

# Cameran Ashraf, Ph.D.

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Citizenship: United States of America

## EDUCATION

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**University of California, Los Angeles** Ph.D., Geography. 2015

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

**Universiteit van Amsterdam** Certificate, Digital Methods. 2011

**California State University, Fullerton** M.A., Geography. 2009

**California State Polytechnic University, Pomona** B.S., Geography & Business Administration  
(Cum Laude). 2005

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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**Central European University**, School of Public Policy

Assistant Professor of New Media & Global Communications, 2016 – Present

Faculty Affiliate, Center for Media, Data, and Society

**University of California, Los Angeles**, Department of Geography

Lecturer, 2014 & 2016; Teaching Associate & Fellow, 2011-2015

**California State Polytechnic University, Pomona**, Department of Geography and Anthropology

Lecturer, 2009-2010

**California State University, Fullerton**, Department of Geography

Research Assistant, 2007-2008

## NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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### **Open Society Foundations**

Deputy Director, Open Society Foundations Internship for Rights & Governance, 2018 - Present

- Develop and plan clinical human rights seminar in close coordination with director
- Share ideas on additional topics and speakers with clinical seminar director and provide feedback on seminar schedule
- Lead conceptualization and design of three seminar days
- Review and revise online human rights learning module for OSF grantees
- Facilitate all seminar sessions and teach sessions on technology, human rights, and digital security

## Independent Human Rights and Technology Consultant, 2011 – Present

- Consultant for American and international governmental and non-governmental organizations and agencies.
- Manage small team of human rights technologists through multi-year projects.
- Secure grants for development of innovative software tools to facilitate the free flow of information in authoritarian regimes.
- Provide strategic guidance on Internet freedom in closed societies.
- Advise on cybersecurity threats for human rights defenders and journalists.
- Train human rights defenders and international NGOs in digital operational security.
- **Due to the sensitive nature of projects, a client/project list is available only upon request.**

## Expression Technologies

Co-Founder & Executive Director, 2010 – 2011

*Providing technology solutions to human rights activists in closed societies*

- Migrate and extend AccessNow's secure hosting and communications infrastructure for global human rights activists and journalism organizations.
- Expanded security services to human rights defenders in South America and Southeast Asia.
- **Secured \$2.1 million U.S. Department of State Internet Freedom subgrant.**

## AccessNow

Co-Founder, President, & International Projects Director, 2009 – 2010

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

- Provided secure hosting to vital human rights and democracy groups around the world.
- Distributed secure communications tools for high-value individuals in authoritarian regimes.
- Facilitated more than 3 million video downloads from inside Iran from 2009-11.
- Developed national, international, and corporate policy recommendations to support the secure and free 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, the European Union's highest human rights honor.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Book Chapters

Ashraf, Cameran, and Luis Felipe Alvarez León "The Logics and Territorialities of Geoblocking."  
In *Geoblocking and Global Video Culture*, edited by Ramon Lobato and James Meese.  
Amsterdam: Institute of Network Cultures, 2016.

### Other Publications

Ashraf, Cameran "The Historical Geopolitics of the Chinese AI Initiative" *China Policy Institute: Analysis*, University of Nottingham. April 2018.

Ashraf, Cameran "I Want to Know Everything!" exhibition catalogue. 57th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy. Hungarian National Pavilion, Curator: Zsolt Petranzyi, 2017.

Ashraf, Cameran "Who Do We Lose with Internet Censorship and Control?" *Global Voices*, 2015.

Ashraf, Cameran "The Heavy Psychological Toll of a Digital Activist's Work" *Slate Magazine*, 2013.

## INVITED TALKS

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"Targeted Emails and Digital Security in Public Policy" Global Public Policy Institute Berlin, January 2019

"State-based Actors and Security Challenges for Documentation" Symposium on Refugee Rights in Records, Vera & Donald Blinken Open Society Archives, January 2018.

"Ethical Dilemmas in Communicating Sensitive Issues" Human Rights Communication 2.0, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) - Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, December 2017.

"The Spatiality of Power in Cyberspace" Center for Long Term Cybersecurity, University of California, Berkeley, November 2016.

"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.

"Celestial Landscapes: The Art and Science of Astrophotography." All Points of the Compass Conference at California State University Fullerton, February 2011.

"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

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"The Spatiality of Power in Internet Control and Cyberwar." American Association of Geographers Annual Conference, April 2018.

- “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.” American Association of 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.
- Resistance and Technology Roundtable Part 1: Regulation, Structure, and Resistance. Association of Internet Researchers Annual Conference, October 2011.
- “World Wide Web? Visualizing Spaces of Internet Censorship.” American Association of 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” American Association of 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.
- “Iran: Earthquakes 400 B.C. - Present, Magnitude 6.0 and Above” map presented at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona GIS Expo, May 2004.
- “Iran: Earthquakes 400 B.C. - Present, Magnitude 6.0 and Above” map presented at California Geographical Society Annual Conference, May 2004.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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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

## TEACHING & GUEST LECTURES

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### Central European University 2016 - Present

SOPP 5244: Introduction to Cyberconflict

SOPP 5245: Geopolitics of the Internet

SOPP 5268: The Internet & Human Rights (cross-listed with International Relations)

