

# LUIS FELIPE ALVAREZ LEÓN

## Curriculum Vitae

Postdoctoral Researcher ◊ Sol Price Center for Social Innovation

Sol Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California ◊ Los Angeles, California 90089-3331

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### EDUCATION

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**University of California, Los Angeles** *May 2016*

Ph.D. in Geography (Focus in Economic Geography)

Dissertation: *Assembling Digital Economies: Geographic Information Markets and Intellectual Property Regimes in the United States and the European Union\**

Advisors: Allen J. Scott & Eric S. Sheppard

\*Selected as UCLA's single nomination for the 2016-17 Council of Graduate Schools/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award in Social Sciences

**University of California, Los Angeles** *2011*

M.A. in Geography

Thesis: *Uploading Hollywood: A Digital Economic Geography of Film Distribution*

Advisor: Allen J. Scott

**UNAM, National University, México** *2009*

B.A. Hons. in English. Concentration in Critical Theory

### ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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**Oxford Internet Institute Summer Doctoral Program** July 2015  
*University of Oxford* *Oxford, UK*

**Summer Institute in Economic Geography** July 2014  
*University of British Columbia & University of Frankfurt* *Frankfurt, Germany*

**Diploma in Digital Methods** July 2012  
*Digital Methods Initiative Summer School, University of Amsterdam* *Amsterdam, Netherlands*

**Diploma in GIS and Remote Sensing** May 2009  
*UNAM, National University, México, Faculty of Science* *México City, México*

**Diploma in Cultural Policy and Management** December 2008  
*17, Institute for Critical Studies* *México City, México*

**Diploma in Regional Development** November 2008  
*UNAM, National University, México, Institute for Economic Research* *México City, México*

### FIELDS OF INTEREST

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Economic Geography, Information and Communication Technologies, Digital Economy, Intellectual Property, Internet Governance, Geopolitics, Geographic Information, Variegated Capitalism

**Areas:** United States, European Union, México

## TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

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|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Geographic Information Systems | Quantum GIS, ArcGIS                                      |
| Online Education Platforms     | Moodle, Zoom, BlackBoard Collaborate                     |
| Statistical Packages           | R, DataDesk  |
| Software                       | Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, Apple Keynote, LaTeX |
| Grant Proposal Writing         |  |

## PUBLICATIONS

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1. **Alvarez León, L.F.** (2016). “Architectures of the Information Age”. Review essay of *Information Doesn't Want to be Free* by Corey Doctorow and *Interop* by John Palfrey and Urs Gasser. *Journal of Cultural Economy*.
2. **Alvarez León, L.F.** (2016). Review: “*Society & the Internet*. Mark Graham and William H. Dutton (eds.)”. *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design*. Forthcoming.
3. **Alvarez León, L.F.** (2016). “Property Regimes and the Commodification of Geographic Information: an Examination of Google Street View”. In Leszczynski, A. & Crampton, J. (Eds.). Spatial Big Data and Everyday Life [Special issue]. July-December, 1-13. *Big Data & Society*.
4. Ashraf, C. & **Alvarez León, L.F.** (2016). “The Logics and Territorialities of Geoblocking”. In Lobato, R. & Meese, J. (Eds.), *Geoblocking and Global Video Culture*, 42-53. Amsterdam: Institute of Networked Cultures.
5. **Alvarez León, L.F.** (2015). “The Digital Economy and Variegated Capitalism”. *Canadian Journal of Communication*. 40(4), 637-654.  
\*Winner of the 2015 UCLA Geography Department Graduate Student Publication Award.
6. **Alvarez León, L.F.** (2015). “Copyrights”. In Wherry, F. (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Economics and Society*, 458-460. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
7. **Alvarez León, L.F.** (2015). “Fair Use”. In Wherry, F. (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Economics and Society*, 669-670 . Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
8. León-Manríquez, J. L., and **Alvarez, L. F.** (2014). “Mao’s steps in Monroe’s backyard: towards a United States-China hegemonic struggle in Latin America?” [Special issue]. *Revista Brasileira de Política Internacional*. 57, 9-27.

