

# Katrina Ward

she/they  
katrina.ward@uky.edu

University of Kentucky  
Geography PhD Student

## Education

University of Kentucky  
PHD GEOGRAPHY | 2023-PRESENT

Oklahoma State University  
MS GEOGRAPHY | 2023

University of Oklahoma  
BFA WITH DISTINCTION VISUAL COMMUNICATION,  
MINOR ART HISTORY | 2018  
Madeline Colbert Steed Scholarship, Ben Barnett  
Scholarship, Teresa Carrig Scholarship

## Work Experience

- 2023-  
PRESENT University of Kentucky, Department of Geography  
GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT, GRADUATE INSTRUCTOR  
Independent instructor for Human Geography, teaching assistant for US Cities.
- 2021-  
2023 Oklahoma State University, Department of Geography  
GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT  
General teaching assistant for Introduction to Cultural Geography and Regions & Nations.
- 2017-  
PRESENT Half Design  
CREATIVE DIRECTOR & CO-FOUNDER  
Co-founded Half Design to take on social impact, political, and activism-focused projects. This includes data, strategy, design, production, and photo work for organizations including the ACLU of Oklahoma, ArtDesk, BLM OKC, Christina Chicoraske for County Clerk, Eddie Bauer, Fertile Ground, Freedom Oklahoma, The Frontier, Mahota Textiles, OKC Zoo, Oklahoma Call for Reproductive Justice.
- 2021 Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center  
INTUITIVE QUILTING TEACHER  
Developed syllabus, taught intuitive quilting process and history to students at multiple sewing levels.
- 2019-  
2021 People Not Politicians  
ORGANIZER, DESIGN, DIGITAL & PHOTO STRATEGIST  
Led visual and digital strategy and execution, worked with campaign manager to organize and photograph events, communicate and build relationships with volunteers and supporters across Oklahoma.

## Manuscripts

- 2024 When it lives with you: Quilts as disabled grief objects | Book chapter, in process |  
INVITED SUBMISSION TO PEER-REVIEWED VOLUME ON ART HISTORY & DISABILITY
- 2024 Ole' Sparky: Affect and the ethics of displaying the electric chair in  
McAlester, Oklahoma | Book chapter, in revision | THE ROUTLEDGE INTERNATIONAL  
HANDBOOK OF HERITAGE AND AFFECT: DESIGNING AND EXPERIENCING PLACES OF HERITAGE

*Presentations*

- 2024 **When it lives with you: Quilts as disabled grief objects** | Paper | **SYMPOSIUM ON DISABILITY AND DEBILITY IN APPALACHIA**
- 2023 **Ole' Sparky: Affect and the ethics of displaying the electric chair in McAlester, Oklahoma** | Paper | **SEDAAG; INT. CONFERENCE ON AFFECT AND HERITAGE**
- 2023 **The presence of a prison: A case study examining how collective memory and the cultural landscape influence carceral values of residents in the prison town of McAlester, Oklahoma** | Paper | **AAG ANNUAL MEETING**
- 2022 **Carceral control and resistance in Oklahoma: A protest oral history**  
Paper: Co-author with aurelius francisco | **INT. CONFERENCE FOR CARCERAL GEOGRAPHY**
- 2022 **Stitching memories: Reclamation of memory through a quilt memorial for Greenwood** | Paper | **SEDAAG ANNUAL MEETING**
- 2022 **Tracing inequity through efforts to increase food access in OKC's Ward 7: Impacts of historic and contemporary racism**  
Paper: Presenting author with Dr. Rebecca Sheehan | **AAG ANNUAL MEETING**
- 2021 **Lessons from Police Divestment in OKC**  
Panelist | **FOUNDATION FOR LIBERATING MINDS**

*Leadership  
& Service*

**No New Jail OK**  
**CO-FOUNDER | 2022-PRESENT**  
Abolitionist organizing group fighting the building of a new OK County jail and increasing community safety outside policing

**Carceral Studies Consortium**  
**AFFILIATE BOARD MEMBER | 2021-PRESENT**  
Working and supporting rigorous research, pedagogy, and community engagement toward social transformation

**23<sup>rd</sup> St. Community Garden**  
**FOUNDER, ORGANIZER | 2020-PRESENT**  
Neighborhood community garden

**AAG Cultural Geography  
Specialty Group**  
**GRAD REPRESENTATIVE | 2022-2023**

**Civics Con**  
**DIGITAL & DESIGN DIRECTOR | 2021**  
Virtual conference about civic issues and reforms to strengthen democracy

**Design for Divestment**  
**FOUNDER, ORGANIZER | 2020-2022**  
Organizing to make information about police budgets accessible and increase activism to defund them

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## Grants & Awards

- |           |   |      |   |
|-----------|---|------|---|
| 2024      | <b>Social Theory Graduate Research Grant</b><br>University of Kentucky, \$1,400                   | 2024 | <b>Summer Research Fellowship</b><br>University of Kentucky, \$1,000  |
| 2022      | <b>Andy Warhol Foundation &amp; OK Visual Arts Coalition</b><br>Thrive Powerhouse Grant, \$10,000 | 2022 | <b>OSU Graduate College</b><br>Robberson Research Fellowship, \$5,000 |
| 2022      | <b>OSU Geography Dept. Award</b><br>Critical Geog. of Race & Racism, \$500                        | 2022 | <b>Latinx &amp; Feminist SG Mutual Aid Award</b><br>Recipient, \$200  |
| 2021      | <b>OKC Pride Alliance</b><br>Rainbow Award (Environmental)  | 2021 | <b>Great Plains Journalism Award</b><br>Magazine Design               |
| 2017-2021 | <b>ADDY Awards</b><br>1 Gold   2020<br>3 Silver   2021, 2017<br>5 Bronze   2021, 2020, 2017       | 2017 | <b>OCPRA Awards</b><br>4 Excellence Awards                            |

## Community Engagement

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Assoc. of American Geographers</b><br>MEMBER   2021-PRESENT                   | <b>Carceral Geography Working Group</b><br>MEMBER   2021-PRESENT                        |
| <b>Southwest Division of AAG</b><br>MEMBER   2021-PRESENT                        | <b>Women Photograph</b><br>MEMBER   2021-PRESENT  |
| <b>Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition</b><br>MEMBER   2017-PRESENT                   | <b>OKC Pride Alliance</b><br>VOLUNTEER   2019-2020                                      |
| <b>Arena Academy</b><br>DATA VOLUNTEER AND ONLINE<br>CONFERENCE HOST   2019-2020 | <b>Higher Education Day</b><br>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE,<br>UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA   2017 |

## Exhibitions

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>OVAC Momentum</b><br>NORMAN, OKLAHOMA CITY, AND TULSA, OK<br>Selected Artist   2021, 2022  | <b>Art Exhibitions</b><br>OKLAHOMA CITY<br>Elemental Coffee, solo show   2021<br>Urban Teahouse   2016, 2017, 2018<br>Uncommon Seed Co-working   2018 |
| <b>OU SoVA Student Exhibition</b><br>FRED JONES JR. MUSEUM OF ART, NORMAN, OK<br>Excellence in Design Award   2017, 2018<br>Michael Krawczyk Award   2017<br>Selected Artist   2017, 2018 | <b>Art Group Group Show</b><br>SKYLINE INK, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK<br>Selected Artist   1 PIECE, 2018  |