

Richard L. Kirk (he/they)

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Professional Summary

Ph.D. candidate in Geography with interdisciplinary expertise in urban development, gentrification, and public housing. Extensive experience in qualitative research, with a focus on transformations in marginalized communities. Passionate about advancing equitable urban futures through both academic research and community engagement.

Education

University of California, Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA

Ph.D., Geography (A.B.D.)

2022–

Dissertation, in progress: “Public housing, the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, and the future of South Central Los Angeles”

Committee: John Agnew (chair), Juan Herrera, Kelly Kay, José Loya (Dept. of Urban Planning)

Graduate Certificate, Urban Humanities

2024

UCLA Urban Humanities Initiative. Interdisciplinary, year-long certification program integrating interpretive, historical approaches of the humanities with material practices of planning and design to investigate and solve urban problems. Awarded by Dept. of Urban Planning & Dept. of Architecture and Urban Design

University of North Texas

Denton, TX

M.S., Geography, Applied Anthropology Minor

2022

Thesis: “The death and life of great American malls: (Un)spectacular creative destructions, luxury mixed-use developments, and gentrification in Dallas-Fort Worth”

Committee: Ipsita Chatterjee (chair), Waquar Ahmed, Paul Hudak, Andrew Nelson (Dept. of Anthropology)

B.S., Geography, Anthropology Minor, *summa cum laude*

2020

Research and Teaching Interests

Urban geography, planning theory, capitalist urban development, gentrification, public housing, urban marginality, multiculturalism, qualitative research methods

Publications

Peer-reviewed articles

8. Behm Josa, Derrick, and **Kirk, Richard**. (Revise and resubmit). Recasting DeafSpace for urban planning: Toward a transgressive urbanist framework. *Planning Theory*.
7. Ferrer, Alexander, and **Kirk, Richard**. (Accepted, in press). Urbicidal economics and the racial geographies of triage. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. DOI: 10.1111/1468-2427.13301
6. **Kirk, Richard**. (2024). Neoliberal necropolitics and the global competition for urban dominance. *Geoforum*, 155, 104107. DOI: 10.1016/j.geoforum.2024.104107
5. **Kirk, Richard**, and Behm Josa, Derrick. (2024). Contesting elite capture: Repositioning insurgent planning for mass movements. *Human Geography*, 16(3), 347–352. DOI: 10.1177/19427786241263635
4. **Kirk, Richard**. (2024). Legitimising displacement: Academic discourse, territorial stigmatisation and gentrification. *Urban Studies*, 61(13), 2492–2512. DOI: 10.1177/00420980241235015
3. **Kirk, Richard**. (2024). What Los Angeles tells us about Dracula urbanism. *Urban Geography*, 45(4), 652–670. DOI: 10.1080/02723638.2023.2226551
2. **Kirk, Richard**. (2023). Neoliberal multiculturalism in Dallas: The discursive foundations of diversity-led gentrification in an aspiring U.S. global city. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, 55(6), 1392–1407. DOI: 10.1177/0308518X231152258
1. **Kirk, Richard**. (2023). Lifestyle centers, the next boom and bust after shopping malls? Governance, public-private partnerships, and Guy Debord's spectacle in Dallas-Fort Worth. *Cities*, 133, 104155. DOI: 10.1016/j.cities.2022.104155

Editorially reviewed articles

1. **Kirk, Richard**. (2023). Changing urban fabrics: Thinking through the lopsided city. *Dialogues in Urban Research*, 3(1), 288–292. DOI: 10.1177/27541258231204007

Book chapters

1. Chatterjee, Ipsita, Ahmed, Waquar, and **Kirk, Richard**. (Forthcoming). Fetishism of the commodity: Theorizing value and the “value” of bourgeois, Marxist, and post-Marxist theories. In R. Das, D. Fasenfest, and R. E. Latham (eds.) *The Power of Marxist Thought*, pp. ___– ___. Studies in Critical Social Sciences book series. Brill.

Book reviews

1. **Kirk, Richard**. (2021). *The Anti-Capitalist Chronicles* by David Harvey. *Human Geography*, 14(1), 151–153. DOI: 10.1177/1942778620979313

Peer-reviewed articles in preparation

3. Ferrer, Alexander, and **Kirk, Richard**. The social landlord? Corporate landlordism, displacement, and extractive performances of care in South Central Los Angeles. For submission in *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*.
2. **Kirk, Richard**. The Choice Neighborhoods Initiative and the future of public housing in South Central Los Angeles. For submission in *Human Geography*.
1. **Kirk, Richard**, and Ferrer, Alexander. Residential skyscrapers and the downtown growth machine: Changing land value surfaces and residential capital in major U.S. cities. For submission in *Urban Studies*.

