw trainings for survey enumerators.
- Led independent qualitative research on Water Users' Associations in Tajikistan.
 - Designed questionnaires for key informant interviews in English and Tajik.
 - Conducted interviews in English and Tajik with the following groups in Tajikistan:
 - Government officials
 - International development organizations
 - Local NGOs

February & November 2015	Persian Language Translator, Let Media, Remote • Translated recorded interviews from Persian (Dari) to English for Let Media's documentary film on female Afghan cyclists.
April 2014—April 2015	Princeton in Asia Fellow, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Sri Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka • Supported the Human Resources Office in recruitment for international and regional positions at IWMI. • Participated in the strategic implementation of an online performance management system. • Conducted online training sessions remotely for regional offices in Africa and Asia as well as in person in Lahore, Pakistan and at IWMI's headquarters in Sri Lanka. • Coordinating with the Change Manager to communicate restructured performance management processes and SMART objective setting to IWMI's researchers and staff. • Tested systems and supported data migration to new system from core HR database.
August 2012—June 2013	Outreach Intern, Sahar Education International, Seattle, Washington, USA • Led cultural presentations and organized fundraising events with elementary schools and charitable organizations around the Seattle area. • Drafted and published monthly newsletters online. • Managed donations through Excel and Salesforce. • Communicated with local employees in Afghanistan to receive short stories from students at Sahar supported schools. • Translated short stories and documents from Persian to English.