

NATHANIEL DOLTON-THORNTON

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EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley (Berkeley, CA)	2023–Present
<i>PhD Energy and Resources (Designated Emphasis in Political Economy)</i>	
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, US Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Berkeley Economy and Society Initiative Research Award, Tinker Field Research Grant, Institute of International Studies Pre-Dissertation Research Grant, American Association of Geographers Latin American Specialty Group Field Study Award, Rausser Award, California-China Climate Institute Research Grant	
University of Oxford (Oxford, UK)	2019–2020
<i>MSt Critical Translation (Chinese, Spanish)</i>	
Marshall Scholar	
University of Cambridge (Cambridge, UK)	2018–2019
<i>MPhil Geographical Research</i>	
Marshall Scholar	
University of California, Berkeley (Berkeley, CA)	2014–2016
<i>BS Environmental Science, Policy, and Management</i>	
Highest Distinction, Honors, Phi Beta Kappa, University Award nominee	

EXPERIENCE

Lab Member	September 2025–Present
<i>Critical Minerals Research Lab, Resources for the Future</i>	
One of sixteen students selected to participate in a forum to develop interdisciplinary research and expertise on critical minerals. Participation includes biweekly meetings, presentations, discussions, and collaborations.	
Junior Research Fellow	May 2025–Present
<i>Climate and Community Institute</i>	
Conduct research on electric vehicle supply chains from critical mineral extraction through lithium-ion battery recycling. Conduct interviews with workers in these supply chains. Visualize these supply chains for a general audience. Funded by the Socio-Spatial	

Climate Collaborative and the Climate Justice Collaboratory at the University of California, Berkeley.

Non-Resident Research Fellow

May 2025–Present

(Promoted from Non-Resident Junior Research Fellow

Aug. 2023–May 2025)

Climate Policy Lab, The Fletcher School, Tufts University

Lead research on the political economy of critical mineral supply chains for energy transitions, with a focus on China, Latin America, and Africa. Lead related research on the social, political, and environmental implications of electric vehicles.

Environmental Journalist

Sep. 2015–Present

Identify and report environmental stories on a contract basis for publications such as *Orion*, *The Conversation*, *Earth Island Journal*, and *Bay Nature*.

Graduate Research Assistant

Jun.–Aug. 2025

Climate Futures Lab, University of California, Berkeley

Conduct legal geographical analysis of lithium and water disputes in Nevada. Part of Sloan Foundation-funded project “Critical mineral mining amid water scarcity.”

Graduate Research Assistant

Jun.–Jul. 2024

Climate Futures Lab, University of California, Berkeley

Conduct research and writing on interdisciplinary team-based research for co-authored paper “Integrated quantitative and qualitative methods can improve deforestation modeling.” Conduct research and analysis for paper on international hydropower-related conflicts.

Assistant Researcher

Jan.–Aug. 2023

Climate Policy Lab, The Fletcher School, Tufts University

Lead research on the political economy of critical mineral supply chains for energy transitions, with a focus on China, Latin America, and Africa. Lead related research on the social, political, and environmental impacts of the international trade of used electric vehicles. Collaborating with in-country climate policy experts and government officials, conduct climate policy gap analyses of Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Vietnam, and Indonesia. As part of climate policy gap analyses, interface with climate policy experts and government officials in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, and Turkey.

Research Assistant

Jan. 2021–Jan. 2023

California-China Climate Institute, University of California, Berkeley

Conducted research on climate policies, projects, and initiatives in China, Latin America, and the US. Conducted relevant research in English and Chinese.

Coder

Jun. 2020–Jan. 2023

Oxford Coronavirus Government Response Tracker

Serve as coder for a University of Oxford research team developing a COVID-19 government response tracker. Covered in outlets such as the *Financial Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, and *BBC*.

SELECT RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- "Rewilding and re peopling in Scotland: Large-scale land managers' perspectives and practices." *Journal of Rural Studies* 86 (August 2021).
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2021.05.010>
- "How should policy respond to land abandonment in Europe?" *Land Use Policy* 102 (March 2021). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2020.105269>
- "Lessons from Scotland's rewilding vs. re peopling debate." *ECOS* 42 (1) (2021).
<https://www.ecos.org.uk/postgraduate-highly-commended-lessons-from-scotlands-rewilding-vs-repeopling-debate/>

Policy Articles

- Nathaniel Dolton-Thornton**, Zdenka Myslikova. "Brazil's Energy Innovation Landscape." Climate Policy Lab (October 2023).
- Zdenka Myslikova, **Nathaniel Dolton-Thornton**. "Chile's Energy Innovation Landscape." Climate Policy Lab (October 2023).
- Jessica Gordon, **Nathaniel Dolton-Thornton**, Louise Bedsworth, Michelle Passero, Fan Dai, Jennifer Perron, Jane Sadler. "Achieving a Multi-Beneficial Nature-Based Climate Strategy: An Institutional Framework for Advancing Subnational Climate Action." *California-China Climate Institute & The Nature Conservancy* (June 2022).

