

Cameran Ashraf, Ph.D.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles

Ph.D., Geography. 2015

- Dissertation: *“The Spatiality of Power in Internet Control and Cyberwar”*

- Committee: John Agnew & Michael Shin, Co-Chairs;
Eric Sheppard, Nazli Choucri (MIT Political Science)

Universiteit van Amsterdam

Certificate, Digital Methods. 2011

California State University, Fullerton

M.A., Geography. 2009

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

B.S., Geography (Cum Laude). 2005

B.S., Business Administration (Cum Laude). 2005

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Central European University

School of Public Policy

- Assistant Professor, New Media & Global Communications, 2016 - Present

University of California, Los Angeles

Department of Geography

- Lecturer, 2014 & 2016

- Teaching Associate & Fellow, 2011-2015

-- Courses Taught: Place, Identity & the Networked World; Introduction to GIS;
Biodiversity

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Department of Geography and Anthropology

- Lecturer, 2009-2010

-- Courses Taught: Physical Geography, California Geography

California State University, Fullerton

Department of Geography

- Research Assistant, 2007-2008

NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Independent Consultant, 2011 – Present

- Provide strategic consulting on Internet freedom in closed societies.

- Advise on digital threats facing human rights activists.

- Train human rights defenders and NGOs on digital operational security in authoritarian regimes.

- Conceive of and guide development of new and innovative software tools to facilitate flow of information in restricted information environments.

Expression Technologies, 2010 – 2011

Co-Founder & Executive Director

Providing technology solutions to human rights activists in closed societies

- Migrated AccessNow's secure hosting and communications infrastructure
- Extended security services to clients in South America and Southeast Asia
- Secured \$2.1 million U.S. Department of State Internet Freedom grant as sub-grantee

AccessNow, 2009 – 2010

Co-Founder, President, & International Projects Director

Defending and extending the digital rights of users at risk around the world

- Provided secure hosting to vital human rights and democracy websites.
- Distributed secured communications tools for high-value activists in authoritarian regimes.
- Facilitated more than 3 million video downloads from inside Iran during Green Movement.
- Developed international and corporate governance policy recommendations to keep the Internet free and open and facilitate the secure flow of information in closed societies.
- **Finalist, 2010 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought** – In recognition of work in Iran, selected by the European Parliament as finalist for the 2010 Sakharov Prize, Europe's highest human rights honor.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- First Place, Google Global Voices Advocacy Essay Competition, 2015 for "Who do we lose with Internet censorship and control?"
- University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, Herbert F. York Global Security Dissertation Fellowship, 2013-2014.
- University of Oxford, Selected Participant to Summer Doctoral Programme at Oxford Internet Institute, 2013
- University of Toronto, Full Scholarship, Connaught Summer Institute on Monitoring Internet Openness and Rights, 2013
- University of Toronto, Selected Participant to Connaught Summer Institute on Monitoring Internet Openness and Rights, 2013
- University of Amsterdam, Selected Participant to Digital Methods Program, 2011
- University of Pennsylvania, Digital Methods Initiative Full Scholarship, 2011
- UCLA International Institute Fellowship, 2010-2012.
- **Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought**, European Parliament, finalist as co-founder of AccessNow, 2010.

- Third Place, Graduate Paper Competition, California Geographical Society Annual Conference, 2007.
- Third Place, Innovative Application of GIS, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona GIS Expo, 2004.

Honor Societies

- Phi Kappa Phi, Honor Society, 2009.
- Pi Gamma Mu, International Social Science Honor Society, 2004.
- Beta Gamma Sigma, Business Honor Society, 2004.
- Mu Kappa Tau, Marketing Honor Society, 2004.
- Golden Key International Honor Society, 2004

INVITED TALKS

- “International Cybersecurity and the Legal-Territorial Paradox” York Symposium, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, November 2013.
- “Technology and the Places of Everyday Life” University of California, San Diego, March 2013.
- “The Internet and Human Rights” in the undergraduate class Human Geography. Instructor Aline Gregorio, Department of Geography, California State University, Fullerton, March 2011.
- “Celestial Landscapes: The Art and Science of Astrophotography.” All Points of the Compass Conference at California State University Fullerton, February 2011
- “New Communications Technologies and Iran’s Green Movement” in the undergraduate class Place, Identity, and the Networked World. Professor Michael Curry, Department of Geography, University of California, Los Angeles, November 2010.
- “Strong Ties, Weak Ties, and Iran’s Green Movement: A Response to Gladwell” in the graduate seminar The Cultural, Ontological, and Digital – Global Perspectives. Professor Ramesh Srinivasan, Department of Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles, October 2010.
- “Civics in Difficult Places.” MIT Communications Forum at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, May 2010.
- “#iranelection: The Digital Media Response to the 2009 Iranian Election.” Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University, November 2009.
- “The Night Sky as Cultural Landscape.” International Dark Sky Association Annual Conference, November 2009.

