

Jonathan Austin Crane

Walker Institute of International and Area Studies
University of South Carolina
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EDUCATION

Department of Geography **Ph.D., Geography, 2021**
University of Washington, Seattle
Dissertation Title: Assisted Voluntary Return: Negotiating the Spaces and Politics of Humanitarian Assistance in Migration Management

Department of Geography **MA, Geography, 2013**
University of Kentucky, Lexington
Thesis Title: Security, Development and (Im)mobility: The Uneven Geography of Migration and Border Management in Ukraine

College of Arts and Sciences **Graduate Certificate in Social Theory, 2013**
University of Kentucky

Department of Economics **BA (honors), Economics, 2010**
Department of Russian **BA (honors), Russian Language, Literature**
University of South Carolina **and Culture, 2010**
South Carolina Honors College

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of South Carolina, Walker Institute of International and Area Studies, Professional-Track Faculty Instructor, 2022-current

University of South Carolina, Department of Geography, Affiliate Faculty, 2022-current

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Crane, A., Mewborne, M. and Fleming, J. 2025. *Atlas of South Carolina, Third Edition*. University of South Carolina Press.

Refereed Journal Articles

Crane, A. 2025. Humanitarian geographies of migrant return: Assisted Voluntary Return and the European Migration ‘Crisis’. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* 115(9), 2226–2242.

Jacobsen, M., **Crane, A.**, and Dosch, E. 2025. Toward a feminist geo-legal reading: US country-of-origin information in asylum adjudication. *Area*, e70066.

Doering-White, J., **Crane, A.**, and Roth, B. 2024. (Dis)embedding humanitarianism: Trajectories of Subordination and Subversion within Migrant-Serving NGOs. *Geoforum* 152, 104018.

Crane, A. and Lawson, V. 2020. Humanitarianism as conflicted care: Managing migrant assistance in EU Assisted Voluntary Return policies. *Political Geography* 79, 102152.

Crane, A. 2020. The politics of development and humanitarianism in EU externalization: Managing migration in Ukraine. *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space* 38(1): 20-39.

Crane, A., Elwood, S., and Lawson, V. 2020. Re-Politicising Poverty: Relational Re-conceptualisations of Impoverishment. *Antipode* 52(2): 339-351

Crane, A., Elwood, S. and Lawson, V. 2020. Guest edited symposium. Re-Politicizing Poverty: Relational Re-conceptualizations of Impoverishment. *Antipode* 52(2).

Mott, C., Zupan, S., Debbane, A. and **A. Crane** with the University of Kentucky Critical Pedagogy Working Group. 2015. Making space for critical pedagogy in the neoliberal university: struggles and possibilities. *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies* 14(4): 1260-1282.

Manuscripts Under Review

Crane, A. “At the Edges of the Law”: Discretionary Power and Humanitarian Negotiations in Migrant Return Counselling. Under review.

Crane, A. and Mewborne, M. On spatial thinking and spatial citizenship in geography education: lessons from editing the *Atlas of South Carolina*. Under review.

Web-Based Publications

Crane, A. and Levy, A. 2014. Eastern partners or chaotic neighbors? The contested geopolitics and geoeconomics of integrating Ukraine and Moldova. *Antipode Intervention*. Available here: <http://antipodefoundation.org/2014/02/28/eastern-partners-or-chaotic-neighbors/>

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

European Commission, Jean Monnet Action Module Grant, to fund research Under review
Project “European Union protections on human rights in the new Pact on
Migration and Asylum” (with C. Dahlman, University of South Carolina) [€35,000]

