

Professional Experience:

August 2017- Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Geological Sciences
Environmental Science Affiliate Faculty Member, University of Idaho

Jan-May

2017 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Global
Studies, Sonoma State University

Education:

2016 PhD, Department of Geography, University of Oregon
Dissertation—Understanding Hydropower in China, Balancing Energy
Security, Development and Environmental Sustainability in the Nu River
Valley of Yunnan Province

2010 M.A., Department of Geography, University of Oregon

2007 B.Sc. Hons, Macquarie University, Sydney

2006 B.Sc., Macquarie University, Sydney-Central Washington University, WA

Teaching Experience:

***Indicates new course development**

*Energy Geographies (graduate seminar)

*Geography of Energy Systems

*North American Energy Landscapes

*Resilience & Adaptation to Climate Change

*Natural Hazards and Society

Environment and Society

Field Studies in Geography (field course)

Environmental Geography

World Regional Geography

Geography of Pacific Asia

Introduction to Human Geography

Applied Geography

Graduate Student Supervision:

2018- Alexander Nagel, PhD, committee chair

2019- Jinsoo Lee, PhD, committee member

2019- Anne Dell'Isola, MS (Environmental Science), committee chair

2017-2018: David Russell, MS, committee member

Undergraduate Senior Capstone Faculty Mentor:

Monika Halmo, Cameron Weller, Cory Cornett, Daniel Bakken, Alexander Stutzman,
Hailey Smith, Christopher Lentz

Active Research Projects:

- 1) Multi-Criteria Analysis Tool for evaluating U.S dam landscape
- 2) Stakeholder barriers and opportunities for Western U.S irrigation modernization
- 3) Small hydropower development in the Nu river valley of Yunnan province, China
- 4) Spatial and temporal analysis for understanding the global small hydropower boom
- 5) Geospatial analysis and Western U.S wildfire-grid interactions
- 6) Social, environmental and energy justice for U.S community solar landscape
- 7) Conceptualizing new modes of energy security
- 8) Energy development, borders and China's Belt and Road Initiative
- 9) Climate change skepticism and pro-environmental policies/behavior

Publications:

- 2020 Abatzoglou, J., Smith, C., Swain, D., Ptak, T., Kolden, C., Population exposure to pre-emptive de-energization aimed at averting wildfires in Northern California. *Environmental Research Letters*.
<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/aba135/meta>
- 2020 Radil, S., Castan Pinos, J., Ptak, T., Borders resurgent: towards a post Covid-19 border regime? *Space and Polity*.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13562576.2020.1773254>
- 2020 Ptak, T., Small Hydropower for Electricity and Modernity: Impacts on the Everyday Lives of Minority Communities in Yunnan's Nu River Valley, in *The Political Economy of Hydropower in Southwest China and beyond*, Palgrave Macmillan, J.F. Rousseau & S. Habich-Sobiegalla eds.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-59361-2>
- 2020 Ptak, T., Laine, J., Hu, Z., Liu, Y., Konrad, V., Van de Velde, M., Understanding Borders through Dynamic Processes: Capturing Relational Motion from Southwest China's Radiation Center, Yunnan Province. *Territory, Politics and Governance*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/21622671.2020.1764861>
- 2019 Ptak, T., Yu, Y., Su, X., Southwest China, *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Urban and Regional Studies*, T. Orum (ed.) Wiley-Blackwell, <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118568446.eurs0304>
- 2019 Ptak, T., Visual Expressions of the State: Borders and Boundary Markers in a Dynamic China and Asia, In: Brunn S., Kehrein R. (eds) *Handbook of the Changing World Language Map*. Springer, Cham
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-73400-2_71-1
- 2018 Ptak, T., Towards an Ethnography of Small Hydropower in China: Rural Electrification, Socioeconomic Development and Furtive Hydroscaapes, *Energy Research and Social Science*, 48, pp.116-130
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2018.09.010>
- 2018 Ptak, T., Nagel, A., Radil, S., Phayre. D., Rethinking Community: Analyzing the Landscape of Community Solar through the Community-Place Nexus, *The Electricity Journal*, 31(10), pp. 46-51
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tej.2018.11.006>
- 2017 Ptak, T., Considering Multiple China's in the Geopolitics of Mekong River Dams, *Political Geography*, 58, pp.136-138
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2016.09.007>
- 2016 Ptak, T., Hommel, D., The Trans-political Nature of Southwest China's Energy Conduit, Yunnan Province, *Geopolitics*, 21(3), pp.556-578
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2015.1114471>

