

DR. GRACE E. MUELLER

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Curriculum Vitae
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EDUCATION

- 2025 **Ph.D. (Economic) Geography**, University of Cambridge
Thesis title: “Being Dignified: Understanding Socio-Spatial Exploitation and Agency in Nepali Domestic Work” (viva passed Dec 2025)
Viva Examiners: Debangana Bose (Cambridge) and Alessandra Mezzadri (SOAS)
- 2019 **M.Sc. International Development**, University of Edinburgh (with distinction)
Dissertation title: “Radical Entrepreneurship: Challenging Caste-Based Discrimination and Constraints to Inclusion in Rural Bangladesh”
- 2016 **B.Sc. Communication Studies**, University of Texas at Austin
Bridging Discipline Certificate: Social Entrepreneurship and Nonprofits
Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society

SELECT EMPLOYMENT

- 2026 Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Cambridge
- 2023, 2021 Research Consultant, International Labour Organization
- 2020-21 Senior Research Analyst, Restless Development (Asian Development Bank)
- 2019 Research Associate, E-She-Bee (Sylhet, Bangladesh)

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed journal articles

- 2025 Mueller, G., Huang, J., Basset, J., Chisholm, P., Geary, H. Entrepreneurship As Struggle: The Crises and Politics of Entrepreneurial Becomings. *Economic Anthropology*.
- 2024 Mueller, G. and Banyia, A. Caring through translation: a dialogue on ethics and inclusivity in cross language research. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*.
- 2024 Barford, A. McCarthy, G., Mueller, G., Osborne, H., Pratiwi, A., Pradhan, K. and Shrestha, S. Mortgaged futures: fractured livelihoods and youth debts during COVID-19. *Journal of Youth Studies*
- 2023 Mueller, G., Barford, A. Osborne, H., Pradhan, K., Proefke, R., Shrestha, S. and Pratiwi, A. Disaster diaries: Qualitative research at a distance. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*
- In progress Mueller, G. Domestic work and unfreedom: Theorizing capitalist variegation within South Asia. For *Progress in Human Geography* (target submission: 09.2026)
- In progress Mueller, G. In spite of the wage: non-monetary values mediating labour exchange in urban Nepal. For *Economic Geography*. (target submission: 11.2026)
- In progress Mueller, G. Invisible and under pressure: New dimensions of working time for international labour standards. For *International Journal of Political Economy* (target submission: 1.2027)
- In progress Mueller, G. Am I your daughter or your worker? Rethinking workplace subjectivities through role theory and labour agency. For *Antipode*. (target submission: 03.2027)

Policy reports and commentaries

- 2023 “In conditions of freedom and dignity. Pathways to racial equality in the world of work.” Report Chapter. *International Labour Organization* Gender, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) Branch. <https://bit.ly/4pvZ9HM>
- 2022 “Youth in a Time of Crisis: Livelihood diaries from Nepal and Indonesia during COVID-19.” Policy Brief. *Restless Development*. <http://bit.ly/4vyd3uh>
- 2022 “Dear Diary: Vulnerable Young People’s Experiences of Livelihood Disruption during COVID-19.” State of Youth Civil Society Report. *Restless Development*. <https://bit.ly/4wbsVEI>
- 2021 “Labour Market Policies, Youth and COVID-19”. Policy Brief. *International Labour Organization* with A. Barford, A. Coutts, Brockie K., Hamada, N.

Public engagement

- 2026 Mueller, G. *Embers of Hope: Science Behind the Series*. Department of Geography, University of Cambridge. <https://bit.ly/4fLGhkl>
- 2024 Didilai Didiko Sandesh. Short Film Directed by G. Mueller with A. Baniya and anonymized domestic workers. DCINE & CCE. <https://bit.ly/45dGib0>