University of South Carolina Office of the Vice President for Research, Excel Grant, to fund research project “Assisted Voluntary Return: Humanitarian Geographies of Migrant Return” [\$17,982]	2025-2026
University of South Carolina College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Research Initiative Grant, to fund research project “Country-of-Origin Reports: A Transnational Geography of Asylum Adjudication” [\$9,869]	2023-2024
Arch C. Gerlach Endowed Fellowship, University of Washington	Fall 2019
Labor Research Grant, Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, University of Washington	Spring 2016
Jean Monnet Chair Graduate Research Grant, European Union Center of Excellence, University of Washington	Spring 2016
Howard Martin Award, Department of Geography, University of Washington	Spring 2016
Titus Ellison Fellowship, Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies, University of Washington	2013-2016
Multi-year Graduate Teaching Assistantship, University of Kentucky	2011-2013
Barnhart Fellowship, Research Travel Award, University of Kentucky	Summer 2012
Capstone Scholars Passport Travel Grant, University of South Carolina	Summer 2007

CAMPUS OR DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

Humanitarian return? Assisted Voluntary Return and the European migration crises. Invited lecture to POLSC/GEOG 550 - Political Geography & Geopolitics, Kansas State University.	Nov. 2025
Assisted Voluntary Return and the borders of Europe: Humanitarian geographies of migrant return. Center for European Studies and Curriculum for Global Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.	Feb. 2025
Humanitarian geographies of migrant return: Assisted Voluntary Return and the European Migration ‘Crisis.’ Department of Geography, University of South Carolina.	Sept. 2024

AWARDS, HONORS, AND CERTIFICATES

Fostering Proactive Learning Environments Certificate, Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina	Ongoing
Mental Health and Well-being Competency, Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina	Ongoing
Safe Zone Ally Certification, Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, University of South Carolina	Fall 2024
“Thank A Teacher” Certificate of Appreciation, Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina	Spring 2023
New Faculty Academy Certificate of Completion, Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina	Spring 2023
Offered, but declined: Post-Doctoral Fellowship on Epistemology of the Border and the Construction of European Space, University of Bologna, Dipartimento di Storia Culture Civiltà	Spring 2022
Edward L. Ullman Doctoral Award for Excellence in Scholarship, University of Washington	Spring 2020
Howard Martin Medal Award for extraordinary achievement in scholarship, teaching, and service, University of Washington	Spring 2018
Participated in Relational Poverty Network Summer Institute for Junior Scholars, University of Washington	Summer 2017
Graduated <i>summa cum laude</i> with Honors from the South Carolina Honors College, University of South Carolina	Summer 2010

SERVICE

Director for Undergraduate Studies, Walker Institute of International and Area Studies, University of South Carolina	2024-current
Co-Director, Migration Lab, University of South Carolina	2024-current
Faculty Advisor, Global Studies Student Association, University of South Carolina	2024-current
Executive Committee, Walker Institute of International and Area Studies, University of South Carolina	2024-current
Curriculum Committee, Walker Institute of International and Area Studies,	2023-current

University of South Carolina

Colloquium Committee, University of Washington Department of Geography	2018-2019
Co-president, Geography Graduate Students Association, University of Washington	2014–2015
Hiring Committee (Graduate Representative), Department of Geography, University of Kentucky	2012–2013
Conference Organizing Committee, Dimensions of Political Ecology: Conference on Nature/Society, University of Kentucky	2012-2013
External Relations Committee, Department of Geography, University of Kentucky	2011–2012

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY/PARTICIPATION

Panels/Sessions Organized

Discretionary Power, Politics, and Spaces. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Detroit, MI. (with M. Jacobsen, Newcastle University)	March 2025
Honoring Vicky Lawson. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Detroit, MI. (with A. Bonds, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; S. Elwood, University of Washington; L. Nelson, University of Arizona)	March 2025
Everyday Geographies of Discretion: Power, Politics, and Spaces. RGS-IBG Annual International Conference. London, UK. (with M. Jacobsen, Newcastle University).	Aug. 2024
Legal Geographies of Migration and Borders. Nordic Geographers Meeting. Copenhagen, Denmark. (with M. Jacobsen, Newcastle University).	June 2024
The Spaces and Politics of Migration, Borders, and Law. RGS-IBG Annual International Conference. London, UK. (with M. Jacobsen, Newcastle University).	Sept. 2023
Feminist Methodologies in Researching the Politics and Spaces of Migration Management. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. (with M. Jacobsen, University of Kentucky).	April 2018
Geographies of Migrant Return and Removal. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. (with M. Jacobsen, University of Kentucky).	April 2018
Gatekeeping Geographies: Extra-territorial experiments with transnational	April 2014

migration management, border bureaucracy, and spaces of security. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Tampa, FL. (Co-organized with A. Levy, University of Colorado)

