

TEXAS STATE VITA

I. Academic/Professional Background

A. Name: Thomas Ptak Title: Assistant Professor

B. Educational Background

<i>Degree</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>University</i>	<i>Major</i>
PhD	2016	University of Oregon	Geography

Dissertation: Understanding Hydropower in China, Balancing Energy Security, Development and Environmental Sustainability in the Nu River Valley of Yunnan Province

MA	2010	University of Oregon	Geography
<i>Thesis:</i> Tibetan Migration, Cultural Identity & Place in Portland and NYC			

Bsc Honors	2007	Macquarie University	Geography
<i>Thesis:</i> Retaining Tibetan Culture and Identity in a Geopolitical Landscape			

Bsc	2006	Macquarie University	Geography
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C. University Experience

<i>Position</i>	<i>University</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Assistant Professor	Texas State University	2021- Present
Assistant Professor	University of Idaho	2017-2021
Visiting Assistant Professor	Sonoma State University	2017

D. Relevant Professional Experience

<i>Position</i>	<i>Entity</i>	<i>Dates</i>
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E. Other Professional Credentials (licensure, certification, etc.)

II. TEACHING

A. Teaching Honors and Awards:

2021 Most Inspirational Faculty Member, Department of Geography and Geological Sciences, University of Idaho

B. Courses Taught:

Texas State University

Global Environmental Change
Energy Resource Management
Geography of East Asia
Environmental Management
Environmental Studies (Graduate)

University of Idaho

Natural Hazards and Society
Geography of Energy Systems
Resilience & Adaptation to Climate Change
Energy Geographies (Graduate Seminar)
Introduction to Human Geography
World Regional Geography

University of Oregon

North American Energy Landscapes
Environment and Society
Environmental Geography
Field Studies in Geography (field course)
Geography of Pacific Asia
Geography of Europe
Introduction to Human Geography
World Regional Geography
Applied Geography

Sonoma State University

World Regional Geography
Geography of Pacific Asia
Social Geography

Graduate Theses/Dissertations or Exit Committees (if supervisor, please indicate):

2023- Julie Brooks, MAgeo, committee chair (Txst)
2022-2023 Desiree Jackson, MS Sustainability committee member (Txst)
2022- Amy Borgens, PhD, committee member (Txst)
2021- Abigail Edgar, MS, committee member (Txst)
2018- 2022: Alexander Nagel, PhD, committee chair
2019-2021: Jinsoo Lee, MS, committee member
2017-2018: David Russell, MS, committee member

C. Courses Prepared and Curriculum Development:

Geography of Energy Systems—New course development, University of Idaho, taught Spring 2021, 2020, 2019.
Natural Hazards and Society—New course development, University of Idaho, taught Fall 2020.
Resilience & Adaptation to Climate Change—New course development, University of Idaho, taught Fall 2019.

Energy Geographies (graduate seminar)—New course development, University of Idaho, taught Fall 2018.

North American Energy Landscapes—New course development, University of Oregon, taught Summer 2014.

D. Funded External Teaching Grants and Contracts:

E. Submitted, but not Funded, External Teaching Grants and Contracts:

F. Funded Internal Teaching Grants and Contracts:

2018: Think Open Fellowship, University of Idaho. \$1,500

2011: Consultation contract with The College Board. \$5,000

G. Submitted, but not Funded, Internal Teaching Grants and Contracts:

H. Other:

III. SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE

A. Works in Print

2023 Navarro; G. Álvarez, P. Reyes, H. **Ptak, T.** Water security indicators in the Elqui province of Chile: contrasting urban- and rural-dynamics in a semi-arid environment, In press at *Sustainable Water Resources Management*

2023 **Ptak, T.**, Radil, S. Abatzoglou, A. Brooks, J. Coupling Fire, Energy and Social Vulnerability in the Anthropocene. The Hazardous Nature of Public Safety Power Shutoffs in Butte County, California, In Press at *Energy Research and Social Science*

