

# Author Biographies



**Gwendolyn Berardinelli** is a rising senior majoring in history and minoring in geography. Her academic interests center on 20th century American social, cultural, and geographical transformations, as well as on the development of the conception of America as a popular and political entity. During her time as a student, Gwendolyn has conducted research with a public history organization, in addition to working as a peer learning facilitator with the Undergraduate Writing Center and as a tutor with a program that serves unhoused K-12 students in Los Angeles. In the next year leading into graduation, she hopes to engage in research that contributes to underdeveloped historiographies, while continuing to work with and learn from fellow students and the broader LA community.

**Hector De León** (he/him) is a graduate of the Class of 2023. He is a quadruple major in: Public Affairs, Labor and Workplace Studies, Chicana/o and Central American Studies, and Geography, with a minor in Education Studies. Hector is the proud product of the Inland Empire and a hardworking family from Jalisco, México, who have worked in construction, garment work, and as bracero farmworkers. In his time at UCLA, he performed with Grupo Folklórico, the Latine Film & Theatre Association, played intramural soccer, and marched the 2020 Rose Parade. He worked with the UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Institute (LPPI), the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE), the Campus Retention Committee, MEChA de UCLA, Spanglish USC, and served as Chief of Staff to USAC General Representative 3 (2020-2021). Hector is a McNair Scholar, Research Rookie (2020-21), and a UCLA Alumni Association Alumni Scholar. In April 2023, Hector presented his research in England, at the University of Warwick's World Congress on Undergraduate Research. Hector is also a recipient of the 2023 Dean's Prize Award for the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. Upon graduation, Hector will begin working in Sacramento with the Sacramento Capital Fellows Program in the Assembly.

**Elvie Xiaobin Lin** is a senior majoring in mathematics and philosophy. Her academic interests in philosophy lie in formal areas, e.g., philosophy of mathematics and formal epistemology. Her interests in mathematics center on analysis and logic. She likes to appreciate the harmony and beautiful creations in these areas. She has worked on a research project on the Cartesian view of the role of imagination in seeking knowledge and another project on the costs of Stalnakerian possible world semantics. She is currently investigating a puzzle of modality and knowledge. Excited about the possibility of applying real analysis in epistemology, she plans to continue her research about knowledge, more specifically, on the measure of knowledge in the future.

**Ari Fahimi** (周阿理) graduated summa cum laude from UCLA in December of 2021 with college honors and as a Phi Beta Kappa inductee. During his time at UCLA, he double majored in Chinese and Middle Eastern Studies, and was the Editor-in-Chief of both *Aleph* and the intercollegiate *Journal of Sino-American Affairs (JOSA)*. Currently, Ari is a Fulbright Taiwan English Teaching Assistant grantee on Kinmen, a Taiwan-controlled island just a few miles off the coast of Mainland China. After Fulbright, Ari will take intensive Chinese language courses as a Huayu Enrichment Scholarship recipient at ICLP in Taipei. His current research interests focus on contemporary Chinese history, especially as it relates to the history of Cross-Strait Relations more broadly, and more specifically to the role ROC/Taiwan-controlled outlying islands have played and continue to play in Cross-Strait relations. After next year, Ari intends to pursue a master's in Mainland China before returning to the US for a history PhD.

**Evan Melendez** will be graduating from UCLA with a B.S. in Environmental Science in 2024. During his time at UCLA, Evan studied socio-ecological sustainability in Southern Chile with UCEAP, spurred on by the completion of his Aleph publication. His undergraduate career has sparked an interest in using local environmental stewardship as a tool to further both local and global environmental justice. He has developed a strong curiosity for geospatial data collection and management and has chosen to augment his studies with a minor in Geography. Outside of academic life, Evan is a member of the UCLA Club Triathlon team, performs guitar and sings in various musical groups, and spends spare time with friends at the UCHA housing cooperative. Evan would like to express his utmost gratitude to Professor Ursula K. Heise for her indispensable guidance on his Aleph publication, and Professor Rebecca Shipe for making this research possible with Sustainable LA Grand Challenge.

**Sean Katsuhei Peralta Sugai** (he/him/his) is a first-generation college student graduating with departmental honors and majors in human biology and society and anthropology and minor in public health. Born and raised in O‘ahu, Hawai‘i, Sean’s interdisciplinary research works across Pacific Islands Studies, Transpacific Studies, and Afro-Asian Studies to engage three broad areas: race, Blackness, and Indigeneity; oceanic Filipinx identity, resettlement, and diaspora; and archipelagic feminisms, performance, and queer resistance in the Pacific. During Spring 2022, Sean co-taught “(Re)considering Race and Heat: How Confronting Climate Change Reveals Anti-Racist Futures,” and during Spring 2023, Sean taught “Oceanic Filipinx Studies: Currents of Anticolonial and Abolitionist Futures in Hawai‘i”. He is also the Undergraduate Student Lead Investigator for “You See (UC) Lavender: Assessing Sexual Violence and Harassment Among Sexual and Gender Minority Students at UCLA,” which received the 2022 Transdisciplinary Research Acceleration Grant. Sean was a 2022 Point Foundation Flagship Scholar, 2022 Udall Foundation Scholar, 2022 Data Justice Scholar, 2022 UCLA/Keck Humanistic Inquiry Undergraduate Research Award recipient, 2022 Changemaker Scholar, Lemelson Anthropological Honors

Scholar, and 2022 and 2020 Edward Scott Morrison Endowed Scholarship recipient.