## UNDER REVIEW

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1. **Alvarez León, L.F.** (2016). “Intellectual Property Regimes and the Spatial Constitution of Digital Geographic Information Markets”. In **Alvarez León, L.F.**, Christophers, B., and Yu, L. (Eds.), *The Spatial Constitution of Markets* [Special Issue]. *Economic Geography*. **Revise and Resubmit.**
2. **Alvarez León, L.F.**, Christophers, B., and Yu, L. (Eds.), (2016). *The Spatial Constitution of Markets* [Special Issue]. *Economic Geography*.
3. **Alvarez León, L.F.** and Gleason, C.J. (2016). “Production, Property, and the Construction of Remote Sensing Data”. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*. **Revise and Resubmit.**
4. **Alvarez León, L.F.** (2016). “The Political Economy of Spatial Data Infrastructures”. In Coetzee, S., Behr, F.J., Cooper, A. et al. (Eds.), *Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI), Standards, Open Data and Open Source Software* [Special Issue]. *The International Journal of Cartography*. **Minor Revisions.**
5. León-Manríquez, J.L. and **Alvarez León, L.F.** (2016). “The geography of Mexico’s integration in the Pacific and the long shadow of NAFTA”. In Kochi, S. & De Lombaerde, P. (Eds.), *Volume on*

*regionalism in Asia Pacific and Latin America*. United Nations University Series on Regionalism. Heidelberg: Springer.

## IN PREPARATION

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1. **Alvarez León, L.F.** (2016). “Interoperability and the EU Digital Single Market: a geographic information perspective”. To be submitted to *Geoforum*. October 2016.
2. **Alvarez León, L.F.** (2016). “Intellectual Property, interoperability and the construction of a geographic information market in the United States”. To be submitted to *Environment and Planning A*. October 2016.
3. **Alvarez León, L.F.** (2016). “The technological singularity and the political economic imaginaries of automation”. Presented at the First International Conference on Anticipation. UNESCO & University of Trento, Italy. 5-7 Nov. 2015. Invited submission to *European Journal of Futures Research*. November 2016.
4. **Alvarez León, L.F.** (2016). “Information and Territoriality”. To be submitted to *Political Geography*. December 2016.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

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|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>Dissertation selected as UCLA’s single nomination for the 2016-17 CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award in Social Sciences</b> | 2016                               |
| <i>UCLA Department of Geography, UCLA Vice Provost/Dean</i>   |                                    |
| <b>First Place, UCLA Kurnitz Writing Award</b>  | 2016                               |
| <i>UCLA Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars</i>   | \$2,500 USD                        |
| <b>Princeton CITP and University of Vienna Doctoral Workshop (declined)</b>   | 2016                               |
| <i>University of Vienna, Austria</i>  |                                    |
| · Selected Participant  |                                    |
| <b>Interviewed for Postdoctoral Researcher Position</b>   | 2015                               |
| <i>Microsoft Research New England, Cambridge, MA.</i>   |                                    |
| <b>Dissertation Year Fellowship</b>   | 2015-2016                          |
| <i>UCLA Graduate Division</i>   | \$20,500 USD plus tuition and fees |
| <b>CONACYT–UC MEXUS Doctoral Grant</b>  | 2011-2016                          |
| <i>CONACYT &amp; UC MEXUS</i>   | \$60,000 USD plus tuition and fees |
| <b>Graduate Student Publication Award</b>   | 2015                               |
| <i>UCLA Department of Geography</i>   | \$200 USD                          |
| <b>Summer Institute in Economic Geography</b>   | 2014                               |
| <i>University of Frankfurt, Germany</i>   | \$250 USD                          |
| <b>AAG Economic Geography Specialty Group Travel Award</b>  | 2014                               |
| <i>Association of American Geographers</i>  | \$250 USD                          |
| <b>CIBER Summer Doctoral Institute (declined)</b>   | 2013                               |
| <i>George Washington University, Washington D.C.</i>  |                                    |
| · Selected Participant  |                                    |
| <b>Honorable Mention, UCLA Kurnitz Writing Award</b>  | 2013                               |
| <i>UCLA Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars</i>   |                                    |

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| <b>Fulbright-Garcia Robles Fellowship</b><br><i>Mexico-U.S. Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange</i> | 2009-2012<br>\$45,000 USD plus tuition        |
| <b>UCLA Graduate Division Award</b><br><i>UCLA Graduate Division</i>   | 2009-2010<br>\$49,351 USD in tuition and fees |

