

Livio Silva-Muller

Curriculum Vitae

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www.silvamuller.com

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

08/2025 **Harvard Academy Scholar, Harvard University**
Post-doctoral fellowship

EDUCATION

2019-2025 **The Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland**
Ph.D. in Sociology—Department of Anthropology and Sociology
2023-2024 **London School of Economics, United Kingdom**
Visiting Ph.D. Researcher—Department of Methodology
2017-2019 **The Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland**
M.Phil. in Development Studies
2013-2016 **University of St. Gallen, Switzerland**
B.A. in International Affairs

AWARDS

2024 Political Sociology Section Graduate Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association
2024 Sociology of Development Section Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association
2024 Best Paper in Amazonian Studies, Latin American Studies Association

PUBLICATIONS

Silva-Muller, L. & Sposito, H. (2024). Which Amazon Problem? Problem-Constructions and Transnationalism in Brazilian Presidential Discourse since 1985. *Environmental Politics* 33(3):398–421. doi: [10.1080/09644016.2023.2220639](https://doi.org/10.1080/09644016.2023.2220639).
Silva-Muller, L., (2022). Payment for ecosystem services and the practices of environmental fieldworkers in policy implementation: The case of Bolsa Floresta in the Brazilian Amazon. *Land Use Policy*, 120. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2022.106251>
Silva-Muller, L., & Faul, M. (2022) Protecting the Amazon and its people: the role of civil society in the local effectiveness of transnational partnerships. In *Partnerships for Sustainability: Pathways to Effectiveness*. Edt. by Andonova, L., Faul, M. and Piselli, D. Routledge: London. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003148371-6>
Thomé, D. & **Silva-Muller, Livio** (Forthcoming 2025) “Entrevistando Elites— sobre a cozinha do trabalho de campo com elites” Chapter in edited volume about studying elites in Brazil.

REVISE AND RESUBMIT

Silva-Muller, L. "Pathways of the Environmental State: Global Climate Politics in the Amazon Rainforest"

Teeger, Chana; **Silva-Muller, Livio**; Moraes Silva, Graziella. "How Race Matters for Elites' Views on Redistribution"

WORK IN PROGRESS

Silva-Muller, L. "Financialization as Transnational Policy Insulation: Climate Finance in Brazil, 1990-2020" [*Full draft available*]

Moraes Silva, Graziella & **Silva-Muller, Livio**. "Whose Merit and which Redistribution? Deservingness and Varieties of Redistributive Preferences in the Global South" [*Full draft available*]

Silva-Muller, Livio. "Multi-method Research and the Computational Turn: Positionality as Process in Entrenched Data Collection" [*Dissertation chapter available*]

Silva-Muller, Livio. "Democratic Backsliding and the Defunding of the Liberal World Order: Evidence from International Geneva, 2000-2023" [*Data analysis phase*]

BOOK PROJECTS

Moraes Silva, G; Lopez, M; Teeger, C; & **Silva-Muller, L.** "Varieties of Redistribution: Elite Power and Inequality in the Global South" [*Introduction chapter available*]

Silva-Muller, L. "The Amazon as a Global Carbon Sink: How Scientists and Bureaucrats Built Decarbonizing Capacity in Brazil and What Can We Learn from it."

COMMISSIONED STUDIES

Silva-Muller, L. & Gassmann, R. (forthcoming, May 2025) "Paying for Multilateralism in times of Crises: International Geneva, 2016 to 2023", study commissioned by the Republic and State of Geneva.

Silva-Muller, L. & Gassmann, R. (2024) "Paying for Multilateralism: Taking Stock on the Financing of International Organisations in Geneva, 2000-2020", study commissioned by the Republic and State of Geneva: [available here](#).