1. Books (if not refereed, please indicate)

a. Scholarly Monographs:

b. Textbooks:

c. Edited Books:

d. Chapters in Books:

2021 **Ptak, T.**, Radil, S. Democratic Divergence and the Landscape of Community Solar in the United States, In *Democratizing Energy, Insecurities, Risks, Transitions*, Nadesan, Pasqualetti & Keahey eds. Elsevier

2019 **Ptak, T.** Visual Expressions of the State: Borders and Boundary Markers in a Dynamic China and Asia, In: Brunn S., Kehrein R. (eds) *Handbook of the Changing World Language Map*. Springer, Cham
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-73400-2_71-1

2019 **Ptak, T.**, Yu, Y., Su, X. Southwest China, *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Urban and Regional Studies*, T. Orum (ed.) Wiley-Blackwell,
<https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118568446.eurs0304>

e. Creative Books:

2. Articles

a. Refereed Journal Articles:

- 2023 Walther, O. Szary, A-L. Brambilla, C. Brunet-Jailly, E. Klatt, M. Laine, J. Moyo, I. Nugent, P. **Ptak, T.** Radil, S. Border Studies at 45, *Political Geography*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2023.102909>
- 2022 **Ptak, T.**, Crootof, A., Harlan, T., Kelly, S. Critically Evaluating the Purported Global “Boom” in Small Hydropower Development through Spatial and Temporal Analysis, *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, 163, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2022.112490>
- 2021 Crootof A, Shrestha R, Albrecht T, **Ptak T**, Scott CA. Sacrificing the local to support the national: Politics, sustainability, and governance in Nepal’s hydropower paradox. *Energy Research and Social Science*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2021.102206>
- 2021 **Ptak, T.**, Konrad, V. Crossing the River by Feeling the Stones: How Borders, Energy Development and Ongoing Experimentation Shape the Dynamic Transformation of Yunnan Province, *Journal of Borderland Studies* <https://doi.org/10.1080/08865655.2021.1924074>
- 2021 Haltinner, K., Sarathchandra, D., **Ptak, T.** Climate Change as a Conspiracy Affects Skeptics’ Environmental Attitudes and Behaviors, *Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development* <https://doi.org/10.1080/00139157.2021.1898900>
- 2021 Nagel, A. **Ptak, T.** Approaching obsolescence? A multi-criteria analysis of high-risk dams in the United States Pacific Northwest, *International Journal of Water Resources Development* <https://doi.org/10.1080/07900627.2020.1856050>
- 2021 **Ptak, T.** Small Hydropower for Electricity and Modernity: Impacts on the Everyday Lives of Minority Communities in Yunnan’s Nu River Valley, in *The Political Economy of Hydropower in Southwest China and beyond*, Palgrave Macmillan, J.F. Rousseau & S. Habich-Sobiegalla eds <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-59361-2>
- 2020 Abatzoglou, J., Smith, C., Swain, D., **Ptak, T.**, Kolden, C. Population exposure to pre-emptive de-energization aimed at averting wildfires in Northern California. *Environmental Research Letters* <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/aba135/meta>
- 2020 Radil, S., Castan Pinos, J., **Ptak, T.** Borders resurgent: towards a post Covid-19 border regime? *Space and Polity* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13562576.2020.1773254>

