

ANNE DELLA GUARDIA

Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES)

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & AFFILIATIONS

The Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES)

Mannheim, Germany

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department A: European Societies and their Integration (Sociology)

Jan 2026 – present

Project in the [Social Inequality Research Area](#); funded by the Baden-Württemberg Foundation.

The London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE)

London, United Kingdom

Fellow, International Relations Department

Jan – Dec 2025

PhD Studentship, International Relations Department

Sept 2020 – Dec 2024

EDUCATION

The London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE)

London, United Kingdom

PhD in International Relations

Sept 2020 – Jan 2025

- Subfields: Comparative Politics | Peace & Conflict | Political Sociology
- Defended successfully in December 2024 | Viva result: no corrections
- Degree conferred 31 January 2025
- Dissertation: “*Sleight of State: How Host Governments Influence International Humanitarian Aid*”. Examines state–society relations, legacies of violence, the politics of welfare provision, and inequalities in access to protection among conflict-affected populations.

The London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE)

London, United Kingdom

Postgraduate Teaching Certificate

Sept 2021 – March 2023

Associate Fellow (AFHEA) in the UK Professional Standards Framework for teaching and learning support in higher education.

Georgetown University, Walsh School of Foreign Service

Washington, D.C., USA

Master of Science in Foreign Service (MSFS)

Aug 2017 – May 2019

- Graduate Certificate in Refugees and Humanitarian Emergencies
- Concentration in Peace & Conflict, Development & Aid
- Awarded the Certificate of Academic Excellence

Concordia University, Dept. of Geography, Planning & Environment

Montréal, Canada

Bachelor of Arts in Human Environment, Honours (BA Hons)

Sept 2005 – June 2009

METHODS TRAINING

KODAQs Data Quality Academy

Hybrid / Remote

Select courses: Data Quality Foundations, Survey Data,

March 2026 – present

Linked Data, Indicators & Metrics, Remedies & Corrections, Tools & Workflows

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR)

Syracuse, New York

Select courses: Natural & Randomized Experiments,

June – July 2023

Multi-method Research, Ethnographic Methods, Re-Thinking Small-N Comparisons

Inter-university Consortium for Political & Social Research (ICPSR)

Select courses: Spatial Econometrics, Mixed Methods,
Causal Inference, Social Science Data Visualization

Online / Remote

June – July 2022

Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis

Select courses: Intro to R, GIS & Spatial Methods,
Math Primer, Regression Analysis

Online / Remote

June – July 2021

London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE)

Select courses: Research Design & Methods, Case Studies and Comparative
Methods for Qualitative Research, Doing Ethnography, Participatory Research,
Introduction to Quantitative Methods

London, United Kingdom

2020 – 2022

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Social Cohesion · Neighbourhood Effects · Social Inequalities · Political & Social Attitudes · Social Protection
& Welfare · Family & Household Dynamics · Life Course & Longitudinal Analysis · Political Sociology · State
& Societal Relations · Qualitative, Ethnographic & Mixed Methods · Substate Conflict & Political Violence

PUBLICATIONS**Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

Della Guardia, A., Lake, M., & Schnitzer, P. (2022). Selective inclusion in cash transfer programs: Unintended consequences for social cohesion. *World Development*, 157, 105922. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2022.105922>

Della Guardia, A., Lake, M., & Morlino, I. (2026). The Information Paradox: Aid, Service Provision, and Trust in Government in Areas of Conflict and State Fragility. *Comparative Politics*, forthcoming (October 2026).

Book Reviews

Della Guardia, A. (2023). Rethinking Displacement: A Book Review of Irfan, A. (2023) *Refuge and Resistance: Palestinians and the International Refugee System*; Laker, F. (2021) *Rethinking Internal Displacement: Geo-political Games, Fragile States, and the Relief Industry*; and Carney, M. (2021) *Island of Hope: Migration and Solidarity in the Mediterranean*. *Transformations, Special Issue: Displacement*, 1(2), 143–149.
<https://gfptransformations.org/issues/transformation-volume-1-issue-2/>

Works in Progress

Della Guardia, A. *Selective Protection: Host States and the Politics of Humanitarian Access*. (Book proposal under review.)

Della Guardia, A. *Smokescreens and Strangleholds: How Host Governments Obstruct Humanitarian Response*. (Under review.)

