

# Livio Silva-Muller

## Curriculum Vitae

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[www.silvamuller.com](http://www.silvamuller.com)

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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2025-2027 **Harvard University, United States**  
Academy Scholar, Harvard Academy for International & Area Studies

### EDUCATION

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2019-2025 **The Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland**  
Ph.D. in Sociology

2023-2025 **London School of Economics, United Kingdom**  
Visiting Ph.D. Researcher, Department of Methodology

2017-2019 **The Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland**  
M.Phil. in Development Studies

2013-2016 **University of St. Gallen, Switzerland**  
B.A. in International Relations

### PUBLICATIONS

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**Silva-Muller, L.** (2026), "Reach and Retrenchment of the Environmental State: Global Climate Politics in the Amazon Rainforest". *American Journal of Sociology*. doi:[10.1086/741696](https://doi.org/10.1086/741696)

\* *Winner of the Political Sociology Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association*

\* *Winner of the Development Sociology Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association*

\* *Winner of the Environmental Sociology Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association*

**Silva-Muller, L. & Sposito, H.** (2024). Which Amazon Problem? Problem-Constructions and Transnationalism in Brazilian Presidential Discourse since 1985. *Environmental Politics* 33(3):398–421. doi: [10.1080/09644016.2023.2220639](https://doi.org/10.1080/09644016.2023.2220639).

\* *Winner of the Amazonian Section Best Paper Award, Latin America Studies Association*

Teeger, C., **L. Silva-Muller**, and G. Moraes Silva. (2025). "How Race Matters for Elites' Views on Redistribution." *The British Journal of Sociology*. doi:[10.1111/1468-4446.70012](https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-4446.70012).

**Silva-Muller, L.**, (2022). Payment for ecosystem services and the practices of environmental fieldworkers in policy implementation: The case of Bolsa Floresta in the Brazilian Amazon. *Land Use Policy*, 120. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2022.106251>

**Silva-Muller, L.**, & Faul, M. (2022). Protecting the Amazon and its people: the role of civil society in the local effectiveness of transnational partnerships. In *Partnerships for Sustainability: Pathways to Effectiveness*. Edt. by Andonova, L., Faul, M. and Piselli, D. Routledge: London. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003148371-6>

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

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**Silva-Muller, L.;** Moraes Silva, Graziella; Lopéz, Matias. “Whose Merit, which Redistribution? Elites, Taxes, and Transfers in Brazil and South Africa” [*Forthcoming, Social Forces*]

**Silva-Muller, L.** “Qualitative Methods and the Digital Era: How computation entangles fieldwork?” [*Under Review*]

Moraes Silva, Graziella; Lopéz, Matias; **Silva-Muller, L.** & Thome, Debora “Putting power into boxes: Challenges and advantages of conducting surveys with elites” [*Under Review*]

**Silva-Muller, L.** " An Autopsy of State Finance under Bolsonaro: How Transnational Legal Structures Insulate Policies from Backsliding Governments" [*Full Draft*]

Reis, Elisa; Moraes Silva, Graziella; and **Silva-Muller, L.** “From Third Wave to the Backlash: changes and continuities in Brazilian elite’s perceptions of democracy” [*Full Draft*]

**Silva-Muller, L.** & Sposito, H. “Do Backsliders defund the liberal world? The United States, Brazil, and Constrained Re-engagement in the United Nations” [*Full draft*]

**Silva-Muller, L.** “Easy and Hard Decarbonization: The (Im)possibility of Ecological Modernization in Latin America” [*Writing Up*]

## **BOOK PROJECT**

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**Silva-Muller, L.** “The Amazon as a Global Carbon Sink: How Scientists and Bureaucrats Built Decarbonizing Capacity and What Can We Learn from it.”

## **COMMISSIONED STUDIES**

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**Silva-Muller, L.;** Gassmann, R.; & De Franco, Guilherme (2025) “Paying for Multilateralism Amid Global Shocks: International Geneva, 2016 to 2023”, study commissioned by the Republic and State of Geneva: [Available here](#).

**Silva-Muller, L.** & Gassmann, R. (2024) “Paying for Multilateralism: Taking Stock on the Financing of International Organisations in Geneva, 2000-2020”, study commissioned by the Republic and State of Geneva: [Available here](#).

