

CURRICULUM VITAE

BENJAMIN KAPLAN WEINGER

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. 2025 (expected). Department of Geography, University of California, Los Angeles.
Committee: John Agnew (chair), Stephanie Pincetl, Kelly Kay, Shaina Potts
Dissertation: “One-Dimensional Climate: Los Angeles at the Crossroads of Climate History”
- C.Phil. 2023. Department of Geography, University of California, Los Angeles.
- M.A. 2022. Department of Geography, University of California, Los Angeles.
Committee: John Agnew (chair), Adam Moore, Shaina Potts
Thesis: “Thirty Years On: Planetary Climate Planning and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change”
- B.A. 2020. New York University, The Gallatin School (*magna cum laude*).
Concentration: Geography and Anthropocene Studies
Committee: Rosalind Fredericks (chair), Mohammed Rafi Arefin, Karen Holmberg
Thesis (with distinction): “The Discursive Politics of Climate Planning in Israel/Palestine: Territoriality, Sovereignty, and Statecraft”

LANGUAGES

RESEARCH AREAS

political geography; urban political ecology;
global climate politics; comparative climate planning;
multilevel climate governance; climate justice

English (native)
Spanish (intermediate)
Hebrew (biblical and modern) (advanced)
Arabic (advanced)

PUBLICATIONS

- Weinger, B.K. 2023. Thirty Years On: Planetary Climate Planning and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. *Global Environmental Change* 80: 1-14.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2023.102669>.
- Weinger, B.K. 2021. Scripting Climate Futures: The Geographical Assumptions of Climate Planning. *Political Geography* 88: 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2021.102409>.
- Weinger, B.K. 2024. When the World Collapses in Palestine. *Jerusalem Quarterly* 99: 85-100.
<https://www.palestine-studies.org/en/node/1656554>.
- Weinger, B.K. 2021. The COVID-climate moment: Approximating planetary crisis in Palestine/Israel. *Antipode*.
<https://antipodeonline.org/2021/02/05/the-covid-climate-moment-in-palestine-israel/>.
- Arefin, M.R., and Weinger, B. 2020. Infrastructural occupations: Waste and electricity in Palestine. *Cultural Geographies* 28(3): 569-572. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1474474020978487>.

PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

- Weinger, B.K. [Under review](#). Territorial politics of urban climate governance. *EPD: Society and Space*.
- Weinger, B.K. [Under review](#). The state of the city: Rethinking climate governance in a fragmented world. *Space and Polity*.
- Weinger, B.K. [Under review](#). The Institutional Foundations of Climate Governance: Expertise, Scale, and Power. *Global Environmental Change*.
- Weinger, B.K. and Guzmán Narváez, N. [Under Review](#). “Patria o Muerte:” Mesa 18 and the Rebellious Climate Dissenters of Bolivia. *Global Environmental Change*.
- Weinger, B.K. [Preparing for Submission](#). Consequences of fragmentation in the urban climate transition.

FELLOWSHIPS

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$144,000 total) University of California, Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA)	2020 – 2025
Dissertation Research Fellowship (\$5,000) UCLA Center for European and Russian Studies	2023
Dissertation Fieldwork Fellowship (\$2000) UCLA International Institute	2023
Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) Fellowship (\$30,000) (<i>declined offer</i>) Qasid Arabic Institute (Amman, Jordan)	2022 – 2023
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (\$14,730) UCLA CNES/Middlebury College/U.S. Department of Education (Middlebury, VT)	2022
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (\$38,500) UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies/U.S. Department of Education (Los Angeles, CA)	2021 – 2022
Regents Fellowship (\$15,000) University of California, Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA)	2021
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (\$7,500) UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies/U.S. Department of Education (Los Angeles, CA)	2021
Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellowship (\$3,500) Humanities Institute, New York Botanical Gardens (NYBG) (Bronx, NY)	2019
Dean's Honor Society Fellowship NYU Gallatin School of Individualized Study (Aotearoa New Zealand and Portugal)	2018 – 2020
NYU Bronfman Center Fellowship (\$700) New York University (New York, NY)	2016 – 2018