- 2014 Ptak, T., Dams and Development: Understanding Hydropower in Far Western Yunnan Province, China, *Focus on Geography*, 57(2), pp.43–53
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/foge.12028>
- 2011 Balistreri, S., Di Giacomo, T., Noisette, I. & Ptak, T., Global Education: Connections, Concepts and Careers, published by the College Board:
<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED562681.pdf>
- 2009 Ptak, T. (2009) Geography of Australia and the South Pacific and Antarctica (in) *World Regional Geography*, Pearson Publishers, Boston

Book Reviews:

- 2016 Ptak, T., Vietnamese-Chinese Relationships at the Borderlands: Trade, Tourism and Cultural Politics, Routledge, *Journal of Borderland Studies*, 31(1), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/08865655.2016.1153942>

Accepted Manuscripts in Press:

Nagel, A. Ptak, T., Approaching obsolescence? A multi-criteria analysis of high-risk dams in the United States Pacific Northwest, accepted and in press at *International Journal of Water Resources Development*
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07900627.2020.1856050>

Manuscripts in Submission:

Ptak, T., Radil, S. Democratic Divergence and the Landscape of Community Solar in the United States, Invited submission to *Democratizing Energy, Insecurities, Risks, Transitions*, Elsevier, Nadesan, Pasqualetti & Keahey eds.

Ptak, T., From Powershed to Integrative Energy Center; Tracing the Evolution of Yunnan Province, Invited submission in review at *Journal of Borderland Studies*

Haltinner, K., Sarathchandra, D., Ptak, T. Climate Change as a Conspiracy Affects Skeptics' Environmental Attitudes and Behaviors, in review at *Environment*

Manuscripts in Preparation:

Ptak, T., Crootof, A., Harlan, T., Kelly, S., Nagel, A. Analyzing the Global Small Hydropower Boom through Spatial and Temporal Analysis. In preparation for submission to *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*

Ptak, T., The enduring and unobtainable myth of energy security, In preparation for submission to *Energy Policy*

Grants:	Total Awarded \$158,912.37
2020	Wildfire-Grid Interactions and Outcomes, National Science Foundation Disaster Resilience Research Grant (DRRG) program, CO-PI, \$400,000. <i>Currently under review</i>
2020	Zero Solid Waste for a Sustainable Society, National Science Foundation CNH2 program, CO-PI, \$1,599,512. <i>Currently under review</i>
2020	New Modes of Energy Security, Charles Koch Foundation, CO-PI, \$54,000
2020	United States Geological Survey (104b), Stakeholder Interest Framework for Western United States Irrigation Modernization, PI, \$36,069.37
2019	Centre for Advanced Energy Studies, Visiting Faculty Fellowship \$24,864
2019	Interdisciplinary Grant, College of Letters Arts and Social Sciences, University of Idaho. \$9,879
2018	Think Open Fellowship, University of Idaho. \$1,500
2016	8 th Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference. \$1,000
2016	University of Oregon Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, Professional Graduate Student Grant. \$3,000
2016	Department of Geography, University of Oregon, conference travel and dissertation completion grant. \$900
2015	University of Oregon Graduate School, Gary E. Smith Summer Professional Award. \$3,000
2014	First International Salween Studies Conference Travel Award. Chiang Mai, Thailand. \$3,500
2014	University of Oregon Graduate School, Public Impact Fellowship. \$6,000
2013	Department of Geography, University of Oregon, Summer research grant. \$700
2013	Henry Luce Foundation/American Council of Learned Societies, Pre-dissertation research fellowship. \$5,000
2011	American Geographical Society, McColl Family Fellowship. \$3,000
2010	Department of Geography, University of Oregon, conference and preliminary research in China. \$2,700
2010	5 th Biennial Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference, Travel Award. \$1,000

- 2009 Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Larry Ford Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship. \$1,000
- 2009 Department of Geography, University of Oregon. Summer Research Grant. \$800
- 2009 Center on Diversity and Community, University of Oregon. Research grant. \$1000

Invited Presentations:

- 2020 Arizona State University School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, Research Colloquium: *Advancing a Nuanced Understanding of Dams in an era of Energy Transitions*, Virtual Research Presentation
- 2020 Boise State University Energy Policy Institute, Power Talks: *Hydropower in the Northwest, Decisions on Energy Resilience and Salmon*. Virtual Panel
- 2020 Farmers Conservation Alliance, Research Seminar Series: Analyzing. *The Energy-Water-Fire Interface across the Western United States*. Virtual Research Presentation
- 2019 University of Idaho, Malcolm Renfrew Interdisciplinary Colloquium: *Pipelines, Networks and Ecosystems: Energy, Research & Education Landscapes Across Idaho*, Moscow, ID
- 2019 Carleton University, New Directions at the Border Symposium: *Energizing Borders, Belts and Roads: Tracing the Evolution of Yunnan Province—Southwest China’s “Radiation Center”—Through Transregional Energy Development*, Ottawa, Canada
- 2019 Pontificia Universidad de Chile, Charla Series: *Development versus Sustainability: China’s Hydropower Boom and Yunnan Province’s Grand Canyon of the East*, Santiago, Chile
- 2019 Center for Advanced Energy Studies, Research Seminar: *Integrating Geography, Energy, Exploration & Education*, Idaho Falls, ID
- 2019 Oregon State University, College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences Research Seminar: *Energy, Hydropower and China Balancing Power, Development & Sustainability*, Corvallis, OR
- 2018 Central Washington University, Department of Geography Colloquium Series: *Small Hydropower as Security and Development in China’s Energy Assemblage*, Ellensburg, WA

- 2016 Oregon State University, Department of Geography Colloquium Series: *Northwest Yunnan Province, Where Energy, Indigenous Communities and Environmental Justice Converge*, Corvallis, OR
- 2015 University of Idaho, Department of Geography Colloquium Series: *Dams and Development, Understanding Hydropower in Yunnan Province's Nu River Valley*, Moscow, ID
- 2014 Southeast Asian Geography Association Biannual Meeting, Plenary Panelist: *The Shifting Geopolitics of the Mekong*, Siem Reap, Cambodia
- 2014 World Agroforestry Center, Kunming Institute of Botany Research Colloquium: *Ecological Impacts of Small Dam Development in the Nu River Valley*, Kunming, China
- 2014 First International Salween Studies Conference: *Dams and Development, Understanding Hydropower in the Upper Nu River Valley of Yunnan Province*, Chiang Mai, Thailand
- 2011 Central Washington University, Department of Geography Colloquium Series: *Tibetan Culture and Identity in Exile*, Ellensburg, WA

Conference Presentations:

- 2021* American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting: Panel Organizer and Moderator, *Energy Geography: future projections, possible directions*, Seattle, WA
- 2019 Center for Advanced Energy Studies Energy Policy Institute Annual Conference: *Developing the Future Energy Workforce*, Roundtable Co-organizer/Co-facilitator, Boise, ID
- 2019 Center for Advanced Energy Studies Energy Policy Institute Annual Conference: *Understanding Borders through Dynamic Processes: Capturing Relational Motion from Southwest China's Radiation Center, Yunnan Province*, Boise, ID
- 2019 Environmental History World Congress: *China's State-Led Hydropower Boom, Environmental Consequences for the "Angry River" and Beyond*, Florianopolis, Brazil
- 2019 Association of Borderland Studies Annual Meeting: *Towards a Paradigm Shift in Border Studies*, Invited panelist, San Diego, CA
- 2019 American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting: *Understanding Borders through Dynamic Processes: Capturing Relational Motion from Southwest China's Radiation Center, Yunnan Province*, Washington, D.C

- 2018 American Geographical Society Geography 2050 Symposium: *Rethinking Community: Analyzing the Landscape of Community Solar through the Community-Place Nexus*, NY, NY
- 2018 Center for Advanced Energy Studies Energy Policy Institute Annual Conference: 1: *Towards an Ethnography of Small Hydropower in China*. 2: *Rethinking Community: Analyzing the Landscape of Community Solar through the Community-Place Nexus*, Boise, ID
- 2018 Regional Studies Association Global Meeting: Panel Organizer and Presenter, *Multiscalar and Dynamic Borderlands of Southwest China*, Beijing, China
- 2018 American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting: Panel Co-Organizer and Presenter, *Small Hydropower in Policy and Practice*, New Orleans, LA
- 2018 American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting: Energy Ethnographies special session, *Energy Provision, Access and Everyday Life in China*, New Orleans, LA
- 2018 Association of Borderland Studies Annual Conference: *Yunnan Province as a Framework, Developing a Multiscalar and Multidimensional Understanding of Borders*, (with Jussi Laine) San Antonio, TX
- 2017 Association of Borderland Studies Annual Conference: *Placing Energy and Yunnan in the Multiscalar Production of Borders*, San Francisco, CA
- 2016 8th Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference: *Implications of Small Hydropower on Social Circumstances and Everyday Life for Ethnic Minorities in China's Nu River Valley*, Kent, OH
- 2016 American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting: Panel Co-Organizer and Presenter, *Environmental Geographies of Western China*, San Francisco, CA
- 2015 University of Oregon Graduate School Research Forum: Panel Co-Organizer and Presenter, *Water: Our Planet's Most Valuable Resource*, Eugene, OR
- 2014 Association of Pacific Coast Geographers: *Understanding the Role of Dams in Far Western Yunnan Province, China*, Tucson, AZ
- 2014 Geopolitics in Changing Southeast Asia, Borders and Borderlands: *The Geopolitics of Southwest China's Energy Conduit, Yunnan Province*, Kunming, China
- 2014 Oregon State University Hydrophiles Conference: *Dams and Development, Understanding Hydropower in Far Western Yunnan Province*, Corvallis, OR