- 2020 **Ptak, T.**, Laine, J., Hu, Z., Liu, Y., Konrad, V., Van de Velde, M. Understanding Borders through Dynamic Processes: Capturing Relational Motion from Southwest China's Radiation Center, Yunnan Province. *Territory, Politics and Governance*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21622671.2020.1764861>
- 2019 **Ptak, T.** Towards an Ethnography of Small Hydropower in China: Rural Electrification, Socioeconomic Development and Furtive Hydroscares, *Energy Research and Social Science*, 48, pp.116-130
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2018.09.010>
- 2018 **Ptak, T.**, Nagel, A., Radil, S., Phayre, D. Rethinking Community: Analyzing the Landscape of Community Solar through the Community-Place Nexus, *The Electricity Journal*, 31(10), pp. 46-51
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tej.2018.11.006>
- 2017 **Ptak, T.**, Considering Multiple China's in the Geopolitics of Mekong River Dams, *Political Geography*, 58, pp.136-138
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2016.09.007>
- 2016 **Ptak, T.**, Hommel, D. The Trans-political Nature of Southwest China's Energy Conduit, Yunnan Province, *Geopolitics*, 21(3), pp.556-578
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2015.1114471>
- 2014 **Ptak, T.**, Dams and Development: Understanding Hydropower in Far Western Yunnan Province, China, *Focus on Geography*, 57(2), pp.43-53
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/foge.12028>
- b. Non-refereed Articles:
3. Conference Proceedings
- a. Refereed Conference Proceedings:
- b. Non-refereed:
4. Abstracts:
5. Reports:
- 2011 Balistreri, S., Di Giacomo, T., Noisette, I., **Ptak, T.** Global Education: Connections, Concepts and Careers, published by the College Board:
<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED562681.pdf>
6. Book Reviews:
- 2016 **Ptak, T.** Vietnamese-Chinese Relationships at the Borderlands: Trade, Tourism and Cultural Politics, Routledge, *Journal of Borderland Studies*, 31(1),
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/08865655.2016.1153942>
7. Other:
- B. Works not in Print
[Fahrenheit 140 podcast: Meadows Centre for Water and the Environment](#)

[The Conversation article on civil society influencing climate action](#)

[National Public Radio Paris Climate Accord Interview](#)

[Idaho Climate Impacts Assessment Commentary](#)

[Moscow Public Radio Idaho Energy Education](#)

1. Papers Presented at Professional Meetings:

- 2023 American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting: Energy and Environment Specialty Group Plenary Organizer and Moderator: *Exploring Community, Place and Justice Across the Energy Transition*, Denver, CO
- 2023 American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting: Panel Organizer and Moderator, *Third Annual Energy Geography Futures and Directions Panel: Energy Justice*, Denver, CO
- 2023 American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting: Panel organizer, moderator and participant, *Teaching Energy Geography*, Denver, CO
- 2023 Energy and Environment Specialty Group Annual Energy Geography Conference: *Grid Disruptions, vulnerability and hazards shaped by Climate Change*, virtual conference
- 2022 American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting: Panel participant, *Engaged Energy Geography Teaching*, virtual conference
- 2022 American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting: Panel participant, *Community Engaged Scholarship in Energy Geography*, virtual conference
- 2022 American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting: Panel Organizer and Moderator, *Second Annual Energy Geography: futures and directions panel diversity, equity and inclusion in Energy Geography*, virtual conference
- 2021 American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting: Panel Organizer and Moderator, *Energy Geography: future projections, possible directions*, Seattle, WA
- 2019 Center for Advanced Energy Studies, Energy Policy Institute Annual Conference: *Developing the Future Energy Workforce*, Roundtable Co-organizer/Co-facilitator, Boise, ID
- 2019 Center for Advanced Energy Studies, Energy Policy Institute Annual Conference: *Understanding Borders through Dynamic Processes: Capturing Relational Motion from Southwest China's Radiation Center, Yunnan Province*, Boise, ID
- 2019 Environmental History World Congress: *China's State-Led Hydropower Boom*,