Print Magazine Articles

- "Power to the People: Scotland's clean energy future is community owned. Can the United States follow suit?" *Earth Island Journal* (spring 2021).
- "The Elem Tribe's Last Stand." *Earth Island Journal* (winter 2019). (Source for The Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art's exhibition "Jules Tavernier and the Elem Pomo.")
- "Review: *No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference*, by Greta Thunberg." *Orion* (winter 2019).
- "Scorched Earth: The Trump Administration's Public Lands Policies." *The Tortoise: Issue 6* (2017).
- "The Great Ladybug Convergence." *Bay Nature* (January 2016).
- "Ear to the Ground: Harmful Algal Blooms." *Bay Nature* (October 2015).

Web-Based Magazine Articles

- Zdenka Myslikova, **Nathaniel Dolton-Thornton**. "'Global China' is a big part of Latin America's renewable energy boom, but homegrown industries and 'frugal innovation' are key." *The Conversation* (July 5, 2023).
- "Critical minerals, geopolitics, and the risks for achieving net-zero transition." Climate Policy Lab (May 1, 2023).

"Q&A with the Proprietor of the 'Ladybug Hotel.'" *baynature.org* (2015).
"The Peninsula Watershed: To Open, Or Not To Open?" *baynature.org* (2015).
"Q&A: The Unseen Peninsula's Private Photographer." *baynature.org* (2015).

Edited Articles

Sairambay, Y., Kamza, A., Kap, Y., & Nurumov, B. "Monitoring public electoral sentiment through online comments in the news media: a comparative study of the 2019 and 2022 presidential elections in Kazakhstan." *Media Asia* (July 3, 2023).
Sairambay, Y. "Transitional Justice and Democratic Consolidation in the Post-Communist Space: A Comparative Review of the Czech Republic, Latvia and Slovakia." *Politics in Central Europe*. 17 (1) (2021): 127-142.
Öhman, C. "A theory of temporal telepresence: Reconsidering the digital time collapse." *Time & Society* (July 21, 2020).
Sairambay, Y. "Reconceptualising political participation." *Human Affairs* 30, no. 1 (2020): 120-127.
Sairambay, Y. "Young People's Perspectives on How 'Zhuz' and 'Ru' Clans Affect Them: Evidence From Three Cities in Post-Soviet Qazaqstan." *Studies of Transition States and Societies*. 11, no. 11 (2019): 39-54.
Öhman, C. "The Political Economy of Death in the Age of Information: A Critical Approach to the Digital Afterlife Industry." Oxford Internet Institute (2016).

Research Assistance

University of Nottingham Rights Lab. "The Slavery-Free Campus: A blueprint for university action against modern slavery." July 2021.

Reviews

Land Use Policy
Environmental Science & Policy
Political Geography
Environment and Planning D: Society and Space
Habitat International

SELECT POETRY PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Poetic Garden of Liu Zongyuan. Translated by Nathaniel Dolton-Thornton & Yu Yuanyuan. Foreword by Robert Hass. Deep Vellum. 2023. **2024 PEN Award for Poetry in Translation Longlist Nominee (1 of 10)**. [Declined.]

Poems

"aether/oar – winter: XLVI," "aether/oar – winter: LXXI," "aether/oar – winter: LXXII,"
"aether/oar – winter: LXXIII," "aether/oar – winter: LXXIV." *Spillway* (forthcoming).
"extinct: *Nesopupa tortoni*." *Pangyrus* (forthcoming).

"human fields: US EPA ID MON000705032 - hazard score: 76.81," "human fields: US EPA ID MAD990685422 - hazard score: 69.22," "human fields: US EPA ID CA7210020759 - hazard score: 63.94," "human fields: US EPA ID WA2890090077 - hazard score: 65.23," "human fields: US EPA ID WAD001865450 - hazard score: 57.80." *Tupelo Quarterly* (forthcoming).

"aether/oar – flood: LVI," "aether/oar – flood: LVIII." *The Café Review* (forthcoming).

"Don Quixote from Rocinante's point of view," "The Odyssey from Argos's point of view," "The Brave Little Tailor' from the flies' point of view." *Hampden-Sydney Poetry Review* (forthcoming).

"aether/oar – winter: XII," "aether/oar – winter: XIII," "aether/oar – winter: XIV," "aether/oar – winter: XV," "aether/oar – winter: XVI." *Sugar House Review* (forthcoming).

