

JONAH WALTERS
jonahwalters@ucla.edu
 Curriculum Vitae
 Updated January 2026

APPOINTMENTS

2024-2026 Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow
 UCLA Institute for Society and Genetics
 Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies
 University of California, Los Angeles

2022- 2024 Postdoctoral Scholar
 Lab for BioCritical Studies
 UCLA Institute for Society and Genetics
 University of California, Los Angeles

EDUCATION

2021 Ph.D Geography
 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
 Dissertation: *The Popular Economy and Its Protagonists: Community, Cooperation, and Development in Nicaragua*

2018 M.A Geography
 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

2015 B.A Political Economy and Postcolonial Literature
 New York University (Gallatin School)

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed

Under review "The Taser in the Skinner box: Science Fiction, Aversive Conditioning, and the Paradigm of Electric Shock Policing," *History of the Human Sciences*

* **Winner of 2024-2025 HHS Early Career Prize**

Accepted (2026) "The Popular Economy and its Critics: Cooperation and Contradiction in the Sandinista Welfare-Developmentalist State," *Antipode*

2023 Keel, T. and **J. Walters**, “Oleoresin Capsicum: The Racial-Political History of a Ubiquitous Chemical Munition,” *Isis: A Journal of the History of Science Society* 114(4): 1-23

Hanson, L. and **J. Walters**, “A Poetic Tribute to the Spirit of Canada-Nicaragua Solidarity: Tools for Peace,” *Engaged Scholar Journal: Community-Engaged Research, Teaching, and Learning* 9(1): 1–20

Non-Refereed

2024 **Walters, J.**, G. Sosa, and T. Keel, *Deaths in Dauphin County Prison (Harrisburg, Penn.), 2008-2022*, BioCritical Studies Lab, UCLA

2023 Johnson, C., T. Keel, A. Li, A. Robinson-Sweet, E. Rossi, G. Sosa, and **J. Walters**, *In Custody Deaths in Ten Maryland Detention Centers, 2008-2019*. BioCritical Studies Lab, UCLA

2019 Balakrishnan, R., D. Elson, J. Heintz, **J. Walters**, *Auditing Economic Policy for Human Rights: A Guide for Activists and Advocates*. Rutgers Center for Women’s Global Leadership

“The Sandinista Labor Paradox,” *NACLA Report on the Americas* 51(3): 276-283

2017 “Capitalism a la Sandinista: Deciphering Nicaragua’s ‘Market Economy with a Preferential Option for the Poor,’” *NACLA Report on the Americas* 49(1): 7-10

Reviews

2020 “Students of Revolution: Youth, Protest, and Coalition-Building in Somoza-Era Nicaragua, by Claudia Rueda (review),” *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Research* 26(1): 137-140

LECTURES AND COLLOQUIA

2026 “What Is the Popular Economy?: Cooperation and Contradiction in the Sandinista Welfare-Developmentalist State,” Lecture, Center for Restorative Environmental Work Lab and the Central American Studies Lab at the Center for Latin American and Iberian Research (CLAIR), University of California–Santa Barbara

- 2025 “What Is Pepper Spray?: Policing in the Age of Aerosol Weapons,” Geography Colloquium, Department of Geography, University of California–Los Angeles
- “Aversive Policing: Understanding Electric Shock Weapons,” Lunchtime Speaker Series, UCLA Institute for Society and Genetics, University of California–Los Angeles
- “The Capsicum Cure: Slavery, Medicine, and the Pre-History of Pepper Spray,” History of Science Colloquium, Department of History, University of California–Los Angeles
- 2024 “‘A Space Age Substitute for the Billy Club’: Aerosol Weapons and the Non-Lethality Consensus,” Lunchtime Speaker Series, UCLA Institute for Society and Genetics, University of California–Los Angeles
- 2021 “Beyond Sandinista Developmentalism: Nicaragua’s Popular Economy and Its Protagonists,” Fall Lecture Series, Tamiment Library and Robert F. Wagner Labor Archive, New York University