Tales from the Neoliberal University. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA. (with University of Kentucky Critical Pedagogy Working Group). April 2013

Migration, Governance, Resistance. 19th Annual Conference on Critical Geography. Chapel Hill, NC. (with M. Jacobsen, University of Kentucky) Nov. 2012

Papers Presented

“We work at the edges of the law”: how migrant-facing NGOs navigate precarious humanitarian care in return counseling. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. March 2026

Country-of-origin information reports and the politics of discretion in asylum adjudication. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Detroit, MI. (with M. Jacobsen, Newcastle University) March 2025

Humanitarian Geographies of Migrant Return: Assisted Voluntary Return and Europe’s migration ‘crises’. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Political Geography Pre-Conference. Detroit, MI. March 2025

Reflections on revising the *Atlas of South Carolina*: cultivating spatial citizenship in geography education. Greenville, SC. Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers. (with M. Mewborne, University of South Carolina) Nov. 2024

The discretionary application of country-of-origin information reports in asylum adjudication. London, England. RGS-IBG Annual International Conference. London, UK. (with M. Jacobsen, Newcastle University). Aug. 2024

Reading Differently: a refugee-centered analysis of quasi-legal documents. Nordic Geographers Meeting. Copenhagen, Denmark. (with M. Jacobsen, Newcastle University and E. Dosch, University of South Carolina) June 2024

Exploring the 2024 Atlas of South Carolina. NCGE Conference. Columbia, SC. (with M. Mewborne and J. Fleming, University of South Carolina). Oct. 2023

Towards a relational geography of legal border work. RGS-IBG Annual International Conference. London, UK. (with M. Jacobsen, Newcastle University). Sept. 2023

Relational thinking in geography education: A case study of migration in Europe. NCGE Conference. Minneapolis, MN. Oct. 2022

The growing permanence of impermanence: Examining how organizations manage temporal borders across three contexts. International Migration, June 2022

- Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE) annual conference, Oslo, Norway.
(with B. Roth and J. Doering-White, University of South Carolina).
- Assisted Voluntary Return: navigating the spatial and political inequalities
of humanitarian migration management. USC Migration Center Conference
on The Future of Immigration. Columbia, SC. March 2022
- Humanitarian governance in a conjuncture: managing Europe's migration
'crisis' through Assisted Voluntary Return policies. Association of American
Geographers Annual Meeting. New York, NY. March 2022
- Teaching the political geographies of migration. Advanced Placement
Human Geography Workshop, South Carolina Geographic Alliance,
University of South Carolina. Columbia, SC. August 2020
- Assisted Voluntary Return: negotiating humanitarianism and securitization
in migration management. Association of American Geographers Annual
Meeting. New Orleans, LA. April 2018
- Bordering on crisis: the relational spaces of humanitarianism in EU
migration management. Association of American Geographers Annual
Meeting. Boston, MA. April 2017
- Humanitarian externalization: managing migration in Ukraine.
Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. April 2015
- Extra-territorial experiments: EU bordering as migration control in
Moldova and Ukraine. Association of American Geographers Annual
Meeting. Tampa, FL. (with A. Levy, University of Colorado). April 2014
- Development, security, and bordering: the uneven geography of migration
management in Ukraine. Critical Geographies Conference. Port Angeles, WA. Nov. 2014
- A balancing act in the EU's borderlands: security, development, and
(im)mobility in the management of migration in Ukraine.
Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA. April 2013
- Climate (in)security: development as intervention in the EU's 'Neighbourhood
Policy' responses to environmentally induced migration. Dimensions of
Political Ecology: Conference on Nature/Society. Lexington, KY. Feb. 2013
- A threat to be managed? External imperatives in the management of
migration in Ukraine. 19th Annual Conference on Critical Geography.
Chapel Hill, NC. Nov. 2012
- Environmentally induced migration and the politics of security as development.
Dimensions of Political Ecology: Conference on Nature/Society. Lexington, KY. April 2012

