

CURRICULUM VITAE

BENJAMIN KAPLAN WEINGER

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor

July 2026 –

Kyoto University, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. 2026. 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”
- 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. Minor: Environmental 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”

RESEARCH AREAS

Global climate governance; decarbonization; political geography; climate justice; urban climate action

LANGUAGES

English (native)

Japanese (beginner)

Spanish (intermediate)

Hebrew (biblical and modern) (advanced)

Arabic (MSA and Levantine dialect) (advanced)

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

- Weinger, B.K. 2026. Overcoming the implementation gap: Everyday barriers and enablers of urban climate governance. *Frontiers in Sustainable Cities* 8: 1-17. doi.org/10.3389/frsc.2026.1656615.
- Weinger, B.K. 2025. Institutionalizing global climate governance: Expertise, sovereignty, and scalar mismatch. *Environmental Development* 55: 1-15. doi.org/10.1016/j.envdev.2025.101236.
- Weinger, B.K. 2024. When the world collapses in Palestine. *Jerusalem Quarterly* 99: 85-100. doi.org/10.70190/jq.i99.p85.
- Weinger, B.K. 2023. Thirty years on: Planetary climate planning and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. *Global Environmental Change* 80: 1-14. 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. doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2021.102409.
- Weinger, B.K. 2021. The COVID-climate moment: Approximating planetary crisis in Palestine/Israel. *Antipode*. antipodeonline.org/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. doi.org/10.1177/1474474020978487.

REPORTS

- Weinger, B.K. and S. Thompson. 2025. Climate Obstruction in the UNFCCC. *Climate Social Science Network* 25: 1-4.
- Weinger, B.K. 2025. COP30 at the crossroads of climate history: Overcoming obstruction and reimagining the planetary climate system. [UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation](https://ucicgac.org/).

FELLOWSHIPS

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$152,000 total) University of California, Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA)	2020 – 2025
UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation Dissertation Fellowship University of California IGCC (La Jolla, CA)	2025
Dissertation Research Fellowship (\$5,000) UCLA Center for European and Russian Studies (Los Angeles, CA)	2023
Dissertation Fieldwork Fellowship (\$2,000) UCLA International Institute	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

AAG Political Geography Specialty Group Travel Grant (\$225)	Feb. 2026
UCLA Department of Geography Travel Grant (\$2,000)	Feb. 2026
UCLA Burkle Center Alice Belkin Memorial Scholarship (\$4,000)	Apr. 2025
University of California Humanities Research Institute Dissertation Grant (\$1,000)	Mar. 2025
UCLA Department of Geography Travel Grant (\$2,350)	Mar. 2025
UCLA Y&S Center Graduate Research Grant (\$5,000)	Mar. 2025
AAG Political Geography Specialty Group Travel Grant (\$225)	Feb. 2025
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 Center Graduate Research Grant (\$2,000)	Apr. 2021
AAG Climate Specialty Group Grant (\$50)	Oct. 2020
NYU Gallatin Scholarship (\$7,000)	Apr. 2020
Horn Fund for Environmental Research (\$2,500)	Apr. 2020
FSF Case Study Scholarship (\$5,000)	Dec. 2019
NYU Wasserman Center Grant (\$1,000)	Nov. 2018
NYU Wasserman Center Grant (\$1,000)	June 2017
NYU Gallatin Scholarship (\$11,500 per annum)	2016 – 2020

AWARDS

UCLA Dissertation Year Award (\$30,000)	2025 – 2026
UCLA Alan D. Leve Research and Travel Award for Student Excellence (\$3,500)	Dec. 2025
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
NYU Gallatin Dean's Conference Fund (\$700)	Apr. 2019
New York University Dean's List (University Honors)	2016 – 2020

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow	Aug. 2022 – Present
Earth System Governance	
Intergovernmental Support and Collective Progress	Sep. 2024 – Mar. 2025
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	
Climate Fellow	Sep. 2021 – June 2023
City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Energy & Sustainability	
Docent and Curatorial Fellow	May 2019 – Oct. 2019
The Climate Museum	
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)	

TEACHING

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

PAPERS PRESENTED

"Barriers and enablers of urban climate governance in Los Angeles," American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting (San Francisco, CA).	Mar. 2026
"One-Dimensional Climate: Los Angeles at the Crossroads of Climate History" UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (La Jolla, CA).	Sep. 2025
"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).	Apr. 2024
"The inertia to do nothing is so strong": Territorial politics of climate governance	May 2023

- in Los Angeles,” SOPHOS Seminar Series, UCLA (Los Angeles, CA).
- “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 due to 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 Oct. 2019

- Research Conference, New York University (New York, NY).
 “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

SESSIONS ORGANIZED

- “The Institutional Life of Climate Governance I and II,” American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting (San Francisco, CA). Mar. 2025

INVITED TALKS

- “The institutional life of climate governance,” Program in Climate and Environmental Studies, Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN). Mar. 2026
 “The institutional life of climate governance,” Department of Environmental Studies, New York University (New York, NY). Mar. 2026
 Summer School on Sustainability and Governance in the Anthropocene, Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ). Aug. 2024
 “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

MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Geographers (Political Geography, Human Dimensions of Global Change, and Urban Geography Specialty Groups); Association of Pacific Coast Geographers; Climate Social Science Network (Working Group on Obstruction in the UNFCCC and IPCC), Earth Systems Governance; Urban Climate Change Research Network; ESG North America Network; Sustainability Transitions Research Network

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Manuscripts reviewed

Progress in Human Geography, Environmental Development, Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space

Students supervised

Liz Pratt, B.A., New York University

Graduate Board Representative March 2026 – Present

Political Geography Speciality Group, American Association of Geographers

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Expert Reviewer, IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Oct. 2025

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 spiraling plastics reflect the temporal cycle of hydrocarbons, born from ancient fossilized matter, consumed in the present, and destined to endure indefinitely.

“Global intimacies,” *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 histories of displacement and loss, washed ashore alongside plastic waste and Gazan humanitarian aid.

“Pre-exposure prophylaxis,” *mixed media sculpture*

June 2023

A Truvada container reborn, brimming with a kaleidoscope of microplastic fragments. 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.

“Fossil futures,” *furniture series*

Jan. – May 2023

This furniture series weaves vibrant hues of epoxy and ocean microplastics from Los Angeles beaches into a material of deep geological time. Each piece—made of epoxy as a forever chemical and microplastics as persistent pollutants embodies the entanglement of labor, industry, and ecological impact, reflecting the imprint of fossil capital on the Earth's past and present.

“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.

“Plastiglomerate,” *natural sculpture*

July 2019

I build upon the work of Moore, Corcoran, Jazvac, and Robertson to complete a political ecology of “plastiglomerate,” a geological conglomeration of plastic marine debris, volcanic basalt, sand, and shells first identified in Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i. Proposed as an informal marker of the Anthropocene epoch, the object symbolizes the entanglements of nature and culture. I collected and examined the material's vitality from Kamilo Beach, exploring how it embodies the forces that shape it.

REFERENCES

John Agnew (PhD Advisor and Dissertation Chair)
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Department of Geography
University of California, Los Angeles
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Kelly Kay (Dissertation Committee)
Associate Professor
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