"human fields: US EPA ID ARD000023440 - hazard score: 65.46." *Gulf Coast* (forthcoming).

"extinct: *Cylindraspis inepta*." *Lake Effect* (forthcoming).

"aether/oar – flood: XXXI," "aether/oar – flood: XXXV," "aether/oar – flood: XXXVII." *Sixth Finch* (winter 2023).

"estate." *Vallum: Contemporary Poetry* (2022).

"revisions." *Constellations* (2022).

"*Turdus ravidus*," "*Acalypha rubrinervis*," "*Chilonopsis subplicatus*," "*Cryptoprocta spelea*." *Magma Poetry* 80 (2021).

"*Aplonis fusca*." *Griffith Review* 69 (2020).

"*Tristramella sacra*," "*Stipax triangulifer*," "*Priapella bonita*," "*Pantanodon madagascariensis*." *Poetry Salzburg Review* 36 (2020).

"*Oodemas laysanensis*." *Salamander* (fall/winter 2020).

"*Akialoa lanaiensis*," "*Columba versicolor*," "*Hypotaenidia wakensis*." *Sycamore Review* (2020).

"Hacienda Fire," "cinder." *TAB: The Journal of Poetry & Poetics* (2020).

"sunday," "city," "stopover." *Raritan* (2020).

"*Mascarenotus murivorus*," "*Akialoa stejnegeri*," "*Erythromachus leguati*," "*Loxops wolstenholmei*." *Prism Review* (spring 2020).

"Silver Fire." *Tipton Poetry Journal* (spring 2020).

"*Alopochen kervazoi*," "*Mascarenotus grucheti*," "*Dryophtherus distinguendus*." *The Account* (fall 2019).

"wonder." *Tin House* (summer 2019).

AWARDS

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. 2023–2028.

"A prestigious grant awarded annually by the National Science Foundation to approximately 2,000 students pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees in the natural, social, and engineering sciences at US institutions." \$111,000 (\$37,000/year for three years).

Berkeley Economy and Society Initiative 2024–2025 Political Economy Research Award. 2025.

Provides research grants from the Berkeley Economy and Society Initiative (BESI) for students enrolled in the Designated Emphasis in Political Economy at UC Berkeley.

\$5,000.

California-China Climate Institute's Student Travel and Independent Fieldwork Grant. 2025.

Supports travel and field research for "projects relating to China and/or U.S. (national and subnational) climate, environmental, and energy policy." \$7,000.

Berkeley Economy and Society Initiative 2023–2024 Political Economy Research Award. 2024.

Provides research grants from the Berkeley Economy and Society Initiative (BESI) for students enrolled in the Designated Emphasis in Political Economy at UC Berkeley. \$5,000.

Tinker Field Research Grant. 2024.

Provides "support to graduate students in U.S. universities to conduct pre-dissertation or master's thesis research in the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries of Latin America." \$3,500.

Institute of International Studies Pre-Dissertation Research Grant, UC Berkeley. 2024.

Supports fieldwork by UC Berkeley graduate students who have not yet advanced to candidacy, particularly students with projects "clearly focused on international studies." \$3,420.

American Association of Geographers Latin America Specialty Group Field Study Award. 2024.

Award "supports fieldwork travel and expenses." \$400.

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education. 2023–2024.

Provides "funding for students to learn modern foreign languages and related area or international studies at institutions of higher education." \$20,000.

Rausser Award, UC Berkeley. 2023–2024.

Granted by the Energy and Resources Group, University of California, Berkeley. \$14,000.

Gates Cambridge Scholarship. 2023–2027.

"An international postgraduate award for students to study at the University of Cambridge. The scholarship is one of the most competitive and prestigious in the world, with around 1.3% of applicants receiving an award in recent years." £70,000 (\$87,643). [Declined.]

Cambridge International Scholarship. 2023–2027.

"The aim of the Cambridge International Scholarships . . . is to ensure that the highest scored students, irrespective of nationality, receive full financial support to undertake PhD studies." £35,000–£66,000 (\$43,815–\$82,623). [Declined.]

Blakemore Freeman Fellowship. 2021–2022.

Awarded by the Blakemore and Freeman Foundations to finance "one academic year of advanced level language study," including Mandarin Chinese. \$28,000.

National Bureau of Asian Research Chinese Language Fellowship Program. 2021–2022.

Provides "fellowships of up to \$50,000 for American graduate students (PhD and current or recent MA) so that they can devote one year to intensive Chinese language training at an institution of the fellow's choice, generally in China or Taiwan." \$50,000. [Declined.]

UNSW Press/Bragg Prize for Science Writing. 2021.

