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## GESA Shines at 75th Annual CGS Conference

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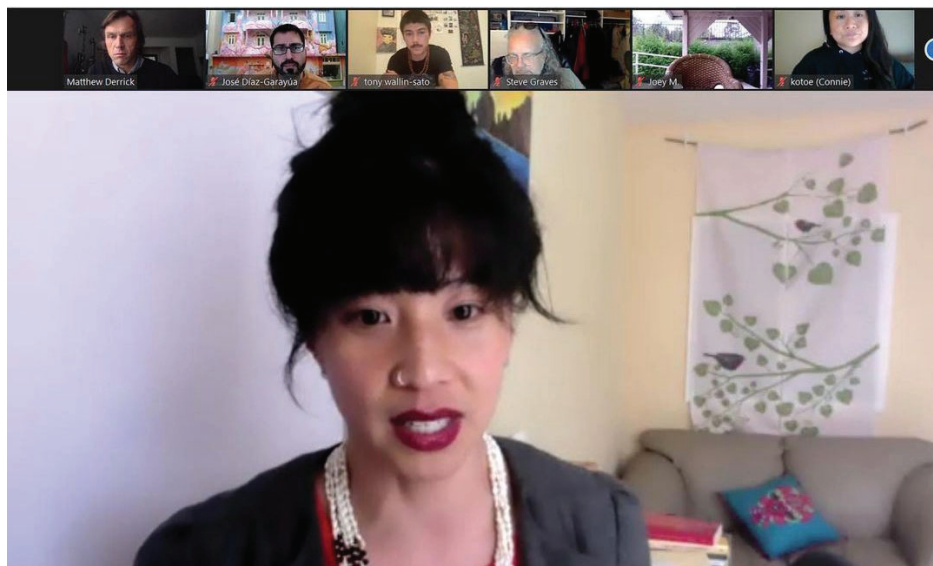
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# GESA Shines at 75th Annual CGS Conference



Dr. Sharon Luk delivers opening the conference with Friday's Keynote Address.

The Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Analysis showed up with spirit for the 75th annual conference of the California Geographical Society, April 23-25, 2021. This was the first-ever virtual CGS meeting.

The conference featured an impressive lineup of featured speakers. Friday's Keynote Address, titled "Between the Lines: California's Carceral and Abolitionist Geographies," was delivered by Dr. Sharon Luk, professor of Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies at the University of Oregon. After Luk's talk, a panel of formerly incarcerated students who are now undergraduates at various CSUs, spoke about their experiences, offering valuable advice to Geography instructors on how to better serve students who have

been incarcerated. Amana Harris, executive director of Oakland's Attitudinal Healing Connection, gave a powerful talk, "Claiming Concrete Canvas: The Oakland Super Heroes Mural Project," for Saturday's Presidential Plenary.

HSU accounted for a large share of undergraduate presenters, earning most awards. Senior Katie Piper landed the first place McKnight Professional Paper Award for "Nature's Spigot: *Bofedal* Presence in the Peruvian Andes Mountain Range," and sophomore Jessica Janecek took second for "The Humboldt Cannabis Oral History Project." Senior Faith Rehagen's map "Baja California Peninsula" earned the top Professional Cartography Award, which was followed by senior Michael Flynn's "California Fire Map."

## 2021 CGS Award Winners

### Undergraduate Professional Paper Awards

- 1st KATIE PIPER**  
Nature's Spigot: *Bofedal* Presence in the Peruvian Andes Mountain Range"
- 2nd JESSICA JANECEK**  
"The Humboldt Cannabis Oral History Project"

### Undergraduate Professional Cartography Awards

- 1st FAITH REHAGEN**  
"Baja California Peninsula"
- 2nd MICHAEL FLYNN**  
"California Fire Map"

HSU alumni landed top prizes for graduates. Jared Whear (2012), Geography PhD candidate at Syracuse, took the first place McKnight Professional Paper Award for "The Las Vegas Water Grab is Dead." Mark Adams (2017) won the first-ever Research and/or Activist Work in Social and/or Environmental Justice Award for "The World Has Changed and the Wiyot Changed with It: Processes and Rationale of Cultural Landscape Decolonization on Wiyot Ancestral Land."

Taking the presidency in 2019, Dr. Derrick announced that 2020 would mark the first professional geography conference to be held in Oakland. The pandemic may have foiled that plan in 2021, but, fingers crossed, 2022 will be the year Oakland finally hosts a professional geography conference.