Conference Activity

Sessions organized

Paper session, Gentrification and ghettoization: Geographies of eviction, banishment, and stigmatization. The American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI (co-organized with Alexander Ferrer, UCLA Geography) 2024

Presented research

Legitimising displacement: Academic discourse, territorial stigmatisation and gentrification. The American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI 2024

Neoliberal multiculturalism in Dallas: The discursive foundations of diversity-led gentrification in an aspiring U.S. global city. The American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Denver, CO 2023

The decline of great American malls and rise of luxury mixed-use developments: (Un)spectacular creative destruction in the late capitalist American city. Southwest Division of the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Oklahoma 2021

City, OK

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

Extramural

Institute of Human Geography Research Grant	2023
Institute of Human Geography	\$6,000
Geography Bowl Second Prize	2021
Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers	\$100

Intramural

Summer Mentored Research Fellowship	(Scheduled) 2025
UCLA Division of Graduate Education	\$6,000
Department Summer Fellowship	2024
UCLA Dept. of Geography	\$6,000
Doctoral Travel Grant	2024
UCLA Division of Graduate Education	\$1,000
Department Summer Fellowship	2023
UCLA Dept. of Geography	\$6,000
UCLA Graduate Division Fellowship	2022–2023
UCLA Division of Graduate Education	\$56,958 in tuition & fees
Voertman-Ardoin Graduate Fellowship	2020–2022
University of North Texas College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	Increased stipend & reduced TA load
2020 F. Andrew Schoolmaster Award to Outstanding Undergraduate Student	2020
University of North Texas College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	\$1,000

Teaching and Mentorship Experience

University of California, Los Angeles

Teaching Associate, People and the Earth's Ecosystems	Fall 2024
Teaching Assistant, Ethnicity in American Cities	Spring 2024

Teaching Assistant, Cultural Geography	Fall 2023, Winter 2024
Grad-to-Grad Mentorship Program	2023–
— Mentored incoming graduate students; held regular meetings to discuss acclimation, progress, and to answer questions about our program	
Mentee: Jordan Steingard	2023–2024
Kofi Siabi	2024–2025
University of North Texas	
Teaching Assistant, Economic Geography	Spring 2022
Teaching Assistant, Culture, Environment and Society	Fall 2020, Fall 2021
Teaching Assistant, Urban Geography	Spring 2020
Grade Potential Tutoring	
Tutor, Geography, Earth Science, Philosophy	2021–2022
— Provided one-on-one and small group instruction for 13 North Texas high school students resulting in letter grade improvements for each	

Invited Lectures

External guest lecture, ANTH 4765/5765 Urban Beings, University of North Texas	2024
Topic: Neoliberal multiculturalism	

Academic Service

Co-managing editor, <i>Critical Planning Journal</i>	2024–
<i>Critical Planning Journal</i> is a graduate student-led journal housed in UCLA’s Department of Urban Planning in the Luskin School of Public Affairs. It was founded in 1993 and serves as a forum for the urban planning community to present current research interests, debate important issues, and share ideas about the field of urban planning. In 1999, <i>Critical Planning</i> was indexed at the Library of Congress with ISSN number 1522-9807	
Peer review for academic journals	
<i>Cities, Dialogues in Urban Research, Geoforum, Human Geography</i>	
UCLA Geography Graduate Student Association	2023–2024
Vice President & “Brown Bag” Representative	

- Co-organized multiple meetings per quarter to discuss and address departmental matters; organized and facilitated informational gatherings on professional development related topics

Academic and Professional Memberships

Urban Affairs Association	2023–
American Association of Geographers	2021–
Queer and Trans Geographies Specialty Group	2023–
Urban Geography Specialty Group	2022–
Council of Texas Archaeologists	2019–2022
Texas Archeological Society	2013–2022
North Texas Archeological Society	2013–2022

Other Experience

Integrated Environmental Solutions	McKinney, TX
Archaeological Field Technician, Geophysical Surveyor	2019–2020
Cova Gran de Santa Linya Archaeological Field School	Sant Llorenç de Montgai, Spain
Research Assistant, Excavator of Mousterian (neanderthal) shelter occupation site	2019
Academic credit awarded by Connecticut College	
Lithic Classification of Jornada Mogollon Archaeological Site	Denton, TX
Research Assistant	2018–2019
University of North Texas	

Languages

English — native proficiency
 American Sign Language — limited working proficiency

References

John Agnew
 Distinguished Professor of Geography

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