COMPETITIVE GRANTS

2023	SNF Project Doctoral Mobility Grant
2023	The Swiss Secretariat for Education Early-Career Grant
2022	SNIS Project Funding-Democracy and Redistribution in the Global South
2021	SNIS International Organization Research Grant
2018	The Davis Peace Project Grant by Davis UWC Scholars
2015	The Japanese Government JASSO scholarship

TEACHING

Lecturer (2022-2024)

- Fundamentals of R (postgraduate level, 3 ECTS)

Recurrent Guest Lecturer (2021-2024)

- Research Methods in Anthropology and Sociology (postgraduate level, 6 ECTS)

- Elites and Inequality (postgraduate level, 6 ECTS)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2020-2025 Research Assistant in Elites and Inequality Project ([SNF Grant 189037](#)), Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, Geneva Graduate Institute
- 2019-2020 Research Assistant, Centre of International Environmental Studies, Geneva Graduate Institute
- 2016-2017 Research Assistant, St. Gallen Institute of Management Latin America, São Paulo, Brazil

INVITED TALKS

- 2023 "Transnational Climate Regimes in Rainforest States: The Case of Brazil from 1985 to 2022", FGV IR Department Research Seminar, São Paulo-BR
- 2022 "Expanding Payment for Ecosystem Services in the Brazilian Amazon," invited talk at FEA-USP's 3rd Bioeconomy Workshop, São Paulo, [available here](#).
- 2022 "How has the Brazilian Amazon been constructed as a problem?" invited talk at the Center of International Environmental Studies, Genève.
- 2019 "Payment for ecosystem Services in the Brazilian Amazon", invited talk at Oak Foundation, Genève.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

*ASA = American Sociological Association

"How Race Matters for Elites' Views of Redistribution" with Chana Teegeer and Graziella Moraes Silva

- 2024 Conference of the British Journal of Sociology
- 2024 Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics
- 2024 ASA, Culture and Inequality Section Session

"Pathways of the Environmental State: Global Climate Politics in the Amazon Rainforest"

- 2024 Conference of the British Journal of Sociology
- 2024 ASA, Environmental Sociology Section Session
- 2024 Ph.D. Seminar, Doing International Political Sociology, London
- 2023 Red para el Estudio de la Economía Política de América Latina
- 2023 Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics
- 2022 ASA, Global and Transnational Sociology Section Session

"Domesticating policy through transnational finance: climate funds in Brazil since 1985"

- 2024 Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics
- 2024 Red para el Estudio de la Economía Política de América Latina

"Fear and Trust in Unequal Democracies: Elites and the Politics of Redistribution in the Global South" with G. Moraes Silva, M. Lopez & C. Teegeer,

- ASA, 2023 Sociology of Development Section Session
- 2024 Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics

"Seeing (merit) like elites: cultural processes and redistributive preferences at the top" with G. Moraes Silva

- 2023 ASA; Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section Session
- 2024 Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics

"The problem of climate change and comparative historical sociology"

- 2024 Doing Sociology Now, Department of Sociology, London School of Economics

LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

Languages	Portuguese: native English: proficient (CPE C2 level) German: proficient (Abitur C2 level) French: intermediary (speaks, reads, listens) Spanish: basic (reads, listens)
Data Science	Advanced user of R programming language (github; baseR; network analysis; text-as-data; web scrapping; survey analysis; tidyverse; markdown)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer

American Journal of Sociology; Revista de Estudios Brasileños; Swiss Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation.

Awards

Committee Member: ASA Political Sociology Best Graduate Student Paper Award (2025), ASA Development Sociology Best Graduate Student Paper Award (2025).

University Service

Member of the Geneva Graduate Institute Sustainability Target Initiative (2021-2025);
Member of the Geneva Graduate Institute Governance Group (2020-21);
Anthropology and Sociology PhD Student Representative (2021-2023).

MEDIA AND PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Panels

Paying for Multilateralism panel with policy-makers in Geneva, June 2024 ([recorded panel](#))

Podcast

[UN Library Podcast on Paying for Multilateralism](#), September 2024

Media Coverage

“[Trump and Multilateralism: The un-making of the UN started](#)”, February 2025, Swiss Radio and Television.

“[Is Geneva prepared for Trump’s—and others’— cuts from foreign aid?](#)”, March 2025, Swissinfo

REFERENCES

Grégoire Mallard (co-Supervisor)

Professor of Sociology, Geneva Graduate Institute

Graziella Moraes Silva (co-Supervisor)

Associate Professor of Sociology, Geneva Graduate Institute

Rebecca Elliot (Dissertation Examiner)

Associate Professor of Sociology, London School of Economics

Chana Teege (LSE Visiting Supervisor)

Associate Professor of Methodology, London School of Economics

MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (ASA)

Society for Advancement of Socioeconomics (SASE)

Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

Swiss School of Latin American Studies (SSLAS)

Red para el Estudio de la Economía Política de América Latina (REPAL)