

# AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

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## **The American Geographical Society Awards Alexander and Ilse Melamid Medal**

*Description: The Alexander and Ilse Melamid Medal, awarded by the American Geographical Society (AGS), is one of several prestigious honors given by the Society. Professor Karen Seto, Frederick C. Hixon Professor of Geography and Urbanization Science at Yale University will receive the medal on November 18 during the AGS Fall Symposium, 'Geography2050: The Future of Food,' to be held on November 17 and 18 at Columbia University.*

[New York City, NY] – [November 3, 2022] — The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced today that Professor Karen Seto, Frederick C. Hixon Professor of Geography and Urbanization Science at Yale University, has been selected to receive the 6th Alexander and Ilse Melamid Medal. AGS Vice President and Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee, Dr. Deborah Popper, remarks, “Karen Seto is a powerhouse. Her research on global land change, climate, and urbanization is remarkably sophisticated in its methodology and subtle in its findings. Her role as coordinating lead author of various IPCC working groups makes her a central figure addressing the planet's most urgent problems.” The prize will be presented on Friday, November 18, 2022 during the Society’s annual Fall Symposium, to be held at Columbia University.

Established in 2002, the Alexander and Ilse Melamid Medal was named after AGS Councilor Alexander Melamid, who served on the board from 1975 until his death in 2001. Dr. Melamid was the recipient of another AGS medal, the Samuel Finley Breese Morse Medal, which he received in 1991. After Dr. Melamid’s death, the medal was created in his honor by his wife, Ilse. This medal seeks to award those who examine the influence of humans on the natural world. It is awarded in recognition of “...outstanding work on the dynamic relationship between human culture and natural resources.”

Karen Seto is the Frederick C. Hixon Professor of Geography and Urbanization Science at Yale University’s School of the Environment. A geographer, and an urban and land change scientist, she is one of the world’s leading experts on contemporary urbanization and global environmental change. Her research includes the effects of urbanization on food systems, biodiversity, croplands, energy use and GHG emissions. She serves on numerous national and international scientific bodies. She currently co-chairs the U.S. National Academies Climate Security Roundtable and the U.S. National Academies Subcommittee on U.S.-China Scientific Engagement. She was a Coordinating Lead Author for the IPCC 6th (2022) and 5th (2014) Assessment Reports, where she co-led the chapter on urban mitigation of climate change. She is an elected member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, and a Fellow with the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The American Geographical Society is a 21st-century learning society dedicated to the advancement of geographic thinking, knowledge, and understanding across business, government, academe, social sectors, and most importantly with teachers and students. Established in 1851, AGS is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States. It is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education for over 168 years. The mission of AGS is to advance and promote geography in business, government, science, and education. Our goal is to enhance the nation’s geographic literacy so as to engender sound public policy, national security, and human well-being worldwide. AGS seeks to engage the American public, from its youngest to its oldest citizens, with new and

amazing ways to understand and characterize our changing world. The Society maintains its headquarters in New York City.



***Professor Karen Seto***

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