

K. MARIA D. LANE

Biographical Sketch

Dr. Maria Lane is currently Interim Dean of Graduate Studies and Professor of Geography & Environmental Studies at the University of New Mexico. She received her PhD in Geography from the University of Texas at Austin and has been at UNM since 2006. During that time, she has served in numerous leadership roles including GES Department Chair, GES Director of Graduate Programs, Chair of the Faculty Senate Task Force on General Education, and founding director of the R.H. Mallory Center for Community Geography. She led the effort to establish New Mexico's first-ever doctoral program in Geography, working with faculty at both UNM and NMSU to design a unique consortium program. She was named in 2023 as a UNM Presidential Teaching Fellow, and her own teaching uses community-engaged and project-based learning approaches at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Dr. Lane publishes and presents frequently on the historical geographies of natural resource management, focusing mainly on the scientific management of arid landscapes. She is the author of *Fluid Geographies: Water, Science, and Settler Colonialism in New Mexico* (Chicago 2024) and *Geographies of Mars: Seeing and Knowing the Red Planet* (Chicago 2011) as well as numerous articles and book chapters that explore the colonial assumptions and impulses inherent in scientific knowledge. Her research has been featured by *National Geographic* and BBC Radio 4, as well as KUNM. She supervises, funds, advises, and publishes with diverse cohorts of graduate students, in Geography and other fields, including interdisciplinary programs.

Dr. Lane is recognized both nationally and internationally for her professional leadership in the field of historical geography. She is a recent editor of the *Journal of Historical Geography*, current chair of the J.B.Jackson Book Prize award committee, and current convenor of the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Historical Geographers. She was selected as a Distinguished Visitor Scholar at Queen's University-Belfast, elected to the Society of Women Geographers, and recognized by the New Mexico Legislature for "achievement in the sciences that reflects a keen understanding of the human role in the environment." Lane serves regularly as an external reviewer for academic programs in Geography and in Environmental Studies, and she is a current member of many UNM councils, task forces, and committees.