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Rutgers Climate and Energy Institute Workshop and Travel Grant (\$2,000)	June 2024
UCLA Department of Geography Travel Grant (\$490)	Mar. 2024
AAG Political Geography Specialty Group Travel Grant (\$225)	Feb. 2024
UCLA Department of Geography Helin/Korpela Research Travel Grant (\$2,000)	May 2023
UCLA Center for the Advancement of Teaching TA Mini-Grant (\$250)	Jan. 2023
UCLA Doctoral Student Travel Grant (\$1,000)	Jan. 2023
AAG Political Geography Specialty Group Travel Grant (\$225)	Jan. 2023
UCLA Department of Geography Geospatial Grant (\$1,000)	Nov. 2022
Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Travel Grant (\$50)	Oct. 2022
UCLA Department of Geography Helin/Korpela Research Travel Grant (\$4,500)	June 2022
Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Travel Grant (\$50)	Oct. 2021
UCLA Y&S Nazarian Center Graduate Research Grant (\$2,000)	Apr. 2021
American Association of Geographers, Climate Specialty Group Grant (\$50)	Oct. 2020
NYU Gallatin Spring Scholarship (\$7,000)	Apr. 2020
Horn Fund for Environmental Research (\$2,500)	Apr. 2020
FSF Case Study Scholarship (\$5,000)	Dec. 2019
NYU Gallatin Dean's Conference Fund (\$700)	Apr. 2019
NYU Wasserman Center Grant (\$1,000)	Nov. 2018
Global Pathways Scholarship, NYU London (\$1,750)	Sep. 2017
NYU Wasserman Center Grant (\$1,000)	June 2017
NYU Gallatin Scholarship (\$11,500 per annum)	2016 – 2020

AWARDS

AAG Political Geography Specialty Group Graduate Student Paper Award (\$250)	Apr. 2024
Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy Graduate Working Group Award (\$500)	June 2023
UCLA Geography Best Graduate Student Publication Award (\$300)	May 2023
AAG Climate Specialty Group Graduate Paper Award (\$175)	Mar. 2022
New York University Founders' Day Award	May 2020
New York University Honors Scholar	May 2020
Gallatin Graduation Award in Interdisciplinary Academic Excellence	May 2020
Gallatin Dean's Award for Graduating Seniors (\$2,000)	May 2020
Dean's Award for Summer Research (\$2,500)	Apr. 2019
New York University Dean's List (University Honors)	2016 – 2020

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Intergovernmental Support	Sep. 2024 – Present
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	
Research Fellow	Aug. 2022 – Present
Earth System Governance	
Climate Fellow	Sep. 2021 – June 2023
City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Energy & Sustainability	
Coordinator	Sep. 2021 – June 2023
Los Angeles Mayor's Youth Council on Climate Action (MYCCA)	
Docent and Curatorial Fellow	May 2019 – Oct. 2019
The Climate Museum (New York, NY)	
Andrew W. Mellon Fellow	May 2019 – Sep. 2019
New York Botanical Garden Humanities Institute & LuEsther T. Mertz Library	
Partnerships Research Intern	Sep. 2018 – Dec. 2018
United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF USA) (New York, NY)	

TEACHING

GEOG 5 - People and Earth's Ecosystems	Winter, Spring 2023
Teaching Assistant	
GEOG 3 - Cultural Geography	Fall 2022
Teaching Assistant	

PAPERS PRESENTED

"Geopolitical ecologies of the climate transition: Ecologically unequal exchange in the carbon city," Engaging critical geopolitical ecology, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting (Detroit, MI).	Mar. 2025
"One-Dimensional Climate: Los Angeles at the Crossroads of Climate History" Session II: Environmental & Extractive Politics, American Association of Geographers Political Geography Specialty Group Preconference (Detroit, MI).	Mar. 2025
"Climate dissenters in Bolivia: Mesa 18 and the critique of climate governance," Just Transitions in the Global South, Universities of Cambridge & Bristol (Bristol, UK).	May 2024
"Climate dissenters in Bolivia: Mesa 18 and the critique of climate governance," American Association of Geographers (Honolulu, HI).	April 2024
"The inertia to do nothing is so strong": Territorial politics of climate governance in Los Angeles," SOPHOS Seminar Series, UCLA (Los Angeles, CA).	May 2023

