

# Michael McCanless | C.V.

PhD Student | Department of Geography | he/him/his  
University of Kentucky | 120 Patterson Drive, Lexington, KY 40506-0027  
[michael.mccanless@uky.edu](mailto:michael.mccanless@uky.edu)

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## EDUCATION

### degrees

2021 –	PhD Candidate, Geography <i>University of Kentucky</i>
2019 – 2021	MA Geography, Geography <i>University of Kentucky</i>
2013 – 2017	BA Urban Studies <i>Rhodes College (Cum Laude)</i>

### certifications

2021 – 2023	Graduate Certificate in Digital Mapping <i>University of Kentucky, Department of Geography</i>
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## RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

### research assistantships

2021 – 2023	Research Assistant (NSF Grant #1853718), <i>Blockchain and the New Spaces of Finance</i> , PI: Dr. Matthew Zook
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## PUBLICATIONS

### peer-reviewed articles

- McCanless, Michael. 2023. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*. “Banking on alternative credit scores: Auditing the calculative infrastructure of U.S. consumer lending”.
- Zook, Matthew and McCanless, Michael. 2022. *The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien*. “Mapping the Uneven Geographies of Digital Phenomenon: The Case of Blockchain”.
- Casey, Z. A. & McCanless, Michael. 2019. *Berkeley Review of Education*. “Looking backward to go forward: Toward a Kliebardian approach to curriculum theory”.
- McCanless, Michael. 2018. *Journal for Critical Education Policy Studies*. “Learning to [bear it and] Smile: Surveilled Labour, Taylorized Work, and the Contradictions of College Readiness”.

### Encyclopedia entries

- McCanless, Michael. 2020. Brill/Sense Publishers. “Immigration”. An Encyclopedia of Critical Whiteness Studies in Education.

## AWARDS & HONORS

### research awards

2024	UK Department of Geography Research Fellowship (\$9,500)
2020	Barnhart-Withington Research Award (\$1,420)
2018	Neighborworks Rural Initiative Research Grant (\$50,000)
2016	Rhodes College Independent Research Grant (\$500)
2015	Institute for Regional Studies Research Award (\$3,500)

### scholarship awards

2023	IRS Spring Academy on Financialization and De-Financialization (competitive application with funding)
2022	NYU-Mellon Summer Institute on Urbanism (competitive application with funding)
2017	Fulbright Student Award in the Country of Georgia
2016	Rhodes College Summer Service Fellowship

### conference & travel awards

2023	Student Dynamic Mapping Competition, Best Group Map (\$500)
2020	University of Kentucky Graduate Student Congress Travel Grant (\$500)

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

### paper presentations

2024	“The impact of corporate rentiership on property assessment and valuation in Memphis, TN”. <i>Urban Affairs Association Annual Meeting</i> . New York City, New York.
2024	“Banking on alternative credit scores: Auditing the calculative infrastructure of U.S. consumer lending”. <i>American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting</i> . Virtual.
2023	“Making a market for campus investments: the UKInvests program and financial citizenship”. <i>Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting</i> . Co-presented with Jed Debruin, Jacob Saindon and Jack Swab. Norfolk, Virginia.
2023	“Public Data Tools for Understanding Urban Property Ownership”. <i>North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS)</i> . Co-presented with Jacob Saindon. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
2023	“Banking on Alternative Credit Scores: New Geographies of Calculative Infrastructure in U.S. Consumer Lending”. <i>Accounting for Space</i> . Toronto, Canada.
2022	“Three vignettes of a billboardscape”. <i>Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting</i> . Co-presented with Jacob Saindon and Matthew Wilson. Atlanta, Georgia.
2022	“Changing Spaces of Ownership: Web3, NFTs and the Financialization of Everything”. <i>The 6<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Economic Geography</i> . Co-presented with Matt Zook. Dublin, Ireland.
2022	“Mapping the Uneven Geography of Digital Phenomena: The Case of Blockchain”. <i>American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting</i> . Co-presented with Matt Zook. Virtual attendance.
2021	“Debilitating debt and recapacitating loans in the online consumer lending industry”. <i>American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting</i> . Virtual attendance.