- Environmental Consequences for the “Angry River” and Beyond*, Florianopolis, Brazil
- 2019 Association of Borderland Studies, Annual Meeting: *Towards a Paradigm Shift in Border Studies*, Invited panelist, San Diego, CA
- 2019 American Association of Geographers, Annual Meeting: *Understanding Borders through Dynamic Processes: Capturing Relational Motion from Southwest China’s Radiation Center*, Yunnan Province, Washington, D.C
- 2018 American Geographical Society, Geography 2050 Symposium: *Rethinking Community: Analyzing the Landscape of Community Solar through the Community-Place Nexus*, NY, NY
- 2018 Center for Advanced Energy Studies, Energy Policy Institute Annual Conference: *1: Towards an Ethnography of Small Hydropower in China. 2: Rethinking Community: Analyzing the Landscape of Community Solar through the Community-Place Nexus*, Boise, ID
- 2018 Regional Studies Association, Global Meeting: Panel Organizer and Presenter, *Multiscalar and Dynamic Borderlands of Southwest China*, Beijing, China
- 2018 American Association of Geographers, Annual Meeting: Panel Co-Organizer and Presenter, *Small Hydropower in Policy and Practice*, New Orleans, LA
- 2018 American Association of Geographers, Annual Meeting: Energy Ethnographies special session, *Energy Provision, Access and Everyday Life in China*, New Orleans, LA
- 2018 Association of Borderland Studies, Annual Conference: *Yunnan Province as a Framework, Developing a Multiscalar and Multidimensional Understanding of Borders*, (with Jussi Laine) San Antonio, TX
- 2017 Association of Borderland Studies, Annual Conference: *Placing Energy and Yunnan in the Multiscalar Production of Borders*, San Francisco, CA
- 2016 8th Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference: *Implications of Small Hydropower on Social Circumstances and Everyday Life for Ethnic Minorities in China’s Nu River Valley*, Kent, OH
- 2016 American Association of Geographers, Annual Meeting: Panel Co-Organizer and Presenter, *Environmental Geographies of Western China*, San Francisco, CA
- 2015 University of Oregon, Graduate School Research Forum: Panel Co-Organizer and Presenter, *Water: Our Planet’s Most Valuable Resource*, Eugene, OR
- 2014 Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Annual Meeting: *Understanding the Role of Dams in Far Western Yunnan Province, China*, Tucson, AZ

- 2014 Geopolitics in Changing Southeast Asia, Borders and Borderlands Conference: *The Geopolitics of Southwest China's Energy Conduit, Yunnan Province*, Kunming, China
- 2014 Oregon State University, Hydrophiles Conference: *Dams and Development, Understanding Hydropower in Far Western Yunnan Province*, Corvallis, OR
- 2012 University of Oregon, Graduate School Research Forum: *China and Energy Security: Challenges and Opportunities*, Eugene, OR
- 2012 American Association of Geographers: *Migration, Exile and Diaspora, a Comparative Approach*, NYC, NY
- 2010 5th Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference: *Tibetan Migrants in Exile, Strategies for Retention of Culture and Identity*, Binghamton, NY
- 2010 University of Oregon, Graduate School Research Forum: *Spatial Construction and Realities of Border Crossings*, Eugene, OR
- 2010 American Association of Geographers, Annual Meeting: *Tibetan Migration, Cultural Identity and Place in Portland and New York City*, Washington, DC
- 2009 Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Annual Meeting: *Tibetan Cultural Identity: A case study of Sydney, Australia and Portland, Oregon*, San Diego, CA
- 2009 Biennial International Population Geography Conference: *Is there a Tibetan Culture in Exile?* Dartmouth University, Hanover, NH

2. Invited Talks, Lectures, and Presentations:

- 2023 Rethinking Territory: Global Shifts, Local Dynamics Conference: *Energy and Territory in the 21st Century: Conflict and Climate*, Eugene, OR
- 2023 Solar Energy Industry Association RE+ Conference: *Supply Disruptions, Social Vulnerability, and Extreme Events Shaped by Human-Induced Climate Change*, Austin, TX
- 2021 Texas State University, Department of Geography, Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration: *The role of Geography and Geographers in times of uncertainty, disruption, and change*, Keynote Presentation
- 2020 Arizona State University, School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, Research Colloquium: *Advancing a Nuanced Understanding of Dams in an era of Energy Transitions*, Virtual Research Presentation
- 2020 Boise State University, Energy Policy Institute, Power Talks: *Hydropower in the Northwest, Decisions on Energy Resilience and Salmon*. Virtual Panel