Della Guardia, A. *Barriers & Bridges: The Architecture of Social Cohesion*. (In progress.)

Della Guardia, A. *Hierarchies of Deservingness: Explaining Disparities in Humanitarian Response*. (In progress.)

Policy Papers

Della Guardia, A., Lake, M., & Saidi, M. (2024). Safety Nets in Contexts of Violence, Fragility and Forced Displacement: The Case of Burkina Faso and Cameroon. *Social Protection Discussion Papers and Notes* 192987, The World Bank. <https://ideas.repec.org/p/wbk/hdnspu/192987.html>

Schnitzer, P., Della Guardia, A., & Lake, M. (2023). *Targeting in Ultra-Poor Settings: Evidence from Six Countries in Rural Sabel*. World Bank Group. <https://coillink.org/20.500.12592/hg1t6x>

Conway, M., Khandros, A., Della Guardia, A., Wai-Poi, M., & Seshan, G. (2019). *Forced Displacement in the Mashreq: Impact on Household Welfare*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

Reference Publications

Della Guardia, A. (2026). *Extraordinary Expeditions: The People and Journeys That Changed History*. Bloomsbury, ABC-CLIO. (Reference book.)

Della Guardia, A. (2023). "Landscape, African Settlement and Trade." *African Studies AP Curriculum*. Bloomsbury, ABC-CLIO.

Della Guardia, A. (2023). "Climate, African Settlement and Trade." *African Studies AP Curriculum*. Bloomsbury, ABC-CLIO.

AWARDS & FUNDING

Research Grants & Fellowships

Baden-Württemberg Stiftung Grant (€2,500/month; up to €60,000 over two years)	2026–2027
Sir Patrick Gillam Scholarship Fund for fieldwork (£5,000)	2023
Sir Patrick Gillam Scholarship Fund for fieldwork (£5,000)	2022
LSE IR Department Studentship: funded PhD position (~£18,000/year)	2020–2024
Oxford-Radcliffe Scholarship – funded DPhil, University of Oxford (~£18,000/year, declined)	2020

Travel & Training Grants

Baden-Württemberg Stiftung Travel & Conference Grant (€1,500)	2026–2027
Political Geography Travel Grant (\$225)	2025
AAG Conference Travel Grant	2025
MPSA Conference Travel Grant	2025
LSE Postgraduate Travel Grant (£1,000/year)	2022–2024
LSE IR Department IQMR Funding (fully funded place)	2023
LSE IR Department Summer Methods School Funding (£1,500)	2022
LSE IR Department Summer Methods School Funding (£2,000)	2021
Georgetown Walsh School Graduate Student Travel Grant (\$5,000)	2018

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES)

Mannheim, Germany

Postdoctoral Research Fellow — European Societies and their Integration (Sociology) Jan 2026 – present

Based in the Centre's Sociology Department (Research Department A), within its Social Inequality research area, which examines how life stages amplify inequality across class, gender, household form and migration background, and how social contexts shape intergroup contact, integration and social cohesion.

Principal investigator on a project I designed and independently secured funding for, examining how the neighbourhood built environment shapes social cohesion and attitudes towards outgroups in ethnically diverse urban areas. The project's design is explicitly mechanism-based, treating the built environment as a spatial contact condition governing whether residential diversity produces the intergroup encounters through which social and political attitudes form, linking meso-level neighbourhood structure to micro-level attitude formation and macro-level cohesion outcomes. Contributes to neighbourhood effects research and contact theory.

The London School of Economics & Political Science

Doctoral Researcher, Department of International Relations

London, United Kingdom

Sept 2020 – Dec 2024

Doctoral research on how host governments shape the distribution of humanitarian assistance and protection within their territories, and what this means for state–society relations and for inequalities in access to aid among conflict-affected populations. Designed and executed a comparative, interview-based study with fieldwork in Cameroon, funded through competitive awards secured for the purpose. Findings inform the book manuscript listed above and a solo-authored article under review.

The World Bank Group

Research Consultant (STC)

Remote

Jan 2021 – Feb 2024

Co-managed a multi-country qualitative study of cash transfer programming in conflict-affected settings in the Sahel, examining household dynamics, welfare outcomes, and the consequences of programme targeting for social inequalities and for social cohesion within and between communities. Conducted a literature review on social protection and social cohesion in Fragile, Conflict and Violence-Affected (FCV) contexts.