Discussant

Panelist: Boundaries, exclusion, and alliance politics. Critical Geographies Conference. Seattle, WA. Oct. 2016

Discussant: Global Migration Crisis and Human Rights Conference. Seattle, WA. Oct. 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of South Carolina – Columbia, SC

International Migration, Refugees, and the Politics of Humanitarianism (Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Spring 2024; in USC Honors College)

Introduction to International Development (Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022)

Global Human Rights (Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023)

Health and Human Rights (Fall 2024)

Research and Methods in Global Studies (Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023)

Cyber Policy and Ethics (Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023)

Cyber Governance and Policy (Spring 2023, Fall 2022)

People, Places and Environments (Spring 2022, in USC Geography Department)

Midlands Technical College – Columbia, SC

World Regional Geography (Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

University of Washington – Seattle, WA

Explanation and Understanding in Geography (Spring 2021, Spring 2018: Instructor of Record)

Geographies of Global Inequality (Fall 2020: Instructor of Record)

Citizenship Acts to Challenge Poverty (Winter 2018: Community Engagement Project Advisor)

University of Kentucky – Lexington, KY

Introduction to Global Environmental Issues (Spring 2013: Teaching Assistant for two sections)

Lands and People of the Non-Western World (Fall 2012: Teaching Assistant for three sections)

Geography of the Global Economy (Spring 2012: Teaching Assistant for three sections)

Geography of the Global Economy (Fall 2011: Teaching Assistant for three sections)

STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS SUPERVISED

Miranda Borland, advisor for South Carolina Honors College Thesis.	2024 -
Tammy Nguyen, advisor for South Carolina Honors College Thesis	2024-
Liam Ogden, second reader for South Carolina Honors College Thesis.	2024-2025
Jill Thornton, committee member for dissertation project: <i>The Christian Geopolitical Imagination and its influence on Missionary Interactions with Refugees in Germany</i> , Department of Geography, University of South Carolina.	2023 - current
Elise Dosch, advisor for South Carolina Honors College Thesis: <i>Country-of-Origin Information Reports: The Political and Legal Geographies of Asylum for Central American Migrants</i>	2023

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Geographers (Political Geography Specialty Group)	2012–present
Political Ecology Working Group, University of Kentucky	2012–2013
Critical Pedagogy Working Group, University of Kentucky	2012–2013

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

University of South Carolina, Department of Geography <i>Curriculum Materials Manager, SC Geographic Alliance</i>	Columbia, SC 7/21–8/22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized geography education outreach programs, including virtual and in-person conferences, presentations in schools, and professional development opportunities for geography teachers across the state 	
Relational Poverty Network <i>Podcast Series Editor and Copy Editing Assistant</i>	Seattle, WA 8/19–1/22
<i>Graduate Research Assistant, Project Manager</i>	3/16–8/19
<i>Grant-Writing Assistant and Project Manager</i>	2/15–8/15
<i>Summer Project Manager</i>	6/14–8/14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with Drs. Victoria Lawson and Sarah Elwood, University 	

of Washington Department of Geography, on an NSF-funded international network of scholars that aims to better understand the determinants, effects, and cultural and material dimensions of poverty

- Organized and coordinated podcast series, *New Poverty Politics for Changing Times*.
- Provided copy editing for edited volumes, *Relational Poverty Politics* (2018, UGA Press) and *Abolishing Poverty* (2023, UGA Press).
- Assisted in research, drafting, and revising grants for project development
- Organized travel, lodging, event spaces, and online interface for 2014 Inaugural Meeting, 2015 Relational Poverty Network Writing Retreat, and 2017 Summer Institute for Junior Scholars
- Managed website, Facebook, Twitter, and network blog

Center for Global Strategies (Monument, CO)

06/10–12/10

Assistant to the Director for Projects in SE Europe

- Conducted on-site project research and communications work in Macedonia and Bulgaria for international development projects

LANGUAGE

Russian: Intermediate