## **HONOURS AND PRIZES**

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| 2025 | Environmental Sociology Graduate Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association              |
| 2024 | Political Sociology Graduate Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association                  |
| 2024 | Sociology of Development Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association |
| 2024 | Best Paper in Amazonian Studies, Latin American Studies Association                                  |

## **COMPETITIVE EXTERNAL GRANTS**

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| 2023 | SNF Project Doctoral Mobility Grant                                   |
| 2023 | The Swiss Secretariat for Education Early-Career Grant                |
| 2022 | SNIS Project Funding-Democracy and Redistribution in the Global South |
| 2021 | SNIS International Organization Research Grant                        |
| 2018 | The Davis Peace Project Grant by Davis UWC Scholars                   |
| 2015 | The Japanese Government JASSO scholarship                             |

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- Fundamentals of R (postgraduate level, from 2021 to 2024)
- Research Methods in Anthropology and Sociology (postgraduate level, from 2021 to 2024)
- Elites and Inequality (postgraduate level, from 2021 to 2024)

## INVITED TALKS

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- 2026 "How Brazil decarbonized the Amazon Rainforest?" David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University
- 2026 "Insulating Decarbonization from Bolsonaro: How Transnational Finance Shields Policy in Times of Democratic Backsliding", Watson School of International and Public Affairs, Brown University
- 2025 "Paying for Multilateralism Amid Global Shocks", lecture for diplomats and International Organization Staff in Geneva.
- 2024 "Paying for Multilateralism" Panel with policy makers in Geneva, [available here](#).
- 2023 "Transnational Climate Regimes in Rainforest States: The Case of Brazil from 1985 to 2022", FGV IR Department Research Seminar, São Paulo-BR
- 2022 "Expanding Payment for Ecosystem Services in the Brazilian Amazon," invited talk at FEA-USP's 3rd Bioeconomy Workshop, São Paulo, [available here](#).
- 2019 "Payment for ecosystem Services in the Brazilian Amazon", invited talk at Oak Foundation, Genève.

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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\*ASA = American Sociological Association

### "Qualitative Methods in the Digital Era"

- 2026 From Live Diplomacy to Living Archives Workshop (IHEID, Geneva)
- 2025 LSE Computational Social Sciences Meets Qualitative Research Workshop

### "Pathways of the Environmental State"

- 2024 Conference of the British Journal of Sociology
- 2024 ASA, Environmental Sociology Section Session
- 2024 Ph.D. Seminar, Doing International Political Sociology, London
- 2023 Red para el Estudio de la Economía Política de América Latina
- 2023 Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics
- 2022 ASA, Global and Transnational Sociology Section Session

### "Decarbonization under Bolsonaro"

- 2025 ASA, Global and Transnational Sociology Section Session
- 2025 Red para el Estudio de la Economía Política de América Latina
- 2024 Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics
- 2024 Red para el Estudio de la Economía Política de América Latina

"How Race Matters for Elites' Views of Redistribution" with Chana Teegeer and Graziella Moraes Silva

- 2024 Conference of the British Journal of Sociology
- 2024 Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics
- 2024 ASA, Culture and Inequality Section Session

"Fear and Trust in Unequal Democracies: Elites and the Politics of Redistribution in the Global South" with G. Moraes Silva, M. Lopez & C. Teegeer,

- ASA, 2023 Sociology of Development Section Session
- 2024 Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics

"Seeing (merit) like elites: cultural processes and redistributive preferences at the top" with G. Moraes Silva

- 2023 ASA; Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section Session
- 2024 Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics

"The problem of climate change and comparative historical sociology"

- 2024 Doing Sociology Now, Department of Sociology, London School of Economics

## LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

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**Languages** Portuguese (native), English (proficient), German (proficient), Spanish (intermediary), French (intermediary).

**Data Science** Advanced user of **R** programming language (github; baseR; network analysis; text-as-data; web scrapping; survey analysis; tidyverse; markdown)

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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### *Organization*

Sociology of Development Conference, 2026, Princeton University

Elites in Unequal Democracies, 2025, Geneva Graduate Institute

### *Reviewer*

American Journal of Sociology; Environmental Politics, Revista de Estudios Brasileños;

Swiss Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation.

### *Awards Committee*

Committee Member: ASA Political Sociology Best Graduate Student Paper Award (2025),

ASA Development Sociology Best Graduate Student Paper Award (2025).

### *Administrative Service*

Member of the Geneva Graduate Institute Sustainability Target Initiative (2021-2025);

Member of the Geneva Graduate Institute Governance Group (2020-21);

Anthropology and Sociology PhD Student Representative (2021-2023).

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND MEDIA REFERENCES

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### **Citations in Government and Institutional Documents**

[Kanton of Geneva Law Proposal on Rescuing IOs from Defunding](#), 2025

[Official Brazilian Government Evaluation of Amazon Fund](#), 2023

### **Podcast and Panels**

[UN Library Podcast on Paying for Multilateralism](#), September 2024

[Paying for Multilateralism panel with ICRC vice-president](#), June 2024

## **Media Coverage**

[“Como a Amazônia é vista em discursos presidenciais brasileiros, desde 1985”](#) , October 2025, Nexo Newspaper, Brazil

[“Is Geneva prepared for Trump’s—and others’— cuts from foreign aid?”](#), March 2025, Swissinfo

[“Trump and Multilateralism: The un-making of the UN started”](#), February 2025, Swiss Radio and Television.

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Sociological Association (ASA)

Society for Advancement of Socioeconomics (SASE)

Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

Swiss School of Latin American Studies (SSLAS)

Latin America Political Economy Network (REPAL)