Navanti Group

Sahel Research Analyst

Arlington, Virginia, USA / Remote

April – Aug 2020

Managed socio-economic research projects in Sahel countries for US government contracts, including responsibility for research processes and budgets.

The World Bank Group

Research Consultant (STC)

Washington, D.C., USA / Remote

April 2019 – March 2020

Supported research projects on: (i) forced displacement and humanitarian response policy and programming in the Middle East and North Africa Poverty Unit; and (ii) cash transfer programming for women beneficiaries in the Africa Social Protection and Labor Unit.

Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace & Security

Research Assistant

Washington, D.C., USA

Aug 2018 – May 2019

Supported research projects on intimate partner violence in post-conflict settings and access to justice, as well as initial research examining the nexus of gender, climate change and conflict.

FIELDWORK**Cameroon**

2023

Doctoral fieldwork — dissertation research on host-government influence over humanitarian response.

Participant observation, ethnography, and semi-structured interviews with government officials, humanitarian staff, host-community members and displaced persons; conducted in English and French; funded by the Sir Patrick Gillam Scholarship. Developed and managed all aspects of research design, budget and project administration.

Colombia

2024

Fieldwork — project on deservingness politics in humanitarian crises.

Semi-structured interviews with humanitarians; conducted in English; funded by the Sir Patrick Gillam Scholarship. Developed and managed all aspects of research design, budget and project administration.

Sahel (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad) & West Asia (Iraq)

2019–2023

World Bank qualitative studies of social welfare and cash transfer programming in conflict-affected and ultra-poor settings. Co-designed the research and coordinated primary data collection across countries, including site and participant selection, interview protocols, supervision of local research teams, and management of the associated fieldwork budgets.

Mali, Niger, Mauritania and Burkina Faso (remote)

2020

Socio-economic research projects across the Sahel for US government contracts (Navanti Group).

Managed research across four countries remotely under COVID-19 travel restrictions, including research design and protocols, coordination and oversight of in-country data collection, and synthesis of primary field material into analytical reporting.

Greece, Ghana, Lebanon and Portugal

2010 – 2011

In-country interview-based research for economic and business development reporting (ASAP Worldwide).

Conducted interviews with government officials, business leaders and sector stakeholders across emerging markets in Europe, sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, and produced written analysis drawn from primary interview material. Co-developed and managed research design, budget and project administration.

Madagascar

2009

Field research placement with C3 (Community Centred Conservation).

Community-based research supporting conservation and coastal livelihoods work, including interviews and household surveys with community members and local stakeholders in multiple coastal sites in the Antsiranana region of northern Madagascar.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE)

London, United Kingdom

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Dept. of International Relations

Sept 2021 – May 2022

Taught classes for a 200-level International Security course, and mentored students individually alongside classroom teaching.

Georgetown University

Washington, D.C., USA

Teaching Assistant, School of Foreign Service

Aug 2018 – May 2019

Assisted with an introductory statistics course and a Migration & Development course, and mentored students individually across both.

Engineers Without Borders Canada

ON, QC, NL, NS, Canada

Advocacy & Leadership Skills Instructor

Oct 2015 – May 2017

Contributed to the design of, and delivered, policy, advocacy and leadership training and workshops for university-aged students across 40 Canadian universities, and mentored student leaders across the national chapter network.

Concordia University

Montréal, Canada

Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Geography, Planning & Environment

Sept 2007 – May 2009

Assisted with classes for 100- and 200-level Geography courses.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UNICEF

Yaoundé, Cameroon

Humanitarian Field Operations Assistant

May – Aug 2018

Supported humanitarian field operations, including coordination of programme delivery and support to the management of multi-million-dollar operational budgets.

Engineers Without Borders Canada

Toronto, Canada

Policy & Advocacy Communications Lead

Aug 2015 – May 2017

Led the organisation's policy and advocacy communications strategy and managed public campaign communications, including Gates Foundation-funded advocacy projects and the associated grant renewal applications.

Brand Müller

Toronto, Canada

Project Manager

Jan 2014 – Aug 2015

Managed projects, budgets and client relations, and created and managed content for public sector accounts at a marketing and communications agency.

