

Gretel Cuevas Verdin

Summary

Gretel specializes in the development of mineral-rich economies, with an emphasis on policies related to critical minerals and the energy transition. As a Watson Fellow, she conducted field research on mining communities across several countries in Africa and Asia. Since then, she has continued to advance her research on critical minerals supply chains working with the University of Cambridge Engineering Department, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCDO), and governments and civil society organisations in Zambia and Malawi.

EDUCATION

University of Cambridge, MPhil in Development Studies— Cambridge, United Kingdom. [October 2022 - June 2023](#)

Specialised in Development Economics, focusing on the socio-environmental impacts of the extraction and processing of critical minerals in the context of the current tech energy transition.

Bryn Mawr College, B.A. in Political Science and Government— Bryn Mawr, PA, United States. [August 2016 - May 2020](#)

Major in Political Science and Government; two concentrations in Public Policy and Comparative Politics; minor in Economics and Latin American, Latino, and Hispanic Studies. Cross-listed at the University of Pennsylvania. Magna Cum Laude Distinction, cumulative GPA of 3.79

London School of Economics, General Course Program—London, United Kingdom.

[September 2018 - June 2019](#)

One-year in-person specialisation program in Public Policy and Comparative Politics.

Institut D'Avignon, Francophone and French Literature Program—Avignon, France.

[May 2018 - July 2018](#)

Specialisation in French language and Francophone literature.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant and Policy Analyst, University of Cambridge Engineering Department- Cambridge, UK.

[February 2024 - November 2024](#) / [February 2025 - March 2025](#)

Planned, developed and executed research surrounding the topic of value addition in mineral-rich countries under the supervision of Professor Jonathan Cullen for the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Climate for Compatible Growth (CCG) Programme.

Conducted and led a consulting project on Critical Minerals and the ASEAN region for the FCDO.

Joined Professor Saleem Ali's working group for creating a Mineral Trust International Governance Framework under international law.

Fellow, Watson Foundation (IBM)- New York City, US.

[August 2021 - August 2022](#)

Direct, plan, and execute the Collective Stories Project (CSP), an independent journalism and research project that studies the influence of collective narratives in social, environmental, political and cultural events. The project was developed in Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Romania, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, India, Thailand, South Korea, Indonesia, and Greece. Speaker at the Universal Exposition in Dubai as part of the Women's Day Conference on March 8th 2022.

Policy Advisor, Mexican National Congress, Mexico City

[August 2020 - August 2021](#)

Formulate national policy initiatives related to the energy sector, execute electoral analysis, and assist in administrative duties at Mexico's National Congress.

CONTACT

18b Derby Street, Cambridge
tcuevasver@gmail.com
+ 44 07342356614

AWARDS

Watson Fellowship— Awarded in May 2020, and developed in 2021 due to Covid

Bryn Mawr International Grant— (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)

Pierre C. Fraley French Alliance Scholarship— May 2018

London School of Economics John C. Phelan Scholarship— September 2018

Bank of Mexico National Student Award— 2014

FORTHCOMING PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

Cuevas Verdin, G., Andrieu, B., & Cullen, J. M. (2025). *The critical minerals value addition myth: Why mineral-rich countries may struggle to realize added value*. Resource Policy (forthcoming). Available at SSRN:

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=6135631https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=6135631

Cuevas, G., & Cullen, J. (2025). *Embedding critical mineral governance in the Paris Agreement*. The Company Lawyer. Forthcoming May 2025, Sweet & Maxwell.

Intern, UNICEF, New York

May 2020 - August 2020

Assist in launching UNICEF's Global Development Commons (GDC) platform. Write research papers on early childhood development in countries of the Global South.

Intern, Organization of American States, Washington D.C.

September 2019 - May 2020

Worked on developing the OAS's program for the Strengthening of Democracy through Higher Education in Latin America. Formulate reports and policy proposals, and establish alliances with strategic partners, such as the Latin American and Latino Studies Department at the University of Pennsylvania.

Program Officer, Fundación Kristen A.C.- Queretaro, Mexico.

July 2018 - February 2020:

Research and plan healthcare programs for low-income communities in central Mexico. Planned fundraising initiatives and consolidated partnerships with local public and private organisations. Organised a fundraising gala and opera concert at the Mexican Embassy in the United Kingdom.

Research Assistant, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Latin American and Latino Studies.

August 2016 - May 2018

Assist the Program's Director, Dr. Tulia Falleti, and Associate Director, Dr. Catherine Bartch, with programming, planning, and advertising academic events. Assist in the development of research on subnational politics in Latin America.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Press Officer, Cambridge Union

November 2022- July 2023

Direct and supervise the weekly press release, write articles, and establish strategic connections with press organisations across the UK, representing the oldest debating society in the world, as well as the largest student society in Cambridge with more than 6,000 members.

President, London School of Economics Mexican Society

September 2018- July 2019.

Represent the Mexican student body at LSE and the School's background and interests, including business, investment banking, NGOs, government organisations, and art societies. Organised and directed the 19th edition of the Mexico Week Annual Conference, which gathered 30 of the most notable minds of Mexico and the UK, including the leader of Her Majesty's Opposition, Jeremy Corbyn.

Founder and President, Mexican Global Network Philadelphia Chapter

August 2016 - May 2018

Led a network of 47 highly skilled Mexicans actively developing growth in Philadelphia's professional community through projects enabling Mexicans to do business, develop technology and promote culture. The organisation was affiliated with the Mexican Consulate in Philadelphia. Organised a large-scale event with a Nobel laureate at the Perry World House of the University of Pennsylvania.

PUBLISHED POLICY BRIEFS

Foster et al. (2024).Value Addition for Africa's CriticalMinerals. Chatham House. Available at:

<https://climatecompatiblegrowth.com/wp-content/uploads/Critical-Minerals-20241220.pdf>

Foster, V., Cervantes Barrón, K., Pant, R., Andrieu, B., Heydari, M., Korkovelos, A., Osei-Owusu, S., Barzin, S., Çiftçi, M. M., Stringer, M., Ramírez Gómez, C., Cuevas, G., Hawkes, A., Hall, J., & Cullen, J. (2026). *Beyond extraction: Simulating increased battery mineral value addition in Southern Africa* (Policy Brief, Version 1.1). Climate Compatible Growth.

https://climatecompatiblegrowth.com/wp-content/uploads/Policy-Brief-Battery-Minerals-Southern-Africa_260126.pdf

FOCUS

Development

Economics

Extractive Industries

Sustainability

Energy Transition

LANGUAGES

English- Proficient

Spanish- Native

French- B2 Level

