

Tom Cantellow

A PhD candidate in human geography looking to apply research skills in socially engaged sectors.

t.cantellow@bristol.ac.uk | 07784 322 427 | [Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Skills

- Self-directed project management skills, able to work within teams and manage competing priorities.
- Highly skilled PhD-level researcher with expertise in inequality, politics, housing, and energy efficiency.
- Effective communicator, able to concisely and accessibly consolidate complex information for non-expert audiences.
- Advanced quantitative skills with expertise in data analysis, mapping, and data visualisation.

Relevant Work Experience

Graduate Teacher & Widening Participation Tutor, University of Bristol

September 2020 - Present

As a teacher and demonstrator at the University of Bristol, I enjoy engaging with students across a variety of roles. My experiences include:

- Designing and delivering lectures and workshops for the Bristol Futures unit 'Understanding Global Problems Using Data', taking a central role in teaching for interdisciplinary groups of undergraduate students.
- Designed and led geography sessions for local sixth form students as part of the *Access to Bristol* widening participation scheme, focusing on the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in political analysis.
- Leading seminars and workshops across political, economic, urban, health, and quantitative geographies.
- Marking a range of assessments on topics including political, economic, historical, health, energy, and cultural geographies
- Supervised on field trips.

Research Associate, University of Bristol

1. June 2024 - Present

Using advanced quantitative methods to construct a 'net-zero vulnerability index', ranking areas based on their ability to cope with green economic restructuring. Constructed an accompanying [website](#).

2. April 2023 - September 2023

[Analysed and reported](#) on inequalities of energy efficiency of residential dwellings in Bristol's Local Authority District, exploring optimal locations and viability for improving energy efficiency of privately rented properties.

Geospatial Analyst, DEMOS (Freelance)

April 2023 - May 2023

Working with the team at Demos, I produced all maps included in the [2023 Good Credit Index Report](#).

UKRI Policy Intern, UK Home Office, Central Analysis and Insights Team

June 2022 – September 2022

A three month internship with the Home Office's Central Analysis and Insights Team, where I utilised my expertise in geo-statistical research to deliver several analytical products:

- Enhanced the literature review process by gathering, evaluating, and synthesising an array of internal and 'grey' literature reports. Transformed complex scoring systems into an intuitive dashboard, enabling user integration and assessment of siloed reports. This tracking framework was later deployed for future multi-user literature reviews.
- Led analytical initiatives, overseeing iterative workstreams, data visualisation, and written and verbal communications tailored for non-expert audiences. Managed tasks, upskilled team members, and provided mentorship to junior interns.
- Conducted spatial analysis and map production with accompanying comprehensive user-guidance documentation.
- Improved survey design by consulting on evaluative survey redesign, aligning with customers' specific requirements.

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Education

PhD, Human Geography, University of Bristol

October 2020 — November 2024

My thesis examines how income, wealth, and housing tenure intersect with cultural values in various local contexts, correlating these intersections with political preferences. Using large surveys like the UK Household Longitudinal Survey and British Election Study, combined with area-level economic data, the research employs multilevel modelling and descriptive statistics to explore contemporary British politics.

The study finds that cultural issues, such as immigration and cultural conservatism, increasingly influence political preferences over economic issues like income and employment. This shift aligns with theorized new inequalities of neoliberalism, such as housing tenure, precarity, exposure to globalisation, and labour market fluidity, contributing to a broader realignment within the electorate and increased support for populist politics.

MSc (Distinction), Applied GIS, University of Sheffield

September 2017 — September 2018

- Awarded Sheffield Postgraduate Scholarship in recognition of academic achievement.
- Awarded Ian Masser Prize for best dissertation utilising spatial and statistical methods to examine the drivers of populism and spatial variations in voting outcomes in the context of Brexit.

BA (Hons) (2:1) International Relations, University of Lincoln

September 2012 — May 2016

- Undergraduate dissertation comparatively analysed outcomes of drug policies of the UK and Portugal.
- Included an international study year at Ghent University in Belgium as part of EU's Erasmus scheme.

Volunteering Experience

Postgraduate Representative and Peer Mentor

University of Bristol, October 2022 — Present

As a PGR representative, I was nominated for a Bristol STAR award for an outstanding contribution to a positive and inclusive research culture.

I worked as part of a team of postgraduate representatives to serve as a liaison between the School of Geographical Science and its postgraduate researcher community. My role involved providing peer mentoring and support, collecting and presenting data, organising events, and participating in various committees to ensure that the needs and concerns of the student body were heard.

Half-Marathon Runner & Fundraiser

April 2023

I ran the London Landmarks Half Marathon to fundraise for [CALM](#).

Farm Volunteer

St Werburghs City Farm, Summer 2021

Various gardening activities around the farm including seeding, weeding, and landscaping.

Help Exchange Volunteer

Various sites across Vietnam, Bulgaria, Portugal, UK

Summer 2017, Autumn/Winter 2018, Spring/Summer 2020, Autumn/Winter 2023

Labouring on homesteads and campsites around Bulgaria, Portugal, and the UK.