- “Opening the black box of urban climate planning: Embedded autonomy and city diplomacy in Los Angeles,” Session II: Environmental & Extractive Politics, American Association of Geographers Political Geography Specialty Group Preconference (Boulder, CO). Mar. 2023
- “Opening the black box of urban climate planning: Embedded autonomy and city diplomacy in Los Angeles,” HDGC Symposium: Global change and local people III - Urban adaptation policy and practice, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting (Denver, CO). Mar. 2023
- “Thirty Years On: Planetary Climate Planning and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the UNFCCC,” Political Geography session, Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Annual Meeting, Western Washington University (Bellingham, WA). Oct. 2022
- “Thirty Years On: Planetary Climate Planning and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the UNFCCC,” SOPHOS Seminar Series, UCLA (Los Angeles, CA). Apr. 2022
- “Thirty Years On: Planetary Climate Planning and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the UNFCCC,” Liberalism’s Limits for Climate Justice, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting (New York, NY). Feb. 2022
- “Thirty Years On: Planetary Climate Planning and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the UNFCCC,” Politics of Sustainability, American Association of Geographers, Political Geography Specialty Group Preconference (New York, NY). Feb. 2022
- “Thirty Years On: Planetary Climate Planning and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the UNFCCC,” Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Annual Meeting, San Diego State University (San Diego, CA). Oct. 2021
- “Scripting climate futures: Geographical assumptions of planetary climate planning,” Radical Climate Justice for the Global Commons, UC Santa Barbara Environmental and Climate Justice Hub (Santa Barbara, CA). Oct. 2021
- “Approximating planetary crisis: Geographies of abandonment and discontent,” The Present and Future of Activism and Social Mobilization in Times of COVID-19, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting (Seattle, WA). Apr. 2021
- “The COVID-climate moment: Geographies of abandonment and discontent,” Hazards, Risks, and Disasters: Vulnerability & Adaptation to COVID-19, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting (Seattle, WA). Apr. 2021
- “The COVID-climate moment: Geographies of abandonment and discontent,” American Association of Geographers, Political Geography Specialty Group Preconference (Seattle, WA). Jan. 2021
- “Geographies of abandonment and discontent in Palestine/Israel,” SOPHOS Seminar Series, University of California, Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA). Nov. 2020
- “Geographies of abandonment in Israel/Palestine: The COVID-climate moment,” Confronting the Climate Crisis with Systemic Alternatives in the Age of the Coronavirus, UCSB Environmental and Climate Justice Hub (Santa Barbara, CA). Oct. 2020
- “COVID-19 and the climate crisis in Israel/Palestine: Converging geographies of exception,” American Association of Geographers, Middle States Regional Division Annual Meeting, Hofstra University (Hempstead, New York). Oct. 2020
- “Planning for Uncertain Climates in Palestine/Israel,” NYU Undergraduate Research Conference, New York University (New York, NY). Apr. 2020
- “Placing the Anthropocene in Lenapehoking,” Being on Earth: Territorios, Soundscapes, Biocultural Diversity, and Relationships, University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies (Gainesville, FL). (Canceled, COVID-19). Mar. 2020

- “Entangled Matter: Climate Change, Settler Colonialism, and the Plastisphere,” Senior Exhibition, New York University (New York, NY). Nov. 2019
- “A Political Ecology of Plastiglomerate in Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i,” Dean’s Award for Summer Research Conference, New York University (New York, NY). Oct. 2019
- “Landscapes of the ‘Anthropocene’: Reading NYC’s Pasts, Presents, and Futures,” The Andrew W. Mellon Fellow Presentations, NYBG Humanities Institute (Bronx, NY). Aug. 2019
- “An Etiology of Climate Denial: Oscillations Between Recognition and Disavowal,” NYU Undergraduate Research Conference, New York University (New York, NY). Apr. 2019

INVITED TALKS

- “Climate obstruction and the history of the UNFCCC,” United States Senate Budget Committee Staff, COP28 (Dubai, UAE). Dec. 2023
- “Consequences of fragmentation in the urban climate transition of Los Angeles,” California Center for Sustainable Communities at UCLA (Los Angeles, CA). Mar. 2023
- “Climate obstruction and challenges to implementation at COP 27,” Side Event at COP27, Climate Social Science Network (Remote). Nov. 2022
- “COP26 and the Role of Cities,” Presentation to the Mayor’s Youth Council for Climate Action, City of Los Angeles Office of the Mayor (Los Angeles, CA). Nov. 2021
- “Thirty Years On: Planetary Climate Planning and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the UNFCCC,” Interdisciplinary Approaches to Climate & Climate Change, New York University Gallatin School of Individualized Study (New York, NY). Oct. 2021