Consulate General of France in Toronto

Chief Press Officer

Toronto, Canada

Dec 2011 – Dec 2013

Led the consulate's communications and media relations as head of department, in support of the French cooperation and development agenda in Ontario.

ASAP Worldwide

Communications & Project Manager

Greece, Ghana, Lebanon, Portugal

Jan 2010 – Dec 2011

Managed international development projects and supported economic development reporting in emerging markets across Europe, sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East.

CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

"Hierarchies of Deservingness: Explaining Disparities in Humanitarian Response." Social Policy Association Annual Conference, Liverpool, July 2026.

"Smokescreens and Strangleholds: How Host Governments Obstruct Humanitarian Response." Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, USA, 2025.

"Orchestrating Migration: A Typology of Interventions Toward Migration & Displacement." American Association of Geographers Annual Conference, Detroit, USA, 2025.

"Smokescreens and Strangleholds: How Host Governments Obstruct Humanitarian Response." Political Geography Annual Pre-Conference, Detroit, USA, 2025.

"Disparities in Humanitarian Response & Host Government Influence." American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, USA, 2024.

"Humanitarian Priorities and Inequalities of Displacement Response." American Association of Geographers Annual Conference, Honolulu, USA, 2024.

"Navigating Humanitarian Response & The Deprioritization of the Internally Displaced." Conflict & Change Workshop, University College London (UCL), London, UK, 2024.

"Conflict, Stability and Social Protection: Poverty Reduction Programming in War." Accepted, American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, USA, 2023.

"The Most Vulnerable of the Vulnerable: Horizontal Inequalities Between Refugees and IDPs." American Association of Geographers Annual Conference, Denver, USA, 2023.

"Geographies of Displacement, Horizontal Inequalities and Communal Conflict." International Studies Association Annual Conference, Nashville, USA, 2022.

"Geographies of Displacement, Horizontal Inequalities and Communal Conflict." LSE Security and Statecraft Workshop, London, UK, 2022.

"Targeting and Intra-Communal Relations in Chad's National Safety Net Programme." LSE African Political Economy Group Workshop, London, UK, 2020.

INVITED TALKS & EVENTS

Keynote panellist: "Development Aid Futures," regional development conference hosted by the Khalifa International Foundation for Humanitarian Work, Benghazi, February 2026.

Keynote speaker: "Development and Humanitarian Aid," Public Health Symposium, University of Yaoundé, October 2023.

Keynote speaker: "The Economics of Aid," Faculty of Economic Sciences, University of Yaoundé, February 2023.

Panellist: "Geographies of Displacement, Horizontal Inequalities, and Communal Conflict," CIVICA PhD Panel on Civil Wars and International Security, April 2021.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Committee Member, Ad-Hoc Committee on Graduate Student Engagement, Women, Gender, and Politics Section (APSA) | 2024–2025

Organising Team Member, Junior IO Scholars Workshop | 2024–2025

PhD Cohort Representative, LSE IR Department Staff-Research Student Liaison Committee | 2020–2022

PhD Student Representative, LSE IR Department PhD Sub-Committee | 2021–2022

IR Department PhD Representative, LSE Research Student Consultative Forum | 2020–2021

Speaker, Welcome Week event for incoming PhDs, LSE International Relations Department | 2021

Panellist, departmental event for prospective PhD applicants, LSE International Relations Department | 2020

Co-organiser, panel on Gender, Security and the Humanitarian Sector, Georgetown University | 2018

Co-organiser, Security and Development Forum, Georgetown Anti-Poverty Society | 2018–2019

Co-organiser, lecture series “Conversations with Practitioners,” Georgetown University | 2017–2019

Undergraduate Student Representative, Geography Student Society, Concordia University | 2007–2009

Reviewer: *Democratization*, *SN Social Sciences*

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association | 2023–present

British Sociological Association | 2026–present

International Inequalities Institute Doctoral Participant | 2020–2023

Security and Statecraft Cluster, LSE International Relations Department | 2020–2024

Social Policy Association | 2026–present

Society for Longitudinal and Lifecourse Studies | 2026–present

Conflict & Change Workshop, University College London | 2020–2024

LANGUAGES & SOFTWARE

Languages

English (native / bilingual)

French (native / bilingual)

Spanish (intermediate conversational)

Software

R, ArcGIS, QGIS

Dedoose, Zotero