- 2012 University of Oregon Graduate School Research Forum: *China and Energy Security: Challenges and Opportunities*, Eugene, OR
- 2012 American Association of Geographers: *Migration, Exile and Diaspora, a Comparative Approach*, NYC, NY
- 2010 5th Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference: *Tibetan Migrants in Exile, Strategies for Retention of Culture and Identity*, Binghamton, NY
- 2010 University of Oregon Graduate School Research Forum: *Spatial Construction and Realities of Border Crossings*, Eugene, OR
- 2010 American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting: *Tibetan Migration, Cultural Identity and Place in Portland and New York City*, Washington, DC
- 2009 Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Annual Meeting: *Tibetan Cultural Identity: A case study of Sydney, Australia and Portland, Oregon*, San Diego, CA
- 2009 Biennial International Population Geography Conference: *Is there a Tibetan Culture in Exile?* Dartmouth University, Hanover, NH
- Service:**
- 2019- Energy and Environment Specialty Group, Co-secretary/treasurer, American Association of Geographers
- 2019- R1 Research Plan Committee, University of Idaho
- 2019- General Education Steering Committee, University of Idaho
- 2018- CAES Energy Policy Institute, Scientific Advisory Board member
- 2018-2020 College of Science Faculty and Staff Council member, University of Idaho
- 2018 Vandal Star Student Retention Software Pilot Team, University of Idaho
- 2016 Commencement Speaker, Department of Geography, University of Oregon
- 2015-17 PhD student representative, University of Oregon Graduate Council
- 2011 Geographic Knowledge and Values Survey, Oregon Coordinator, American Geographical Society
- 2011 Adventure Leadership Institute, Program creator and lead facilitator, University of Oregon

2009-2011 Ethnic Geography Specialty Group, Student representative to administrative board, American Association of Geographers

Awards:

2016 Recognition Award, Asian Geography Specialty Group Graduate Paper Competition, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting

2015 Best Panel Award, University of Oregon Graduate School Research Forum, Panel Organizer and Presenter, Water: Our Planets Most Valuable Resource

2014 President's Award for best PhD Student Paper, Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Annual Meeting, Tucson, Arizona

2010 Graduate Student Paper Award, American Geographical Society, 5th Race Ethnicity and Place Conference, Binghamton, NY

2009 International Student Award for Understanding Diversity, Office of International Affairs, University of Oregon

Referee for Professional Journals:

Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space
Energy Research and Social Science
Annals of the American Association of Geographers
Geopolitics
Political Geography
Journal of Borderland Studies

Professional Associations:

American Association of Geographers
Association of Pacific Coast Geographers
American Geographical Society
Association of Borderland Studies
Regional Studies Association
Gamma Theta Upsilon, International Geographic Honor Society

Professional Development:

Association of American Geographers, Geography Faculty Development Alliance, Early Career Workshop, June 2015, Storrs, CT

Teaching Effectiveness Program, University of Oregon, Rubric Design and Implementation Workshop, October 2014

Center on Diversity and Community, University of Oregon, Sexual Harassment and Title IX workshop, November 2014

Teaching Effectiveness Program, University of Oregon, Effective Course Design Workshop, March 2012

Media:

[National Public Radio Paris Climate Accord Interview](#)

[Idaho Climate Impacts Assessment Commentary](#)

[Moscow Public Radio Idaho Energy Education](#)

Languages:

English, Native
Chinese, Intermediate
Spanish, Basic