

# Katrina Ward

PhD Candidate | Department of Geography | she/they  
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## Education

2023– PhD Candidate, Geography, *University of Kentucky*  
**committee:** Dr. Lydia Pelot-Hobbs (chair), Dr. Priscilla McCutcheon, Dr. Nick Lally, Dr. Vanessa Holden (history), Dr. Judah Schept (criminology, EKU)

2021–2023 MS Geography, *Oklahoma State University*  
**thesis:** “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”

2018 BFA Visual Communication, minor: Art History, School of Visual Art, *University of Oklahoma* (Cum Laude)

## Publications

### book chapters

Ward, Katrina. (2026). “Crime doesn’t pay”: Affect and displaying the electric chair in McAlester, Oklahoma. *Routledge International Handbook of Heritage and Affect*. Eds. Jacque Micieli-Voutsinas, Angela Person.

### invited submissions

Ward, Katrina, aurelius francisco, Nicole McAfee, JoBeth Hamon, Nathan Wiewel. (Forthcoming). “Budgeting for our lives: Experiments with participatory budgeting against municipal jail building in Oklahoma”. *GeoHumanities special issue: Critical GeoHumanities: Solidarities, Humanitarianism, Scholarship-Activism and Creative Political Engagements*

### in preparation

Ward, Katrina. (Forthcoming). “When it lives with you: Quilts as disabled grief objects”. *Targeted for Gender, Place, and Culture or Material Culture*.  
Ward, Katrina. (Forthcoming). “Practicing white supremacy at home: The religious right on bringing up children”. *Targeted for Antipode*.

## Awards & Honors

### grants & research awards

2024	Social Theory Graduate Research Award, <i>University of Kentucky</i>	\$1,400
2022	Critical Geographies of Race & Racism, <i>Oklahoma State University</i>	\$500
2022	Andy Warhol Foundation & Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition	\$10,000

### fellowships

2026	G. Etzel Pearcy Fellowship for Graduate Work in Geopolitics, <i>University of Kentucky</i>	
2025–2026	UNITE Predoctoral Research Fellowship, <i>University of Kentucky</i>	\$10,000
2025, 2024	Summer Research Fellowship, <i>University of Kentucky</i>	\$2,500

2022	Robberson Research Fellowship, Oklahoma State University	\$500
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#### **scholarships & other awards**

2022	Feminist & Latinx Geographies Specialities Groups Mutual Aid Award
2021	Great Plains Journalism Award, Magazine Design
2021	Oklahoma Pride Alliance, Rainbow Award
2021	Bronze & Silver American Advertising Federation Awards, Oklahoma
2020	Gold & Bronze American Advertising Federation Awards, Oklahoma
2018	Excellence in Design Award, University of Oklahoma
2018	Madeline Colbert Steed Scholarship, University of Oklahoma
2017	Excellence in Design Award, University of Oklahoma
2017	Michael Krawcyk Award, University of Oklahoma
2017	Silver & Bronze American Advertising Federation Awards, Oklahoma
2017	Oklahoma College Public Relations Association Excellence Awards
2016	Ben Barnett Scholarship, University of Oklahoma
2015	Teresa Carrig Scholarship, University of Oklahoma

#### **Professional Experience**

##### **instructor**

2025	Human Geography (GEO 172), <i>University of Kentucky</i>
2024	Human Geography (GEO 172), <i>University of Kentucky</i>
2021	Intuitive Quilting, <i>Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center</i>

##### **teaching assistantships**

2023 (x2)	US Cities (GEO 220), <i>University of Kentucky</i>
2022	Introduction to Cultural Geography (GEOG 1113), <i>Oklahoma State University</i>
2021	Regions & Nations in Global Context (GEOG 1713), <i>Oklahoma State University</i>

#### **Conference Participation**

##### **paper presentations**

2025	“Practicing white supremacy at home: The religious right on bringing up children”. <i>American Studies Association Annual Meeting</i> . Puerto Rico.
2025	“The Right to Revolution”: Almost-abolitionist aims and afterlives of the OSP riot from inside and out”. <i>American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting</i> . Detroit, Michigan.
2024	“When it lives with you: Quilts as disabled grief objects.” <i>Symposium on Disability and Debility in Appalachia</i> . Lexington, Kentucky.
2023	“Ole’ Sparky: Affect and the ethics of displaying the electric chair in McAlester, Oklahoma”. <i>Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting</i> . Norfolk, Virginia.
2023	“Ole’ Sparky: Affect and the ethics of displaying the electric chair in McAlester, Oklahoma”. <i>International Conference on Affect and Heritage</i> . Online.
2022	“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”. <i>American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting</i> . Denver, Colorado.
2022	“Carceral control and resistance in Oklahoma: A protest oral history”. <i>International Conference for Carceral Geography</i> . Co-author with aurelius francisco. Online.
2022	“Stitching memories: Reclamation of memory through a quilt memorial for Greenwood”. <i>Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting</i> . Atlanta, Georgia.

2022 Tracing inequity through efforts to increase food access in OKC's Ward 7: Impacts of historic and contemporary racism." *American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting*. Online.

#### panel organization

2024 "Palestinian Landscapes & Liberatory Ecologies", with Bea Abbott, Chris Keeve, Edgar Garcia-Velozo, Dr. Garrett Grady. *DOPE+ Conference*, Lexington, KY.

#### Invited Presentations, Appearances, & Lectures

##### public appearances

2021 Lessons from Police Divestment Campaigns in Oklahoma City. Panelist. [Foundation for Liberating Minds.](#)

##### departmental guest lectures

2025 "Policing the city". Guest lecture, *GEO220, US Cities, University of Kentucky*.

#### Service

##### disciplinary & departmental

2025– Geography Undergraduate Committee, *University of Kentucky*  
2024–2025 Student Representative to the Steering Committee, *Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting*  
2024– Geography Teaching Assistant Liaison, *University of Kentucky*  
2023– Geography Graduate Committee, *University of Kentucky*  
2023–2024 Library Committee, *Geography Graduate Student Union, University of Kentucky*  
2022–2023 Graduate Representative, *AAG Cultural Geography Speciality Group*  
2021– Affiliate Board Member, *Carceral Studies Consortium, University of Oklahoma*  
2016–2018 President, *Dean's Student Advisory Council, University of Oklahoma*  
2015–2016 School of Visual Arts Representative, *Dean's Student Advisory Council, University of Oklahoma*

##### public

2024– Organizing Member, *People's Budget Coalition, Oklahoma City*  
2024– Organizing Member, *Oklahoma Privacy Coalition*  
2022– Co-founder and Organizer, *No New Jail Oklahoma*  
2021 Digital & Design director, *Civics Conference*  
2019–2021 Data Volunteer, Online Conference Host, *Arena Academy*  
2018–2019 President, *American Institute of Graphic Arts, Oklahoma*  
2017–2018 Board Member, *American Institute of Graphic Arts, Oklahoma*  
2017 Student Representative, *Higher Education Day, University of Oklahoma*

#### Affiliations & Memberships

American Studies Association (since 2023)

Critical Prison Studies Caucus

Association of American Geographers (since 2021)

Black Geographies Speciality Group

Disability Speciality Group

Feminist Geographies Speciality Group

Graduate Student Speciality Group

Indigenous Peoples Speciality Group

Socialist and Critical Geographies Speciality Group  
Carceral Geography Working Group (since 2021)  
Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition (since 2017)  
Southeast Division of the American Association of Geographers (since 2023)  
Southwest Division of the American Association of Geographers (2021–2023)  
Women Photograph (since 2021)