- 2020 Farmers Conservation Alliance, Research Seminar Series: Analyzing. *The Energy-Water-Fire Interface across the Western United States*. Virtual Research Presentation
- 2019 University of Idaho, Malcolm Renfrew Interdisciplinary Colloquium: *Pipelines, Networks and Ecosystems: Energy, Research & Education Landscapes Across Idaho*, Moscow, ID
- 2019 Carleton University, New Directions at the Border Symposium: *Energizing Borders, Belts and Roads: Tracing the Evolution of Yunnan Province— Southwest China’s “Radiation Center”—Through Transregional Energy Development*, Ottawa, Canada
- 2019 Pontificia Universidad de Chile, Charla Series: *Development versus Sustainability: China’s Hydropower Boom and Yunnan Province’s Grand Canyon of the East*, Santiago, Chile
- 2019 Center for Advanced Energy Studies, Research Seminar: *Integrating Geography, Energy, Exploration & Education*, Idaho Falls, ID
- 2019 Oregon State University, College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences Research Seminar: *Energy, Hydropower and China Balancing Power, Development & Sustainability*, Corvallis, OR
- 2018 Central Washington University, Department of Geography Colloquium Series: *Small Hydropower as Security and Development in China’s Energy Assemblage*, Ellensburg, WA
- 2016 Oregon State University, Department of Geography Colloquium Series: *Northwest Yunnan Province, Where Energy, Indigenous Communities and Environmental Justice Converge*, Corvallis, OR
- 2015 University of Idaho, Department of Geography Colloquium Series: *Dams and Development, Understanding Hydropower in Yunnan Province’s Nu River Valley*, Moscow, ID
- 2014 Southeast Asian Geography Association, Biannual Meeting, Plenary Panelist: *The Shifting Geopolitics of the Mekong*, Siem Reap, Cambodia
- 2014 World Agroforestry Center, Kunming Institute of Botany Research Colloquium: *Ecological Impacts of Small Dam Development in the Nu River Valley*, Kunming, China
- 2014 First International Salween Studies Conference, *Dams and Development, Understanding Hydropower in the Upper Nu River Valley of Yunnan Province*, Chiang Mai, Thailand
- 2011 Central Washington University, Department of Geography Colloquium Series: *Tibetan Culture and Identity in Exile*, Ellensburg, WA

3. Consultancies:

4. Workshops:

Texas State University, LGBTQiA Allies Training, December 2021, San Marcos, TX

Association of American Geographers, Geography Faculty Development Alliance, Early Career Workshop, June 2015, Storrs, CT

Teaching Effectiveness Program, University of Oregon, Rubric Design and Implementation Workshop, October 2014

Center on Diversity and Community, University of Oregon, Sexual Harassment and Title IX workshop, November 2014

Teaching Effectiveness Program, University of Oregon, Effective Course Design Workshop, March 2012

5. Other:

C. Grants and Contracts

1. Funded External Grants and Contracts:

2020	New Modes of Energy Security, Charles Koch Foundation, CO-PI, \$54,000
2020	United States Geological Survey (104b), Stakeholder Interest Framework for Western United States Irrigation Modernization, PI, \$36,069.37
2020	Idaho Climate Impacts Assessment Energy Chapter, Avista Corporation, \$50,000.00
2019	Centre for Advanced Energy Studies, Visiting Faculty Fellowship \$24,864
2016	8 th Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference. \$1,000
2014	First International Salween Studies Conference Travel Award. Chiang Mai, Thailand. \$3,500
2013	Henry Luce Foundation/American Council of Learned Societies, Pre-dissertation research fellowship. \$5,000
2011	American Geographical Society, McColl Family Fellowship. \$3,000
2010	5 th Biennial Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference, Travel Award. \$1,000
2009	Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Larry Ford Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship. \$1,000

2. Submitted, but not Funded, External Grants and Contracts:

2021

Alfred P Sloan Foundation, Social Science Research Program on Energy
Insecurity, Distributional Justice, and Just Transitions in the United States, CO-PI,
\$500,000.

