

ALYSSA DESIREE MENDEZ
admendez@uchicago.edu

EDUCATION

The University of Chicago
PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology Sep 2021 – Present

University of Athens
Visiting Researcher, History and Philosophy of Science Apr 2025 – Present

University of Glasgow, University of Athens & Autonomous University of Madrid
International MA, with distinction, in South European Studies Sep 2019 – Aug 2021

Columbia University in the City of New York
BA, cum laude, in Anthropology and Modern Greek Studies Sep 2014 – May 2018

College Year in Athens
Semester abroad Jan – May 2017

PUBLICATIONS

Mendez, Alyssa. 2025. "Saving Agrafa: A Rooted Defense of Wildness in the Age of Climate Change". *Degrowth* 3.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago | Chicago, Illinois
Teaching Assistant in Department of Anthropology Winter 2025
Teaching Assistant in Undergraduate Core Curriculum Winter 2024

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Wind Resistance: Contesting Post-Carbon Futures in Post-Crisis Greece
Ph.D. dissertation. Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago Ongoing

Saving Agrafa: An Ecological Defense of Life and Freedom in an Age of Climate Change
M.A. dissertation. Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago Oct 2024

From Territorialization to Reconquest: Political Transformations in Athenian Public Space during the Coronavirus Pandemic
M.A. dissertation. Department of Political Science, University of Glasgow Aug 2021

Commensality and Secondary Entanglements: Ethnography Toward a Decolonized Archaeology
Undergraduate thesis. Department of Anthropology, Columbia University May 2018

Where's the Team? Positioning the Heritage Project through *Mandinadhes*
Undergraduate thesis. Program in Hellenic Studies, Columbia University May 2018

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The Heritage Management Organization | Goniae, Crete, Greece
Volunteer Researcher Jun – Jul 2017

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- “Όχι στον νέο ξεριζωμό’: φωτοβολταϊκά και λαϊκή ιστοριογραφία στη Λίμνη Κρεμαστών”**
[‘No to the new uprooting’: Solar Panels and Vernacular Historiography at Lake Kremasta”]
Panhellenic Post-graduate Intensive Seminar-Conference, University of Crete Oct 2025
- “Confronting Green Growth in an Urbanizing ‘Rural’ Landscape: the case of Agrafa, Greece”**
ISEE & International Degrowth Conference, University of Oslo Jun 2025
- “‘No to the New Uprooting’: Simone Weil and Eco-Historical Poetics of Place in Agrafa, Greece”**
Hellenic Observatory PhD Symposium, London School of Economics May 2025
- “Saving Agrafa: An Ecological Defense of Life and Freedom in an Age of Climate Change”**
Association of Social Anthropologists of Greece, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki May 2024
The Mediterranean Seminar Spring Workshop, Saint Louis University Apr 2024
- “Ethnographer’s Refusal: Politics of Give and Take in Heritage Management”**
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Regional Conference, Queens College May 2018
Anthropology Thesis Symposium, Columbia University May 2018
- “Engaging the Community in Heritage Management through Archaeological Ethnography”**
SOPA 17, Yucatan, Mexico Nov 2017

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLIC SPEAKING

- Panelist, “Clean Energy and the Degrowth Movement”**
Solar Panel discussion series, Vote Solar Apr 2025
- “Has the Economy Outgrown the Planet? A response from a frontier of the ‘green’ economy”**
Center for Research on International Affairs, Loyola University Mar 2025
- “Degrowth [&] Activism”**
Degrowth Café, The Degrowth Institute Jan 2025

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, and AWARDS

- Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows Travel and Research Grant**
 Institute for Citizens & Scholars Jul 2025
- Jenkins Field Grant**
 Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago Jun 2025
- Redekop Family Environmental Research Grant**
 Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization, University of Chicago May 2025
- Agnes and Nathan Janco Travel Award**
 Division of the Social Sciences, University of Chicago May 2025
- Shapiro Initiative of Environment and Society Travel Grant**
 Department of History, University of Chicago Jun 2024
- Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant**
 SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives Program Jun 2024
- Redekop Family Environmental Research Grant**

Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization, University of Chicago	Jun 2023
Lloyd and Susanne Rudolph Field Research Award	
Center for International Social Science Research, University of Chicago	Apr 2023
Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant	
SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives Program	May 2023
Predoctoral Research Development Grant	
SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives Program	Nov 2022
First Year Scholars Summer Research Grant	
Division of the Social Sciences, University of Chicago	Jun – Aug 2022
United States Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) for language training in Modern Greek	
Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies, University of Chicago	Jun – Jul 2022
Erasmus Mundus Scholarship	
European Commission, EACEA	Aug 2019 – Aug 2021
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship	
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	Mar 2016 – May 2018
Ella Deloria Undergraduate Research Fellowship	
Department of Anthropology, Columbia University	May 2017

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chicago Review Chicago, Illinois	
Fiction Editor	Oct 2025 – Present
University of Chicago Center for Hellenic Studies Chicago, Illinois	
Administrative Assistant	Mar – Jul 2024
University of Glasgow Glasgow, Scotland	
Student Representative	Sep 2020 – Aug 2021
Brune Law, P.C. New York, New York	
Legal Assistant	Jul 2018 – Aug 2019

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Anthropological Association , Member	2015 – Present
American Weil Society , Member	2025 – Present
Association of Social Anthropologists of Greece , Full Member	2024 – Present
Modern Greek Studies Association , Member	2020 – Present

LANGUAGES

Proficient Modern Greek
Intermediate Spanish