

## **Richard L. Kirk** (he/they)

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Last updated: Jan. 10, 2025

## **Professional Summary**

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Ph.D. candidate in Geography with interdisciplinary expertise in urban development, gentrification, and affordable 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**

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### **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**

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

## Publications

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### Peer-reviewed articles

8. Behm Josa, Derrick, and **Kirk, Richard**. (Revise and resubmit). Theorizing DeafSpace in urban planning: Transgressing toward spatial justice. *Planning Theory*.
7. Ferrer, Alexander, and **Kirk, Richard**. (2025). Urbicidal economics and the racial geographies of triage. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 0(0), 1–18. 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

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#### 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

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### 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

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University of California, Los Angeles

Teaching Associate, Introduction to GIS	Winter 2025
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

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

## Academic Service

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Co-managing editor, *Critical Planning Journal* 2024–  
*Critical Planning Journal* 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, *Critical  
Planning* was indexed at the Library of Congress with ISSN number 1522-9807

Peer review for academic journals  
*Cities, Dialogues in Urban Research, Geoforum, Human Geography, International Development Planning  
Review*

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

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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

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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

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English — native proficiency  
American Sign Language — limited working proficiency

## References

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John Agnew

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