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

- “Authoritarian political geographical contexts and the infrastructural equivocality of neogeography.” California Geographical Society Annual Conference, April 2013.
- “Intentional and unintentional crowdsourced geographic information: the case of the geoweb in authoritarian regimes.” Association of American Geographers Annual Conference, April 2013.
- “The Internet and Authoritarian States: Ethical Issues in Transnational Digital Activism.” International Symposium on Digital Ethics, Center for Digital Ethics and Policy, Loyola University Chicago, October 2012
- “Technological Mediation and the Experience of Place.” Symposium on Faith and Culture: Technology and Human Flourishing, Baylor University, October 2012
- “Bytes and borders: Understanding software-mediated political geographies.” California Geographical Society Annual Conference, April 2012.
- “World Wide Web? Visualizing Spaces of Internet Censorship.” Association of American Geographers Annual Conference, April 2011.
- “#Iranelection: Geographies of Digital Media in Post-Election Iran” Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Annual Meeting, October 2009.
- “River of Water, River of Stars: The Separation of Earth and Sky in Cultural Landscapes” Los Angeles Geographical Society, May 2009.
- “River of Water, River of Stars: The Separation of Earth and Sky in Cultural Landscapes” California Geographical Society Annual Conference, March 2009.
- “The Night Sky as Cultural Landscape” Association of American Geographers Annual Conference, May 2009.
- “The Impact of Policy on Light Pollution” Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Annual Conference, October 2007.
- “The Impact of Policy on Light Pollution: A Comparison of Palm Springs and Flagstaff” California Geographical Society Annual Conference, March 2007.
- “The Impact of Policy on Light Pollution: A Comparison of Palm Springs and Flagstaff” Los Angeles Geographical Society, 2007.
- Map, “Iran: Earthquakes 400 B.C. - Present, Magnitude 6.0 and Above” California State Polytechnic University, Pomona GIS Expo, May 2004.
- Map, “Iran: Earthquakes 400 B.C. - Present, Magnitude 6.0 and Above” California Geographical Society Annual Conference, May 2004

Panels

- Resistance and Technology Roundtable Part 1: Regulation, Structure, and Resistance. Association of Internet Researchers Annual Conference, October 2011

PROFESSIONAL
AFFILIATIONS
AND SERVICE

Affiliations

- Association of American Geographers
- Society for Philosophy and Technology
- Association of Pacific Coast Geographers
- California Geographical Society
- International Studies Association

Service

- Lead Teaching Fellow, Introduction to GIS. UCLA. Winter - Spring 2013.
- UCLA Department of Geography, Colloquium Representative, 2011-2012.
- Session Chair, (G)local Connections of Corporatism, Culture, and Citizenship. Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Annual Conference. 2009.
- Student Board Member, Geography of Religions & Belief Systems Specialty Group. Association of American Geographers. 2009-2011.
- Webmaster – Geography of Religions & Belief Systems Specialty Group. Association of American Geographers. 2009-2011.
- Administrator – Facebook, Geography of Religions & Belief Systems Specialty Group. Association of American Geographers. 2009-2011.
- Session Chair, Cultural Landscapes. Association of American Geographers Annual Conference. 2009.

MEDIA

- Columbia Journalism Review: “5 tips for securing your work online” May/June 2015
- Columbia Journalism Review: “Beware of keylogging” April 2015
- New Internationalist Magazine: “Beyond Burnout” May 2014
- SiriusXM Radio – The Agenda: “2013 Iran Election Panel” June 2013
- Slate: “The Heavy Psychological Toll of a Digital Activist’s Work” April 2013
- The Global Mail: “Iran: Not Tweeting, Hacking” April 2012
- PC World Magazine: “In Iran, New Attack Escalates Ongoing Cyberconflict” March 2011
- National Public Radio: “1 Year Later Iran's Opposition Still Relies On Internet” June 2010
- TechPresident: “Getting Past Digital Censors Becoming 'Part of Youth Culture'” March 2010
- New York Times: “Supporting Dissent With Technology” February 2010.
- Businessweek: “Iran 'Cyber Army' Hits Radio in Latest Crackdown” February 2010
- PC World Magazine: “Clinton Praised for Internet Freedom Speech” January 2010
- New York Times: “Clinton Urges Global Response to Internet Attacks” January 2010