- 2020 Wildfire-Grid Interactions and Outcomes, National Science Foundation Disaster Resilience Research Grant (DRRG) program, CO-PI, \$400,000.
- 2020 Zero Solid Waste for a Sustainable Society, National Science Foundation CNH2 program, CO-PI, \$1,599,512.
- 2018 American Council of Learned Societies/Henry Luce Foundation, Postdoctoral Fellowship, \$50,000
- 2018 Social Science Research Council, Transregional Research Fellowship, \$45,000
- 2014 Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies, Dissertation Completion Fellowship, \$38,000
- 2013 Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund, \$15,000

3. Funded Internal Grants and Contracts:

- 2019 Interdisciplinary Grant, College of Letters Arts and Social Sciences, University of Idaho. \$9,879
- 2016 University of Oregon Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, Professional Graduate Student Grant. \$3,000
- 2016 Department of Geography, University of Oregon, conference travel and dissertation completion grant. \$900
- 2015 University of Oregon Graduate School, Gary E. Smith Summer Professional Award. \$3,000
- 2014 University of Oregon Graduate School, Public Impact Fellowship. \$6,000
- 2013 Department of Geography, University of Oregon, Summer research grant. \$700
- 2010 Department of Geography, University of Oregon, conference and preliminary research in China. \$2,700
- 2009 Department of Geography, University of Oregon. Summer Research Grant. \$800
- 2009 Center on Diversity and Community, University of Oregon. Research grant. \$1000

4. Submitted, but not Funded, Internal Grants and Contracts:

- 2019 Jumpstart Research Grant, University of Idaho. \$42,000
- 2015 Doctoral Research Fellowship, University of Oregon, \$15,000
- 2014 Global Oregon Graduate Summer Research Award, \$5,000

D. Fellowships, Awards, Honors:

- 2021 Most inspirational faculty member, Department of Geography and Geological Sciences, University of Idaho
- 2016 Recognition Award, Asian Geography Specialty Group Graduate Paper Competition, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting
- 2015 Best Panel Award, University of Oregon Graduate School Research Forum, Panel Organizer and Presenter, Water: Our Planets Most Valuable Resource
- 2014 President's Award for best PhD Student Paper, Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Annual Meeting, Tucson, Arizona
- 2010 Graduate Student Paper Award, American Geographical Society, 5th Race Ethnicity and Place Conference, Binghamton, NY
- 2009 International Student Award for Understanding Diversity, Office of International Affairs, University of Oregon

IV. SERVICE**A. University:**

- 2019-2020 R1 Research Plan Committee, University of Idaho
- 2019-2020 General Education Steering Committee, University of Idaho
- 2018-2020 College of Science Faculty and Staff Council, University of Idaho
- 2018 Vandal Star Student Retention Software Pilot Team, University of Idaho
- 2016 Commencement Speaker, Department of Geography, University of Oregon
- 2015-17 Graduate Council PhD student representative, University of Oregon
- 2011 Adventure Leadership Institute, Program creator and lead facilitator, University of Oregon

B. Departmental:

- 2017-2020 Marketing and Outreach Committee, Department of Geography, University of Idaho
- 2020 Tenure and Promotion Committee, Department of Geography, University of Idaho

C. Community:**D. Professional:**

- 2022- Energy and Environment Specialty Group, Chair, American Association of Geographers
- 2021-2022 Energy and Environment Specialty Group, Vice Chair, American Association of Geographers
- 2019-2021 Energy and Environment Specialty Group, Secretary/treasurer, American Association of Geographers
- 2011 Geographic Knowledge and Values Survey, Oregon Coordinator, American Geographical Society

Referee for Journals:

- Energy Research and Social Science (8)
- Geopolitics (3)
- Annals of the American Association of Geographers (2)
- Political Geography (2)
- Journal of Borderland Studies (2)
- Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space (1)

E. Organizations

1. Honorary:

Gamma Theta Upsilon, International Geographic Honor Society

2. Professional:

American Association of Geographers
Association of Pacific Coast Geographers
American Geographical Society
Association of Borderland Studies
Regional Studies Association

F. Services Honors and Awards:

