

Michael McCanless | C.V.

PhD Student | Department of Geography | he/him/his
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EDUCATION

degrees

- 2021 – PhD Candidate, Geography
University of Kentucky
- 2019 – 2021 MA Geography, Geography
University of Kentucky
- 2013 – 2017 BA Urban Studies
Rhodes College (Cum Laude)

certifications

- 2021 – 2023 Graduate Certificate in Digital Mapping
University of Kentucky, Department of Geography

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

research assistantships

- 2021 – 2023 Research Assistant (NSF Grant #1853718), *Blockchain and the New Spaces of Finance*, PI: Dr. Matthew Zook

PUBLICATIONS

peer-reviewed articles

- McCanless, Michael. 2023. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*. “Banking on alternative credit scores: Auditing the calculative infrastructure of U.S. consumer lending”.
- Zook, Matthew and McCanless, Michael. 2022. *The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien*. “Mapping the Uneven Geographies of Digital Phenomenon: The Case of Blockchain”.
- Casey, Z. A. & McCanless, Michael. 2019. *Berkeley Review of Education*. “Looking backward to go forward: Toward a Kliebardian approach to curriculum theory”.
- McCanless, Michael. 2018. *Journal for Critical Education Policy Studies*. “Learning to [bear it and] Smile: Surveilled Labour, Taylorized Work, and the Contradictions of College Readiness”.

In progress

- Zook, Matthew and McCanless, Michael. Drafted for March 2024 submission. *Progress in Economic Geography*. “Blockchain real estate: The messy landing of new markets”.

AWARDS & HONORS

research awards

- 2024 UK Department of Geography Research Fellowship (\$9,500)
- 2020 Barnhart-Withington Research Award (\$1,420)
- 2018 Neighborworks Rural Initiative Research Grant (\$50,000)
- 2016 Rhodes College Independent Research Grant (\$500)
- 2015 Institute for Regional Studies Research Grant (\$3,500)

scholarship awards

- 2024 Graduate Fellowship, Urban Geography Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers (\$750)
- 2023 Best Group Map, Student Dynamic Mapping Competition, North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) (\$500)
- 2017 Fulbright Student ETA in the Country of Georgia
- 2016 Rhodes College Summer Service Fellowship

conference & travel awards

- 2023 IRS Spring Academy on Financialization and De-Financialization, Berlin, Germany
- 2022 New York University-Mellon Foundation Summer Institute on Urbanism, New York City, New York
- 2020 University of Kentucky Graduate Student Congress Travel Grant (\$500)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

paper presentations

- 2024 “The impact of corporate rentiership on property assessment and valuation in Memphis, TN”. *Urban Affairs Association Annual Meeting*. New York City, New York.
- 2024 “Banking on alternative credit scores: Auditing the calculative infrastructure of U.S. consumer lending”. *American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting*. Virtual.
- 2023 “Making a market for campus investments: the UKInvests program and financial citizenship”. *Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting*. Co-presented with Jed Debruin, Jacob Saindon and Jack Swab. Norfolk, Virginia.
- 2023 “Public Data Tools for Understanding Urban Property Ownership”. *North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS)*. Co-presented with Jacob Saindon. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- 2023 “Banking on Alternative Credit Scores: New Geographies of Calculative Infrastructure in U.S. Consumer Lending”. *Accounting for Space*. Toronto, Canada.
- 2022 “Three vignettes of a billboardscape”. *Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting*. Co-presented with Jacob Saindon and Matthew Wilson. Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2022 “Changing Spaces of Ownership: Web3, NFTs and the Financialization of Everything”. *The 6th Global Conference on Economic Geography*. Co-presented with Matt Zook. Dublin, Ireland.
- 2022 “Mapping the Uneven Geography of Digital Phenomena: The Case of

Blockchain”. *American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting*. Co-presented with Matt Zook. Virtual attendance.

2021 “Debilitating debt and recapacitating loans in the online consumer lending industry”. *American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting*. Virtual attendance.

2020 “Money is a fundamental ingredient of life’: FinTech and the platform futures of debt.” *American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting*. Virtual attendance.

2017 “Economic Precarity and Subjects in Transition: Lessons from the Country of Georgia and the United States”. *10th International Research Conference on American Studies*. Tbilisi, Georgia

2017 “Thinking-together post-industrial labor education: Paul Willis and the service economy” *7th International Conference on Critical Education (ICCE)*. Athens, Greece.

panel organization

2024 “Digital technologies and land justice”. *Digital Geography Specialty Group Annual Plenary Panel* co-organized with Emily Barrett and panelists Annita Hetoevohotokhe’e Lucchesi, Joyce Percel, Genevieve Reid, Isaac Rivera. Virtual.

2023 “Data Infrastructures II: Cities”. *Big Data & Society Colloquium: Data Practices & Digital Social Worlds* co-organized with Jun Zhang and panelists Erin McElroy, Julien Migozzi, Martin Tironi and Rachel Weber. Virtual

poster presentations

2019 “Local Resources, Global Wealth: The Role of Appalachian Practitioner Organizations in Disentangling Local Economies”. *Appalachian Studies Association Annual Meeting*. Asheville, NC.

TEACHING

instructor of record

2023 Introduction to GIS (GEO 309), *University of Kentucky*

2022 Health Geography (GEO 261), *University of Kentucky*

2018 U.S. Culture and Concepts, *National Defense Academy of Georgia*

teaching assistantships

2020 Health Geography (GEO261), *University of Kentucky*

2019 Environmental Issues (GEO162), *University of Kentucky*

INVITED PRESENTATIONS, APPEARANCES, & LECTURES

invited presentations

2021 “Debilitating debts and recapacitating loans: How FinTech made markets for unsecured consumer debt using Alternative Data and Machine Learning”. *University of Kentucky Geography Colloquium Series*. 27 August.

media appearances

2022 Interview with Wendy Chun. “Discriminating Data: Correlation, Neighborhoods, and the New Politics of Recognition”. [Big Data & Society](#).

2017 Interviewed by Tyler Serritt. “Calhoun Resident Michael McCanless Wins Fulbright Award to Teach in Europe”. [Northwest Georgia News](#).

2016 Interviewed by Sydney Neeley. “Rhodes College students devote summer to making difference in Memphis.” [Commercial Appeal](#)

departmental guest lectures

2022 “Financial inequalities: what’s in a credit score”. Guest Lecture, *GEO 161 Global Inequalities*, University of Kentucky. 23 February.

SERVICE

peer reviewer

Big Data & Society (2021), *Journal of Urban Technology* (2023), *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* (2023)

editorial positions

2023 Social Media Editor, *Big Data & Society*

2022 Bookcast Editor, *Big Data & Society*

2021 Assistant Editor, *Big Data & Society*

special themes

2022 Editorial Assistant, The City as a License: Design, Rights and Civics in a Blockchain Society, *Big Data & Society*. *In progress*.

disciplinary & departmental

2023 – 2024 Personnel Committee Representative, *UK Geography Graduate Student Union*

2023 – 2024 Student Representative, Digital Geographies Specialty Group

2022 – 2023 Community Renewal Representative *UK Geography Graduate Student Union*

2022 – 2023 Social Chair, *UK Geography Graduate Student Union*

2022 – 2023 Graduate Committee Representative, *UK Geography Graduate Student Union*

2022 – 2023 Mentorship Program Coordinator, *UK Geography Graduate Student Union*

2020 – 2022 Kickball Team Captain, *UK Geography Graduate Student Union*

2021 – 2022 Mentorship Program Coordinator, *UK Geography Graduate Student Union*

2020 – 2021 Research Committee Member, *United Campus Workers of Kentucky*

2020 – 2022 Graduate Student Steward, *United Campus Workers of Kentucky*

2020 Session Chair, *Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference*.

2019 – 2020 Colloquium Committee Representative, *UK Geography Graduate Student Union*

public panels & committees

2018 Global UGRAD Exchange Program Panelist, *U.S Embassy in Georgia*

conference & workshop organization

2020 “Space, Technology and Difference”. Summer Brown Bag Series. Member of Graduate Student Organizing Committee, with J. Saindon and I. Spangler. Lexington, KY.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

full-time positions

2018–2019 Research & Outreach Coordinator
Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises (CDFI)

2017–2018 Instructor
Fulbright Program in the Country of Georgia

research assistantships

2016 Research Assistant, *Harold Rugg and 20th Century Curriculum Studies* (PI: Dr.

Zac Casey)

internships & professional experience

AP Human Geography Distributed Reader, *College Board* (2022)

SOFTWARE SKILLS

mapping & gis

Desktop (ArcGIS Desktop/Pro, QGIS, ENVI)

Libraries & APIs for mapping & web design (Leaflet, IIF, D3.js, Chart.js, jQuery, Bootstrap)

language proficiencies

Query (SQL)

Markup (CSS, HTML, XML, AJAX)

Programming (JavaScript, R)

data & database systems

Relational databases (ArcCatalog, PostgreSQL/PostGIS)

Version control software (GitHub)

Web services (GitHub Pages, SEO/Google Search Console)

AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Urban Affairs Association (Since 2023)

Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers (since 2022)

Global Network on Financial Geography (since 2021)

New Mappings Collaboratory (since 2021)

Committee on Social Theory (since 2019)

Association of American Geographers (since 2019)

Digital Geography Specialty Group

Economic Geography Specialty Group

Urban Geography Specialty Group