

Ellen E. Kersten

Education

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Ph.D. Student, Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management (Society and Environment Division)

Research Interest: Social and environmental determinants of health and health disparities

Enrolled August 2009

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

B.A. in Geography and Political Science

June 2006, Summa cum Laude and College Honors

Cumulative GPA: 3.91/4.00

UNIVERSITY OF SANTIAGO, CHILE

University of California Education Abroad Program—“Intensive Language and Chilean Culture and Politics”

June-December 2005

LUND UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN

University of California Education Abroad Program—“A Dialogue on Critical World Issues”

June-August 2004

Work Experience

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, *Geospatial Technician Research Associate*

Berkeley, CA

February 2008-June 2009

- Staff Research Associate for Dr. Maggi Kelly, Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management
- Compiled a comprehensive spatial database of the built, physical, socio-economic environments in California for use by health researchers at the University of California, San Francisco and the Kaiser Permanente Research Program on Genes, Environment, and Health
- Created spatial measures of the local food and physical activity environments in 4 northern California counties
- Researched and organized a literature review of 300+ articles on environmental influences on health outcomes

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, *Research Assistant*

Berkeley, CA

January 2007-January 2008

- Assistant to Dr. Michael Anderson, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Research
- Utilized ArcGIS Network Analyst extension to calculate road network distances from ZIP codes without fast food restaurants to ZIP codes with fast food restaurants

THE GREENLINING INSTITUTE, *Health and Housing Research Associate*

Berkeley, CA

February 2007-October 2007

- Conducted a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of a planned affordable housing development in Firebaugh, CA, a rural city in California's Central Valley, utilizing both qualitative and quantitative research methods
 - Completed a literature review of academic and public policy studies related to health impact assessments, community participation in public health research, and community design
 - Interviewed 20 Firebaugh community leaders, 8 representatives from county, state, and federal organizations, and 3 non-profit organizations
 - Compiled data from the U.S. Census, California Health Interview Survey, and Firebaugh City General Plan
- Produced a final 40-page report discussing the linkages between housing, access to nutritional food, employment opportunities, individual health, and community well-being
(<http://www.greenlining.org/resources/pdfs/SANJOAQUINVILLASHealthImpactReport.pdf>)

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN,
Research internship through the UCLA Center for American Politics and Public Policy

Washington, DC

April-June 2006

- Researched the history of U.S. development aid to Latin America using publications from the Congressional Research Service, USAID, and OECD and produced a summarizing memo for distribution to United Nations offices in Latin American and the Caribbean

EL INSTITUTO DE ECOLOGIA POLITICA (Institute of Political Ecology)

Special Studies Research Internship

Santiago, Chile

August-December 2005

- Researched and created a database of United States environmental organizations active in the Latino community
- Compiled summary report of news articles discussing the race and economic disparities among Hurricane Katrina victims

UCLA DAILY BRUIN STUDENT NEWSPAPER, *News and Finance Contributor*

January-June 2004

- Attended journalism skill development sessions and wrote one article a week on topics related to campus events, UC research publications, and student government

Professional Activity

FACULTY OF 1000 MEDICINE, *Post-Publication Peer Reviewer*

August 2008-June 2009

- Collaborated with Dr. Irene Yen, of the University of California, San Francisco, to write reviews of selected Public Health and Epidemiology journal articles

BAY AREA AUTOMATED MAPPING ASSOCIATION

GIS Day Presenter; November 2007

- One hour talk and demonstration, "Restaurants, Rationality, and the Supersizing of America: Closest Facility Analysis using Network Analyst"

Leadership Experience

The Greenlining Institute Leadership Academy

Summer Associate June-August 2007

- Completed an intensive, ten-week leadership training program for multi-ethnic graduate students to gain experience working on low-income and minority economic development issues as a policy analyst, advocate and community organizer

HabitatUCLA, Campus Chapter of Habitat for Humanity International

President 2004-2005, *Treasurer* 2003-2004

- Chaired weekly board and monthly chapter meetings, lead planning and implementation efforts for a fundraisers and build days, increased student involvement in addressing the need for affordable housing
- Managed a budget of \$10,000+, finalized tax-exemption status for the chapter, enlisted chapter in program to receive a \$7,500 matching grant from Habitat International fund

Aleph, UCLA Undergraduate Research Journal for the Humanities and Social Sciences

Editorial Board Member November 2004-June 2005

- Assisted with outreach efforts to increase research paper submissions from 30 to 80, read and reviewed 20 student research papers, discussed papers with other board members to determine list for final publication

UCLA Program for Adult Literacy

Writing Tutor October 2003- May 2004

- Met weekly with high school senior to help him complete his first research paper and receive his diploma

Special Skills

- Proficiency in ESRI ArcGIS software, STATA statistical software, and all Microsoft Office applications
- Spanish language proficiency

References available upon request