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

- UCLA Critical Climate Conference
UCLA Geography and UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy Forthcoming

MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Geographers (Political Geography, Climate, Middle East and North Africa working groups); Association of Pacific Coast Geographers; Climate Social Science Network (Brown University), Earth Systems Governance; Urban Climate Change Research Network (Columbia University); ESG North America Network

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Coordinator June 2023 – Present
UCLA Critical Climate Working Group, Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy
- Coordinator Sep. 2022 – Sep. 2023
UCLA Geography Grad-to-Grad Mentorship Program
- President Sep. 2021 – June 2022
UCLA Geography Graduate Student Association

CIVIL SOCIETY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Representative of the University of California Nov. – Present
UNFCCC Conference of the Parties 28 and 29
- Summer School on Sustainability and Governance in the Anthropocene Aug. 2024
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey
- Coordinator Sep. 2021 – June 2023
Los Angeles Mayor’s Youth Council on Climate Action (MYCCA)

MULTIMEDIA PROJECTS

- “Venice oil field,” *digital* June 2024
This piece transforms fragments of ocean microplastic, gathered from the very beaches where industrialists extracted and accumulated oil in Los Angeles, into a vibrant yet unsettling composition. Bound together by raw oil globs, these abstracted plastics twisting around in circles reflect the temporal cycle of fossil fuel as both marvel and scourge—born from ancient fossilized matter, consumed in the present, and destined to endure indefinitely. The ungraspable entanglement of fossil capital, ecological degradation, and enduring colonial impact mark the landscape with a dizzying fusion of anthropocenic (or capitalocenic) permanence.
- “Global intimacies: Bound by plastic,” *mixed media sculpture* May 2024
This sculpture reflects on the intimate connections that bind us, both physically and emotionally, and the omnipresent influence of plastic in our modern existence. Through its form, the sculpture invites contemplation on the interwoven themes of social reproduction, highlighting the traces of plastic that permeate our bodies and our relationships.
- “Resilience resurfaced: Tides of the Nakba,” *ceramic sculpture* Mar. 2024
This piece emerges from the shores of Midron Yaffo Park, once the ‘Ajami municipal landfill and now home to the haunting remnants of Palestinian homes demolished during the Nakba. These fragments bear witness to the tumultuous history of displacement and loss, washed ashore alongside plastic waste and Gazan humanitarian aid. This piece honors resilience of a people, their stories etched into each fragment, a testament to survival amidst the relentless tides of history.
- “Pre-exposure prophylaxis,” *mixed media sculpture* June 2023
A Truvada container reborn, brimming with a kaleidoscope of microplastic fragments. They mirror the shattered facets of my mental being, once confined by the grip of OCD. Each piece is meant to be offered to a patient in the OCD Intensive Treatment Program as a pre-exposure therapy prophylaxis to remember how chaos intertwines with resilience.
- “Tapestry of time,” *mixed media sculpture series* Jan. – May 2023
This furniture series weaves vibrant hues of epoxy and ocean microplastics from Los Angeles beaches into a narrative of deep geological time. Each piece embodies the entanglement of labor, industry, and ecological impact, reflecting the imprint of fossil capital on the Earth’s past and present. The materials—epoxy as a forever chemical and microplastics as persistent pollutants—serve as a haunting reminder that we are threads in an unfolding tapestry of time, both creators and inheritors of its legacy.
- “Hanging by a thread,” *mixed media sculpture* Feb. 2022
The fragile state of our planet hangs by a thread. The globe, composed of fractal discards, represents Earth on the brink of ecological collapse due to rampant destruction and climatic changes. The red thread embodies the brutal exploitation of the Seven Sisters, hanging by the thread of their bloody pockets.
- “Fragments of exile: Journeys through subliminal ecologies,” *mixed media sculpture* Oct. 2022
The mundane ephemera of everyday existence transforms into profound relics of existence. The transient remnants of one week in my life unveil the hidden tapestry of geographies, political economies, labor struggles, and ecological consequences. In fragments, secrets of discarded life.

REFERENCES

John Agnew

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