SOPP 5311: Skills for Impact: Internet & Human Rights Practicum

### Open Society Foundations Internship for Rights & Governance Clinical Seminar 2018

The Internet & Human Rights

Digital Security: A Workshop

**University of California, Los Angeles (Lecturer) 2014 & 2016**  
GEOG 138: Place, Identity, and the Networked World

**University of California, Los Angeles (Teaching Associate & Fellow) 2011 - 2015**  
GEOG 140: Political Geography  
GEOG 7: Introduction to GIS  
GEOG 2: Biodiversity

**California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Lecturer) 2009 - 2010**  
GEO 351: Geography of California  
GEO 101: Physical Geography

### **Invited Guest Lectures**

Academic Practice Workshop, Panel with Doctoral School of Political Science, Public Policy and International Relations, Central European University, January 2019.

“Academic Freedom in the Digital Age” Panel with School of Public Policy and Department of Political Science, Central European University, January 2019.

“Case Selection and Case Events” in Research Design and Qualitative Methods. Professor Thilo Bodenstern, Central European University, January 2018.

“Orality, Literacy, and Technology” in Sound Studies: Listening & Creating Between the Material, Medium, and Metaphor. Instructor Ian Cook, Central European University, November 2017-18.

SPP Faculty Practitioner Career Talk - Brown Bag Lunch Series. Central European University, February 2017.

“The Internet and Human Rights” in the undergraduate class Human Geography. Instructor Aline Gregorio, Department of Geography, California State University, Fullerton, March 2011.

“New Communications Technologies and Iran’s Green Movement” in 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 Cultural, Ontological, and Digital – Global Perspectives. Professor Ramesh Srinivasan, Department of Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles, October 2010.

### **GRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISION**

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**Central European University, Master of Arts in Public Policy supervisor**  
Altergot, Mariia "Visual Manifestations of Populism On Political Party Websites" Completed 2018.

Dubey, Nikhil "Roadblocks to Application of Blockchain in Indian Agriculture - A Study on Madhya Pradesh" Completed 2018.

Ferrari, Veronica "Addressing Online Violence Against Women in Argentina: A Human Rights Approach to Nonconsensual Pornography" Completed 2017.

Jordan, William Yates "The Internet, The Oppressor: Human Security in Cyberspace" Completed 2018.

Loudon, Hope "From Silence to Solidarity: A Case Study Exploring Policy Lessons and Implications of Three Public Art Efforts Acknowledging Sexual Violence and Promoting Women's Empowerment in Post-Conflict Kosovo" Completed 2018.

Murphy, Therese "Predictive Policing and the Carceral State: A Comparative Case Analysis of Palantir in New Orleans and the Strategic Subject List in Chicago" Completed 2018.

Norton, Emily Kathleen "Gendered Terrorism in the Digital Age: Global Attempts to Combat Technology Facilitated Violence Against Women" Completed 2018.

Sjokvist, Emma "The Re-Imagined Geopolitics of Swedish Military Conscription" Completed 2017.

Zens, Svetlana "Civil Engagement Platforms for Better Public Policy: European Union and China Case Study" Completed 2018.

**University of California, Los Angeles, Ph.D. committee member**

Walker, James "Grounding the View from Nowhere: The Role of Remote Sensing Technology in Human Rights Advocacy" Degree in progress.

## SERVICE

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**Open Society Foundations Internship for Rights and Governance Review Committee, CEU.**  
2017 - Present

**Open Society Foundations Internship for Rights and Governance, Faculty Member.** 2018.

**Planning Committee, Citizenship in the Digital Age Project, CEU.** 2018

**Consulting Committee, Building Conscious Communities, European Economic Area/Norway Grants, CEU.** 2018

**Search Committee, Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in Public Administration, CEU.** 2018

**Project Manager, Intellectual Themes Initiative: Sound Relations, CEU.** 2016 - 2018

**Institute for Advanced Study Review Committee, CEU.** 2016 - Present

**Academic Thesis Proposal Evaluation Committee, CEU.** 2016 - Present

**Research Symposium organizer.** CEU. Winter 2016

**Faculty Representative, CEU School of Public Policy, Surveying Iran: The Future of Social Research After the Nuclear Thaw Conference at CEU.** September 2016.

**Lead Teaching Fellow, Introduction to GIS.** UCLA. Winter - Spring 2013.

**Colloquium Representative, UCLA.** 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.

### **Manuscript Reviewer**

*Contemporary Politics*

### **Professional Affiliations**

Association of American Geographers  
Society for Philosophy and Technology  
International Studies Association

### **MEDIA**

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**Le Temps** (Switzerland): “Du bug de l’an 2000 au risque de cyberguerre” March 2018

**The Defense Post**: “Smart killer robots: China’s military future could rest on artificial intelligence” January 2018

**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

**The Global Mail**: “Iran: Not Tweeting, Hacking” April 2012

**PCWorld Magazine**: “In Iran, New Attack Escalates Ongoing Cyberconflict” March 2011

**Wired Magazine**: “Digital Weapons Help Dissidents Punch Holes in China's Great Firewall” November 2010

**National Public Radio**: “1 Year Later Iran's Opposition Still Relies on Internet” June 2010

**The Zimbabwean**: “New Media Used to Fight Dictatorships” April 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