

Elías Gálvez-Arango

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Education

Pennsylvania State University	2026 -
M.S. + Ph.D., Geography	
Minor in Demography	
Stanford University	2017-2021
B.A. with Honors, Urban Studies	
Minor in Modern Languages (Portuguese and Spanish)	

Research Experience

Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) Belo Horizonte, Brazil	Mar. – Dec. 2022
<i>Fulbright Research Fellow</i>	
- Produced first statewide map and study of an intermunicipal bus system in Brazil - Developed transportation access metrics for use in data-scarce contexts - Identified municipal characteristics associated with bus access using spatial, demographic, economic data and non-parametric statistics	
Mercy Corps Washington DC, USA	Sep. 2021 - Mar. 2022
<i>Research Intern, Water Resources</i>	
- Analyzed data from 148 countries to identify correlations between receipt of foreign aid and water/sanitation/hygiene service improvements - Conducted hydrologic analysis of proposed well and dam projects in Jordan - Provided GIS support including QGIS trainings, spatial analysis, cartography	
Jenna Davis Research Group Stanford, USA	Oct. 2019 – Oct. 2020
<i>Research Assistant</i>	
- Co-developed site selection criteria for piped water experiment across six countries - Collected and visualized infrastructure accessibility and poverty data in QGIS, Excel - Designed maps and infographics for broad audience of international stakeholders - Provided basic GIS training and support for PhD students	
Boehm Research Group Santiago, Chile / Stanford, USA	Mar. 2019 – Dec. 2019
<i>Research Assistant</i> - “Water Quality and Human Bacterial Indicators in an Urban River”	
- Planned water quality sampling campaign in consultation with local stakeholders - Analyzed land use, informal settlement, and hydrologic resources in urban river basin - Processed water quality data and produced maps for journal article in <i>Water Research X</i>	
Salinas History Project Salinas/Stanford, USA	Jan. 2018 – Mar. 2018

Research Assistant - “Race and Space: Historical Settlement Patterns in Salinas, CA”

- Applied spatial statistics to census data identify temporal changes in residential segregation
- Coordinated field visits and work assignments for team of 10 research assistants
- Presented findings to Salinas City Council and contributed to public history book chapter

Chavín de Huántar Archaeological Project | Chavín, Peru

Jul. – Aug. 2018

Research Assistant

- Designed and conducted acoustic pilot experiment on potential uses of ceremonial space
- Excavated, identified, and organized artifacts throughout World Heritage Site
- Provided GIS support for specimen inventory and landslide preparedness project

Professional Experience

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority | Washington DC, USA Jun. 2025 – Jun. 2026

Data Analyst – Bus Performance

- Analyzed time-series vehicle performance and maintenance data via SQL and R
- Presented bus performance trends and service recommendations to agency leadership
- Designed accessible Power BI dashboards and R scripts for automated reporting

International Foundation for Electoral Systems | Washington DC, USA

Jan. 2023 – Jun. 2025

Democracy Data Officer

- Maintained global election research database and tracked 120+ national elections each year
- Analyzed survey, interview, and focus group data on elections and democratic governance
- Created data visualizations (dashboards, apps, maps) and technical documentation
- Liaised with donors, government and civil society partners, and database users

Conference Presentations

Gálvez-Arango, E & Antunes Lessa, D. “Análise da Acessibilidade do Sistema de Ônibus

Intermunicipal de Minas Gerais” [Accessibility Analysis of the Intermunicipal Bus System of Minas Gerais]. Presented at the ANPET Congresso de Pesquisa e Ensino em Transportes in Fortaleza, Brazil, November 2022.

Gálvez-Arango, E. “Mapping the Public Bus System of Minas Gerais, Brazil: Processing Difficult

Datasets with OpenStreetMap.” Virtually presented at OpenStreetMap State of the Map, August 2022.

Awards and Grants

<i>University Distinguished Fellowship</i> , PSU Fox Graduate School	2026 – 2028
<i>Dean’s Distinguished Graduate Scholarship</i> , PSU Fox Graduate School	2026 - 2031
<i>Fulbright US Student Research Grant</i> , Fulbright Commission in Brazil	2022
<i>Outstanding Thesis Presentation</i> , Stanford Program on Urban Studies	2021
<i>Phi Beta Kappa</i> , Stanford University	2020
<i>Stanford Major Grant</i> , Stanford VPUE	2020
<i>Chavín de Huántar Field Grant</i> , Stanford Archaeological Center	2018

General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant, Air Force Aid Society

2017-2021

Service

LGBTQ+ Mentor PSU Student Affairs	2026 - present
Supporting Women in Geography PSU Geography	2026 - present
Belonging, Diversity, and Justice Committee PSU Geography	2026 - present
Fulbright Applicant Mentor Stanford Office of Global Scholarships	2022 – present
Model Scholar Selection Committee Stanford Program on Urban Studies	2020
Citizenship Exam Tutor Immigration Institute of the Bay Area	2018

Computational Skills

Programming	R, SQL, Git, DAX
Geographic Information Systems	QGIS, ArcGIS, GeoDa, Google Earth
Data Visualization	Power BI, Excel, Looker Studio, ArcGIS Storymaps

Languages

English	Native
Portuguese	Professional: read, write, listen, speak
Spanish	Professional: read, write, listen, speak
French	Professional: read, listen Intermediate: write, speak

Professional Memberships

American Association of Geographers
Conference of Latin American Geography