

## LEANNE PURDUM

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### Education

**Ph.D.** (in progress since Fall 2013) Geography, University of Georgia Athens, Georgia  
Advisor: Amy J. Ross

**M.A.** (2013) Geography, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

**B.A.** (2004) Magna Cum Laude, International Studies and Business, Minor in Spanish, University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas

### Teaching and Research Interests

Law and belonging in the U.S.; citizenship and immigration history; criminalization of migration; the social construction of “illegality”; critical approaches to humanitarianism and helping; state violence; imprisonment and detention; borders; youth and children; critical race theory; feminist geopolitics; critical research methods; legal geography; social theory; service learning; scholar-activism.

### Awards

Lamar Dodd School of Art Interdisciplinary Fellow, 2019-20

UGA Franklin College-University of Liverpool Doctoral Student Short-Term International Research Fellowship, Spring 2019

UGA Willson Center Graduate Research Award, Summer 2018

Outstanding Teaching Assistant, UGA Office of Instruction, Spring 2018

Graduate Research Funding, Summer 2018, UGA Latin American Caribbean Studies Institute  
Future Faculty Fellow, 2017-2018, UGA Graduate School and Center for Teaching and Learning.

Dean’s Award in support of graduate research 4/2017, UGA Graduate School

Law and Society Association Graduate Student Award, 6/2017

Innovative and Interdisciplinary Research Grant (IIRG) 6/2016- 7/2016, UGA Graduate School

Tinker Graduate Research Travel Award 7/2014-8/2014 for Summer Research in Argentina

Tinker Graduate Research Travel Award 7/2012 - 8/2012 for Summer Research in Guatemala

## **Publications:**

### *Edited Books*

(Under contract) Purdum and Howerton, “Discourses of Youth: Rights, Power, and the State”, co-edited volume with The West Virginia University Press’ [\*Gender, Feminism, and Geography series.\*](#)

### *Invited Reviews:*

Purdum, Leanne. 2017. Invited Review of the “States of Incarceration” Exhibit on Family Detention. *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*. September.

## **Advocacy and Volunteer Work**

2017-Present: Committee lead for Law and Policy Committee of the Athens Immigrant Rights Coalition. Currently working on cross-organization advocacy for a Community Police Review Board, and halting arrests for immigrants with no driver’s license. Previous advocacy focused on Sheriff’s decision to collaborate with ICE Officers.

January 2019: Drafted a sample declaration for use in training videos for the Immigration Justice Campaign. Text of my created story, based on experience with refugee women, was used to create training “mock interview” materials for future volunteers.

<https://vimeo.com/327972090/0b9c3ceefd>

2015- 2019: Long term volunteer as Legal Assistant to the [CARA Family Detention Pro Bono Project](#), inside the South Texas Family Residential Center, Dilley, Texas. Led intake “chats”, completed individual client intakes, prepped clients for “Credible Fear Interviews”, drafted declarations as necessary for court proceedings or advocacy issues, attended Credible fear interviews for support as a legal advocate.

(~12 months cumulative work and volunteer on site. )

Summer 2016: Submitted evidence of harmful effects of detention, through my capacity as a volunteer in family detention centers, as part of federal lawsuit over detention centers.

Spring 2016: Contributed to American Immigration Council [Hielera report](#) on the inhumane and unjust holding cells at the US-Mexico border. Drafted declarations used for qualitative data in the report during volunteer time in Dilley.

## **Consultant to Non-Profit Reports:**

August 2018: Volunteer responsible for speaking with detained women whose children were separated from this at the border. Their declarations were included in the following report, at the stories from women at the Dilley detention center.

<https://americanimmigrationcouncil.org/advocacy/illegal-and-systematic-practice-coercing-separated-families-must-be-investigated>

May 2016: Research Consultant to American Immigration Council for special report on deportation from detention centers. Conducted and translated interviews, and provided analysis that

became the bulk of “Detained, Deceived, and Deported: Experiences of Recently Deported Central American Families.”

[https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/detained\\_deceived\\_deported\\_experiences\\_of\\_recently\\_deported\\_central\\_american\\_families.pdf](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/detained_deceived_deported_experiences_of_recently_deported_central_american_families.pdf)

### **Recent Teaching and Talks**

December 2019: Invited speaker, University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, Legal Geography class, lecture “U.S. Immigration Policing and Immigrant Detention”

September 2019: Invited Speaker to UGA Spanish Service Learning class, lecture “Family detention and immigration policing in the U.S.”

August 2018: Invited Speaker to UGA Lamar Dodd School of Art, Human Geography and the Arts Seminar, lecture “Immigration Policing and the South Texas Family Residential Center”

November 2018: Invited speaker to panel “What does the migrant caravan have to do with U.S.?” sponsored by the UGA Latin American Caribbean Studies Institute, panel tackling mythologies and anti-immigrant discourses in immigration policing

August 2018: Invited Speaker to *The Forum on Creating Welcoming Schools for Immigrant Families*, held at the Athens Public Library, open to all K-12 public educators. Session Title: “Immigration Basics: A Guide to Understanding Current Day Immigration Policing.”

July 2017: International Meeting on Law and Society, Mexico City. Panelist on “Sex shaming and policing of women”

April 2017: Association of American Geographers, “Family detention through the lens of critical humanitarianism: Residential Center or “Baby Jail”? (poster)

March 2017: Co-lead of a community workshop at the Athens public library, “Immigration Facts and Myths”

### **Teaching**

Spring 2018: Outstanding Teaching Award, awarded by Geography department through the UGA Graduate School.

2017-2018 Future Faculty Fellow, UGA Graduate School and The Center for Teaching and Learning: project (in-progress) to consider strategies for teaching through tumultuous times; organize campus wide Teaching Symposium; coordinate Teaching Assistant Café events

Fall 2016: Instructor of Record (half-semester), Geography of Human Rights 3640: Upper level course on human rights, criminalized migration and constructed illegality

July 2016: Instructor of Record, Cultural Geography 1103 at UGA: Intro level class with “Mini-Conference” Final

## **Graduate Research and Work**

Summer 2018: Research in Texas, funded by various awards and departmental support

Summer 2017: Research in Texas, funded by Dean's Award

Summer 2016: Research in Texas, funded by Innovative and Interdisciplinary Research Grant  
South Texas: Research to begin analysis of US detention and "sorting" policy that determines how migrants are sent to family detention centers, and how legal standards shape detention centers

July 2014: Tinker Award Travel

Buenos Aires, Argentina: Preliminary research to understand the context of the National Migration Act of 2004 and the U.S. immigration scholars who describe it as an exemplar for the U.S.

2013-Present: Graduate Assistantship, UGA Immigration Services

Spring 2013: Master's Thesis on State Immigration Law

"The Immigrant as Problem, Law as the Solution: An Analysis of Georgia House Bill 87."  
This work explored how state legislators passed state-level law closely resembling federal law and encouraged implementation of federal programs, while presenting the law as highly "anti-government".

July 2012: Tinker Award Travel

Antigua, Guatemala: Preliminary research over 4 weeks investigating the effect of restrictive immigration law in Georgia on Guatemalan migrants

Language: Spanish fluency