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 “The Non-Lethality Consensus and the Police,” UC President’s Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (PPFP) Annual Academic Retreat, UCLA Lake Arrowhead Conference Center
- 2020 “Class War at the End of History: Civil Society and Socialist Development in Neoliberal Nicaragua,” Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (Denver, CO) *Cancelled due to COVID-19*
- 2019 “Deciphering Nicaragua’s Popular Economy and its Protagonists,” Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Middle States Division (Kutztown University of Pennsylvania)
- * Winner of AAG-Middle States Graduate Student Research Award (3rd place)**
- “State Agencies and Cooperatives in Nicaragua’s ‘New Welfare State,’” Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (Washington, D.C)
- “Confronting the Contradictions in ‘Critical Geography’ and GIS Pedagogy” (panel presentation), Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (Washington, D.C)

- 2018 “Demilitarizing Higher Education” (panel organizer), at Historical Materialism: Socialism in Our Time (New York City)
- 2018 “Against Military Collaboration: Questions for GIS Pedagogy,” Nature-Society Geography Workshop, AAG Middle States Division (Pennsylvania State University)

SELECTED POPULAR WRITING

Book

- 2024 *The Good Die Young: A Verdict on Henry Kissinger*. New York & London: Verso.
Co-edited with Bhaskar Sunkara and René Rojas
- * Coverage and reviews in *Current Affairs*, *Guardian (UK)*, *H-Diplo*, *International Affairs*, *In These Times*, *Jacobin*, *The Majority Report w/ Sam Seder*, *Slate*, *Tribune*, *Washington Post*, and elsewhere
- * Editors’ preface translated into Spanish, Italian, Portuguese

Essays, Criticism, Reporting

- 2025 “A House of Dynamite Is the Wrong Metaphor for U.S. Nukes,” *Jacobin*
“Yugoslavia at Scale,” *Protean*
“Welcome to the Splatter Zone,” *Gulf Coast*
- 2024 “The Rip in the World,” *Longreads* * **Nominated for Pushcart Prize**
“Rock-Fuel and Warlike People,” *Los Angeles Review of Books*
- 2023 “Chastening the Past,” *Strange Matters*
“New Jersey jails are still putting young prisoners in solitary confinement, failing to follow ‘historic’ 2019 law,” *The Jersey Vindicator*
- 2022 “Fair Play on the Marcellus Shale,” *Los Angeles Review of Books*
“Parole justice now!: Confronting death by incarceration in New York,” *Nonprofit Quarterly*
- 2021 “Ortega’s Synthesis,” *Sidecar (New Left Review)*
“The End of the Road,” *Full Stop*
“Gary Paulsen Understood that Children Live in the World,” *Gawker*
- 2020 “People with convictions cast ballots in New Jersey primary,” *Guardian*
“Cause of death: passive hanging,” *The Outline*

GRANTS

- 2023 Fund for Investigative Journalism (FIJ) Project Grant (with Terence Keel)
\$10,000

TEACHING

- 2019 TA: Women's Global Advocacy at the UN (*advanced elective, practicum*)
Instructor of Record: Radhika Balakrishnan
Gender Studies & Center for Women's Global Leadership (Rutgers)
- 2018 TA: Space, Place, Location (*intro to Human Geography*)
Instructor of Record: Carrie Mott
Geography (Rutgers)
- 2017 TA: Transforming the Global Environment (*intro to Environmental Studies*)
Instructor of Record: Paul O'Keefe
Geography (Rutgers)
- TA: Cities (*advanced elective, Urban Geography*)
Instructor of Record: D. Asher Ghertner
Geography (Rutgers)
- 2016 TA: Transforming the Global Environment
Instructor of Record: Paul O'Keefe
Geography (Rutgers)

SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT

- 2024-present Regular participation in UC President's and Chancellors' Postdoctoral Fellowship (PPFP) meetings and events
- 2022-present Regular participation in BioCritical Studies Lab research activities and events
- 2022-present Member, UAW 4811 (previously UAW 5810)
- 2016-2019 Member, Rutgers AFT-AAUP

Peer reviews:

- *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*
- *Journal of Criminological Research, Policy and Practice*

END