"Aplonis fusca" nominated by *Griffith Review* for the prize and inclusion in *The Best Australian Science Writing 2021*.

Marshall Scholarship. 2018–2020.

Created by the Parliament of the United Kingdom to "finance young Americans of high ability to study for a degree in the United Kingdom." "With nearly 1,000 university-endorsed and selected applicants in recent years, it is among the most selective graduate scholarships for Americans." £26,640 (\$33,353).

ECOS Postgraduate Student Essay Prize. 2020.

Highly commended "Lessons from Scotland's rewilding vs. reepling debate."

San Francisco Press Club's Greater Bay Area Journalism Award. 2019.

Awarded to "The Elem Tribe's Last Stand" in category "Magazine/Trade Publications: Environment/Nature Report."

ASSOCIATIONS

Resources for the Future's Critical Minerals Research Lab (Member)	Sep. 2025–Present
Goldwater Scholarship Selection Committee, UC Berkeley	Dec. 2024–Present
Latin American Socionatures Working Group, UC Berkeley	Sep. 2024–Present
Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee, UC Berkeley	Aug. 2024–Present
Marshall Scholarship Selection Committee, UC Berkeley	Aug. 2024–Present
Value and Nature Reading Group, UC Berkeley (Organizer)	Feb. 2024–Present
Conference of Latin American Geography	Dec. 2023–Present
Society for Social Studies of Science	Nov. 2023–Present
Berkeley Economy and Society Initiative, UC Berkeley	Sep. 2023–Present
Political Economy Designated Emphasis, UC Berkeley	Sep. 2023–Present
Klinger Lab (Prof. Julie Klinger), University of Delaware	Sep. 2023–Present
Land Lab (Prof. Nancy Lee Peluso), UC Berkeley	Sep. 2023–Present
Climate Futures Lab (Prof. Meg Mills-Novoa), UC Berkeley	Sep. 2023–Present
Royal Geographical Society	Oct. 2022–Present
Red Académica de América Latina y el Caribe sobre China (The Latin American and the Caribbean Academic Network on China)	Sep. 2022–Present
American Association of Geographers	Sep. 2022–Present
Political Ecology Network	Feb. 2018–Present
British Ecological Society	Apr. 2019–Dec. 2022
Oxford School of Climate Change, University of Oxford	Jan.–Aug. 2019
Political Ecology Group, University of Cambridge	Oct. 2018–Aug. 2019
Alternative Geographies Group, University of Cambridge	Oct. 2018–Aug. 2019

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

"Free Gifts: Capitalism and the Politics of Nature" by Alyssa Battistoni." Invited discussant.

University of California, Berkeley. Co-sponsored by Department of History, BESI Climate, Social Science Matrix, the Environmental Arts and Humanities Initiative, and Critical

Theory. August 27, 2025.

"Energy geographies." Organizer, four sessions. 2025 American Association of Geographers Annual Conference. March 27–28, 2025.

"Green capitalism: Contours, debates, and pathways for engagement with changing value–nature relations." 2025 American Association of Geographers Annual Conference. March 28, 2025.

"Theorizing the 'non-conventional revolution': Fracking, tar sands, and the unwanted energy Transition." Invited discussant. February 28th, 2025. [Cancelled due to strike.]

"Lithium futures: Political and environmental dynamics of lithium supply chains in Argentina and Nevada." Climate Policy Lab, The Fletcher School, Tufts University. December 3, 2024.

"Political and environmental dynamics of lithium supply chains." Energy & Resources Group PhD Seminar, University of California, Berkeley. November 20, 2024.

"The politics of price formation for critical minerals." Socio-Spatial Climate Collaborative and Climate Futures Lab Conference, University of California, Berkeley. May 3, 2024.

"Beyond extraction: The upstream sociopolitical, economic, and environmental dynamics of critical mineral supply chains." Climate Futures Lab, University of California, Berkeley. February 29, 2024.

"Introduction to Covidence." Data Lab, University of California, Berkeley. February 29, 2024.

"Skills Workshop: Journalism for Climate Researchers." Climate Policy Lab, The Fletcher School, Tufts University. July 11, 2023.

"Rewilding vs. Repeopling: Land Ownership, Conservation, and Community in the Highlands of Scotland." MPhil Lecture Series: Geography Department, University of Cambridge. May 2, 2019.

"Lessons From Scotland's 'Rewilding vs. Repeopling' Debate." Graduate Lecture Series: Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge. April 18, 2019.

SKILLS

Computer: ArcGIS, NVivo, Stata, Covidence, Rayyan, Tableau, Adobe (InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop)

Languages: Mandarin Chinese (HSK 5 – proficient), Spanish (proficient)