## PRESENTATIONS

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1. **Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting** April 2016  
*San Francisco, CA*  
“Institutional Logics of Deployment and the Paradoxes of Open Data”  
Panelist: “Disrupt Geo 1: new ideas from the front lines of maps, mobile, and big data”
2. **First International Conference on Anticipation** November 2015  
*Università degli Studi di Trento, Trento, Italy*  
“The technological singularity and the political imaginaries of automation”
3. **Cosmopolis Centre for Urban Research** September 2015  
*Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Department of Geography, Brussels, Belgium*  
Invited lecture: “Intellectual Property Regimes and the Spatial Constitution of Geographic Information Markets”
4. **Fourth Global Conference on Economic Geography** August 2015  
*University of Oxford, Oxford, UK*  
“Intellectual Property Regimes and the Spatial Constitution of Geographic Information Markets”
5. **Oxford Internet Institute, Summer Doctoral Programme** July 2015  
*University of Oxford, Oxford, UK*  
“What Makes a Map and Who Owns it? Property Regimes and Commodification in the Geoweb”
6. **Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting** April 2015  
*Chicago, IL*  
“What Makes a Map and Who Owns it? Property Regimes and Commodification in the Geoweb”  
Chair, co-organizer and panelist: “The Spatial Constitution of Markets”
7. **Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting** April 2013  
*Los Angeles, CA*  
“The Territorial Dimension of the Internet”
8. **Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting** April 2013  
*New York City, NY*  
“Cloudy Skies Ahead. How the Internet is Transforming the Space-Economy”
9. **Los Angeles Geographical Society** May 2011  
*L.A. City College, Los Angeles, CA*  
“The Digital Economic Geography of Hollywood”
10. **Internet Geographies Course. Prof. Yuko Aoyama** November 2011  
*Dept. of Geography, Clark University, Worcester, MA*  
Guest lecture: “Internet Distribution, Regulation & Geography”

11. **Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting**

April 2011

*Seattle, WA*

“The Digital Economic Geography of Hollywood”

12. **Spaces and Flows Conference**

December 2010

*UCLA, Los Angeles, CA*

“Uploading Hollywood”

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**ACADEMIC PEER REVIEW**

- Association of Internet Researchers
- *Revista Brasileira de Política Internacional*
- SAGE Publications Inc. (Research Methods, Statistics & Evaluation)

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**LANGUAGES**

- Spanish (Native)
- English (Native Proficiency)  
IELTS score: 8/9 (2008)  
TOEFL score: 114/120 (2008)
- French (Reading)

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**TEACHING**

**University of California, Los Angeles**

2010-2016

*Lecturer, full instructor, teaching fellow, teaching associate & teaching assistant*

Extensive experience teaching and designing in-person, hybrid and online courses in a wide range of subfields in Human Geography, Geographic Information Systems and Global Studies.

Team leader in the redesign of the Geographic Information Science Program at UCLA coordinated by Prof. Michael Shin towards hybrid, open source and fully online capabilities. This was a pioneering project in the University of California which allowed cross-campus enrollment and was recognized by the University of California Office of the President with the Innovative Learning Technology Initiative Grant.

**Courses taught at the UCLA Department of Geography:**

- GEOG 184 – California Geography (2016)  
*Lecturer*  
Upper Division class integrating physical, political, economic, and social geographies of California.
- GEOG 7 – Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (2013-2015)  
*Full Instructor (Summer 2014), Teaching Fellow (2013-2015)*  
In Summer 2014 I taught the first-ever hybrid (online + in-person) and open-source GIS summer course at UCLA. I was part of the team that developed this course during 2013 led by Prof. Michael Shin.
- GEOG 3 – Cultural Geography (2014)  
*Full Instructor (Summer)*  
Developed an original course focused on the history and theory of cartography, along with the evolution of mapping technologies to illuminate the construction of key concepts in cultural and political geography.

- GEOG 167 – Cartography (2014)  
*Teaching Fellow*
- GEOG 4 – Globalization: Regional Development and the World Economy (2012, 2013)  
*Full Instructor (Summer 2013), Teaching Assistant (2012)*  
In Summer 2014 I developed an original course centered on the analysis of global trends through the close study of transnational firm networks, national and international politics and trade policies.
- GEOG 5 – People and Earth’s Ecosystems (2011, 2013)  
*Teaching Assistant (2011), Teaching Fellow (2013)*
- GEOG 2 – Biodiversity in a Changing World (2011, 2012)  
*Teaching Assistant*

**Courses taught at the UCLA Global Studies Program:**

- Global Studies 1 – Globalization (2013)  
*Full Instructor (Summer)*  
I developed this course by expanding the material produced for GEOG 4 (Globalization) to discuss in greater depth the production cycles of global capitalism, the role of the state and the increasingly salient role of non-state actors such as social movements.

**Courses taught at the UCLA Academic Advancement Program:**

- GEOG 3 – Cultural Geography (2012, 2013)  
*Teaching Fellow (Summer)*