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Stephen Lezak

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Personal webpage: www.stephenlezak.com
Google Scholar: <http://bit.ly/3sOpg3f>

EDUCATION

PhD in Polar Studies	Sept. 2019–Present
University of Cambridge, Scott Polar Research Institute	
Dissertation title: <i>The New Arctic Conquest: Indigenous Futures and Terra Incognita along a Post-Holocene Frontier</i>	
Committee: Richard Powell, Ariell Ahearn, and Maan Barua	
Gates Cambridge Scholar	
(Degree expected May 2024)	
Certificate in Tribal Governance	January 2023–Present
University of Alaska, Fairbanks (part-time, non-degree-seeking)	
Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE)	Sept. 2017—July 2018
University of Buckingham, U.K.	
(U.S. Equivalent: MA in Education)	
MSc (Distinction), Environmental Change & Management	Sept. 2016—Sept. 2017
University of Oxford School of Geography & the Environment	
BA in Politics (Honors)	Sept. 2011—May 2015
Oberlin College	
GPA: 3.9, Phi Beta Kappa	
Major: Politics; Minor: Geology	
Uppsala University, Sweden	Jan. 2014—May 2014
Visiting Student, Applied Sustainability Studies	

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

1. *The Longest Night: Coming Home in the Age of Apocalypse*. (Manuscript in preparation, represented by Emma Dries of [Triangle House Literary](#)).

Refereed articles and book chapters:

2. Lezak, S., and Rock, G. "On Micropolitics and Domestic Diplomacy: Climate Adaptation for Alaska Native Communities" (under review at *Climatic Change*).
3. Lezak, S. (in press) "Environmental Ethnography." *Progress in Environmental Geography*. DOI: 10.1177/27539687231212222.
4. Lezak, S. (2023), "[From Capacity Building to Capacity Sharing](#)." *Nature Sustainability*.
5. Lezak, S., Wilson, C., Ansar, A., Bazillian, M. (2022) "[The Case Against Gold Mining](#)." *Environmental Research Letters* 18.
6. Lezak, S., and Munkherderne, G. (2021) "The Social Lives of Abandoned Mines." In *The Impact of Mining lifecycles in Central Asia and Mongolia*, eds. Sternberg, T., Toktomushev, K., and Ichinkhorloo, B.. London: Routledge.
7. Lezak, S., Ahearn, A., McConnell, F., & Sternberg, T. (2019) "Frameworks for conflict mediation in international infrastructure development: A comparative overview and critical appraisal." *Journal of Cleaner Production* 239.
8. Lezak, S. (2019) "Re-Placing the Desert in the Conservation Landscape: Charisma and Absence in the Gobi Desert." *LAND* 8(1), 3.
9. Lezak, S. & Thibodeau, P. H. (2016). Systems thinking and environmental concern. *Journal of Environmental Psychology* 46,143-153.

Other academic publications and working papers:

10. Lezak, S., Guido, V., & Natali, P. (2023) "[Commodities Markets Are Broken. Responsible Supply Chains Can Fix Them](#)," *MIT Sloan Management Review*.
11. Cullen, K., Axelsson, K., Lezak, S., Hale, T., Lang, J., & Smith, S. (2021) "[Leveling up net zero climate leadership in the United States](#)." Oxford Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment Working Paper No. 21-01.
12. Axelsson, K., ... Lezak, S., et al. (2021) "[Sensitive Intervention Points for Achieving Climate Neutrality](#)," Summary report for the Climate Neutrality Forum. Presented at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland.

13. Lezak, S. (2020) "Review: Transnational Law and State Formation." *Journal of Nomadic Peoples* 24(1), 171-74.
14. Lezak, S. (2019) "Re-Placing the Desert in the Conservation Landscape: Charisma and Absence in the Gobi Desert." In *Arid Land Systems: Science and Societies*. Eds. Ariell Ahearn & Troy Sternberg. Basel: MDPI, 53-64.
15. Lezak, S., Cannon, C., & Koch Blank, T. (2019). *Low-Carbon Metals for a Low-Carbon World: A New Energy Paradigm for Mines*. Report. Rocky Mountain Institute.
16. Lezak, S. (2019) "Review: Mongolia Remade." *Journal of Nomadic Peoples* 23(1), 149-154.
17. Ahearn, A., and Lezak, S. (2018) "The Mongolian Ger." In *House Tour: Views of the Unfurnished Interior*. Ed. Adam Jasper. Zurich: Park Books.

Selected non-academic publications, 2021-Present:

18. "The Arctic Is Becoming One Giant Construction Site," *The New Republic*, November 2023.
19. "Awe," *Imagine5* (autumn 2023).
20. "Climate Fraud on America's Last Frontier," *The New Republic*, June 2023.
21. "'Voodoo economics': How SB 48 makes Alaska play the fool," *Anchorage Daily News*, May 2023.
22. "Gold mining is one of the world's most destructive and unnecessary industries – here's how to end it," *The Conversation*, February 2023.
23. "Giving Up on 1.5 Degrees Celsius Is a Luxury for the Rich," *The New Republic*, December 2022.
24. "Climate change is Putin's best ally," *The New Republic*, 2022.
25. "Credible Corporate Climate Leadership and the Net-Zero Imperative," *World Economic Forum*, 2022.
26. "Looking beyond just greenhouse gases to build supply chain transparency," *GreenBiz*, 2022.
27. "All My Relations: Buffalo, Wild Horses, and the Politics of Belonging on the Wind River Indian Reservation," *High Country News*, December 2021
28. "Carbon Markets Are Terrible—But We Need Them," *The New Republic*, November 2021.
29. "Meltwater: A Timepiece for the Arctic," *Emergence Magazine*, July 2021.
30. "Achieving net-zero climate targets will depend on public lands," *The Revelator*, April 2021.
31. "It should be tougher to fly first class," *Grist*, April 2021.
32. "Is it too soon for America to adopt a comprehensive net-zero strategy?" *The Independent*, March 2021.

33. "Net zero goal is crucial for Phoenix, but we need federal help," *The Arizona Republic*, 2021.

HONORS, RESEARCH GRANTS, AND ACADEMIC AWARDS

Phillip Lake Fund Research Grant, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge (2022)

Beatrice Shaw Fund Research Grant, Department of Geography, University of Cambridge (2020, declined)

Gates Cambridge Scholarship (2019)

Cambridge International Trust Scholarship (2019, declined)

John Fell Fund Research Grant, Oxford University Press, University of Oxford (2018)

Environmental Change & Management Dissertation Publication Prize, University of Oxford (2017)

Green Templeton College CCFF Grant, University of Oxford (2107)

Environmental Change Institute Small Research Grant, University of Oxford (2017)

Joan Doll Scholarship, Green Templeton College, University of Oxford (2016)

Phi Beta Kappa (2015)

Starr Award in Politics, Oberlin College (2015)

Jere Bruner Research Grant, Oberlin College (2015)

Jerome Davis Research Award, Oberlin College (2015)

John Frederick Oberlin Merit Scholar, Oberlin College (2011)

National Merit Scholar Finalist (2011)

SELECTED INVITED TALKS IN 2021-23

1. "Climate Apocalypse as Science (Non-)Fiction." Churchill College, Univ. of Cambridge. Nov 21, 2023.
2. "Decolonizing capacity building: Insights from Alaska Native villages." Scott Polar Research Institute, Univ. of Cambridge, October 2023

3. YES Europe Annual Conference. Keynote Address, May 2023.
4. "The Longest Night: Coming Home in the Age of Apocalypse." Half Wild. Portland, Oregon, June 2023.
5. "Emerging Leaders for Climate Action." Expert Panelist. Organized by Globally. Washington, DC, Embassy of the United Arab Emirates, August 2023.
6. Sustainability Leadership Forum, Dallas, TX, July 2022.
7. "Snowy Steps Toward an Affect of Latitude." Polar Humanities and Social Sciences, Scott Polar Research Institute, Univ. of Cambridge, 2022.
8. Cambridge Festival of Ideas, University of Cambridge, 2022.
9. Cambridge Zero, Harder-to-Abate Sectors, 24 November 2021. "Does the world need gold mining?"
10. University of Cambridge, Polar Humanities and Social Sciences Seminar Series October 28, 2021, "The Arctic at the end of the world: Hannah Arendt and Climate Apocalypse."
11. YES Europe Annual Conference, October 16, 2021, "Understand & apprehend the latest IPCC report on climate change: Physical Science Basis & Climate Politics," moderating Nicolas Bellouin (Professor in Climate Processes, University of Reading) & Ella Gilbert (Climate Scientist, University of Reading).
12. YES Europe Annual Conference, October 16 2021, Keynote Address: "Post-Climate: Keeping Climate Politics Transformative"
13. Terra.do Climate Change Bootcamp, "Introduction to Carbon Offsets." October 22, 2021.
14. Catlin Gabel Alumni Science Series, interviewed by Dave Corkran and Paul Dickinson, September 15, 2021.
15. Terra.do Lecture on Investment and Carbon Offsets, "Offsets: Problems and Principles" June 23 2021
16. Gates Cambridge Weekend of Research, Environment and Migration, "Why Mine Gold?" May 7, 2021
17. Presentation to Oxford University Silk Road Society, March 2021

SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Alaska, Fairbanks — Northwest Campus (Nome, Alaska)

Environmental Studies F105: "Climate Change in Western Alaska"

(Instructor of Record)

University of Cambridge, Department of Geography

Geography 1B: "The Human Nature of Climate Apocalypse"

(Winter 2022)

Geography II: Dissertation Advisor

(Spring 2021)

Geography 1B: "Geographies of the Cryosphere"

(Autumn 2023)

University of Oxford, School of Geography and the Environment

"Critical Ecologies: Alternative Visions of
Environmental Community"
(Instructor of Record)

(Autumn 2018
and Winter 2020)

Notting Hill & Ealing High School, London

Geography Teacher (A-Level)
(Instructor of Record)

Sept. 2017—July 2018

Explorer Post 58

Youth Advisor and Mountain Guide

Sept. 2012—Present

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Affiliated Researcher

School of Geography & the Environment, University of Oxford
Principal Investigator: Dr. Atif Ansar

May 2020—Present

Freelance Writer

Publications in *The New Republic*, *Grist*, *High Country News*,
Colorado Public Radio, *Alaska Public Radio*, *Emergence Magazine*,
The Revelator, *The Independent*, *Imagine5*, *World Economic Forum*,
Anchorage Daily News, and *The Nome Nugget*.

Mar. 2021—Present

Fellow

Rocky Mountain Institute

Jun. 2019—Present

Research Consultant (full-time)

Gobi Framework Research Team, University of Oxford
Principal Investigator: Dr. Fiona McConnell

Oct. 2018—May 2019

Research Assistant (full-time) Oberlin College Department of Psychology Principal Investigator: Dr. Paul Thibodeau	June 2015—Sept. 2015
Climate Policy Intern (full-time) Oregon Environmental Council	June 2014—Aug. 2014
Intern for Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer (full-time) United States House of Representatives	Jan. 2013—Feb. 2013

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Advisory Board Member, YES-Europe (Young leaders in Environmental Sustainability, European Chapter) (2023-present)

Steering Committee Member, Alaska Climate Tech Hub Consortium (2023)

Expert Reviewer, Working Group II of IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (2020)

Member, Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee, Joe Biden Presidential Campaign (2020)

Member, Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee, Pete Buttigieg Presidential Campaign (2020)

CONFERENCES

Given the high carbon footprint of conference travel, I travel sparingly to conferences and elect to not disclose these activities on my CV.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

1. "Making the case to recycle gold instead of mining it," BNN Bloomberg (2023).
2. "The antidote for modern slavery in the renewables supply chain," Energy Monitor (2023).
3. "The new gold boom: how long can it last?" The Financial Times (2023).
4. "A disaster that harms the environment, climate, and humans. Why should gold mining stop now?" Al Jazeera, (2023).
5. How to Save the World Podcast (2018).

6. "Scientists now know the psychology behind your worries about the environment," The Washington Post (2016).
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LANGUAGES:

English: Native fluency

Spanish: Reading C1; Speaking: B1; Writing: B1

REFERENCES:

Dr. Ariell Ahearn

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Geography
School of Geography and the Environment
University of Oxford
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Professor Richard Powell

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Professor Michael Bravo

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Dr. Maan Barua

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University of Cambridge
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Dr. Troy Sternberg

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