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2026 Summer Institute in Economic Geography, Toronto, Canada (funded)
- 2026 RGS-IBG Economic Geography Research Group Travel Award (£350)
- 2021-25 Economic and Social Research Council PhD Scholar (£17,000 annually)
- 2021-25 Cambridge International Trust Scholar (£10,000 annually)
- 2021-25 Stamps Foundation Scholar, Queens’ College (£2,000 annually)
- 2021-25 Cambridge Society for Economic Pluralism
- 2023 Cambridge Creative Encounters (CCE) Programme Awardee
- 2023 Queens’ College Travel Award (£1,000)
- 2022 Queens’ College Subject Fund Award (£500)
- 2022 William Vaughn Lewis Fund Prize
- 2022-24 Philip Lake II Fund Awardee (£2,180)
- 2021 Rotary International Global Grant (awarded \$30,000)
- 2019 Dissertation Award of Distinction, University of Edinburgh
- 2012-16 National Collegiate Scholar Award, University of Texas at Austin

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Conferences organized

- 2022 Re-Working Work: Labour & Livelihoods in the Global South – Conference *University of Cambridge* with K. Brockie, K. Cieslik & A. Barford

Panels organized

- 2024 The Future of (Decent) Work in the Global South – *American Association of Geographers*, Honolulu, Hawaii, with D. Bose
- 2024 Navigating South Asian Workspace – *Institute for Human Development Global Conclave*, Delhi, India, with B. Vira, D. Bose, G. Sahai & K. Brockie

Papers presented

- 2026 “Get Britain Working? Unity and Division within Data Infrastructures for Labor” RGS-IBG Annual International Conference. 2 September.
- 2026 “Domestic work and unfreedom: Capitalist variegation in South Asia” South Asia Reading Group, Yale University, 3 March.

Papers presented (cont'd)

- 2024 "Caring under pressure: unpredictability and constraint in the timescape of Nepali domestic work" 52nd Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison. 2 November.
- 2024 "Theorizing back the labour market for domestic work from Nepal" American Association of Geographers. 19 April.
- 2024 "Am I your worker, or your daughter? Socio-spatial dynamics of the labor market for domestic work in Hetauda, Nepal" Global Conclave, Institute for Human Development. 13 January.
- 2023 "Mortgaged futures: Fractured livelihoods and youth debts during COVID-19" Youth Employment Research Forum, International Labour Organization. 11 December.
- 2022 "Radical Entrepreneurship from Bangladesh" Graduate Seminars, Max Planck-Cambridge Centre for Ethics, Economy & Social Change. Virtual. 17 March.

Invited talks

- 2020 Indonesia & Nepal Resident Missions, Asian Development Bank, Policy Workshop
- 2021 Youth for Asia Symposium, Asian Development Bank, Panel Member
- 2021 Challenges in the Global South, University of Cambridge, Seminar Presentation
- 2021 Social Development Group, Asian Development Bank, Webinar

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

Department of Geography, University of Cambridge

Lectures

- Global Futures: Geographies of development and decolonization (planned Fall 2026)
- Ethnography Masterclass, planned and delivered two lectures (graduate, 12 students)

Supervision / TA

- Geographies of Work and Employment (undergraduate, 65 students)
- Economic Geography (undergraduate, 2 students)
- Geographies of Hope (undergraduate, 12 students)
- Development Theories and Practices (undergraduate, 15 students)
- Auto/Ethnographic Methods, Dissertation Supervision (undergraduate, 28 students)

Gender Studies, Tribhuvan University (Nepal)

Lectures

- Research in Practice, planned and delivered lecture for PhD and Masters students

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Department of Geography, University of Cambridge

- 2025 Communications Committee Member
- 2023-2025 Geographies of Lunch Daily Social Organizer
- 2021-2022 Decent Work and Youth Livelihoods Thematic Cluster Organizer
- 2021-2022 Postgraduate Cohort Representative

RESEARCH SKILLS

Qualitative methods (semi-structured interviews, work-life histories; focus group discussions, diary methods, co-production, documentary methods); Qualitative data analysis (Atlas.ti, NVivo); MS Excel; quantitative data collection and analysis; data management; writing for academic and policy engagement; Web design (WordPress, SquareSpace)