- 2020 “‘Money is a fundamental ingredient of life’: FinTech and the platform futures of debt.” *American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting*. Virtual attendance.
- 2017 “Economic Precarity and Subjects in Transition: Lessons from the Country of Georgia and the United States”. *10th International Research Conference on American Studies*. Tbilisi, Georgia
- 2017 “Thinking-together post-industrial labor education: Paul Willis and the service economy” *7th International Conference on Critical Education (ICCE)*. Athens, Greece.

#### panel organization

- 2024 “Digital technologies and land justice”. *Digital Geography Specialty Group Annual Plenary Panel* co-organized with Emily Barrett and panelists Annita Hetoevhotohke’e Lucchesi, Joyce Percel, Genevieve Reid, Isaac Rivera. Virtual.
- 2023 “Data Infrastructures II: Cities”. *Big Data & Society Colloquium: Data Practices & Digital Social Worlds* co-organized with Jun Zhang and panelists Erin McElroy, Julien Migozzi, Martin Tironi and Rachel Weber. Virtual

#### poster presentations

- 2019 “Local Resources, Global Wealth: The Role of Appalachian Practitioner Organizations in Disentangling Local Economies”. *Appalachian Studies Association Annual Meeting*. Asheville, NC.

### TEACHING

#### instructor of record

- 2023 Introduction to GIS (GEO 309), *University of Kentucky*
- 2022 Health Geography (GEO 261), *University of Kentucky*
- 2018 U.S. Culture and Concepts, *National Defense Academy of Georgia*

#### teaching assistantships

- 2020 Health Geography (GEO261), *University of Kentucky*
- 2019 Environmental Issues (GEO162), *University of Kentucky*

### INVITED PRESENTATIONS, APPEARANCES, & LECTURES

#### invited presentations

- 2021 “Debilitating debts and recapacitating loans: How FinTech made markets for unsecured consumer debt using Alternative Data and Machine Learning”. *University of Kentucky Geography Colloquium Series*. 27 August.

#### media appearances

- 2022 Interview with Wendy Chun. “Discriminating Data: Correlation, Neighborhoods, and the New Politics of Recognition”. [Big Data & Society](#).
- 2017 Interviewed by Tyler Serritt. “Calhoun Resident Michael McCanless Wins Fulbright Award to Teach in Europe”. [Northwest Georgia News](#).
- 2016 Interviewed by Sydney Neeley. “Rhodes College students devote summer to making difference in Memphis.” [Commercial Appeal](#)

#### departmental guest lectures

- 2022 “Financial inequalities: what’s in a credit score”. Guest Lecture, *GEO 161 Global Inequalities*, *University of Kentucky*. 23 February.

## SERVICE

### peer reviewer

*Big Data & Society* (2021), *Journal of Urban Technology* (2023), *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* (2023)

### editorial positions

2023 Social Media Editor, *Big Data & Society*

2022 Bookcast Editor, *Big Data & Society*

2021 Assistant Editor, *Big Data & Society*

### special themes

2022 Editorial Assistant, The City as a License: Design, Rights and Civics in a Blockchain Society, *Big Data & Society*. In progress.

### disciplinary & departmental

2023 – 2024 Personnel Committee Representative, *UK Geography Graduate Student Union*

2023 – 2024 Student Representative, Digital Geographies Specialty Group

2022 – 2023 Community Renewal Representative *UK Geography Graduate Student Union*

2022 – 2023 Social Chair, *UK Geography Graduate Student Union*

2022 – 2023 Graduate Committee Representative, *UK Geography Graduate Student Union*

2022 – 2023 Mentorship Program Coordinator, *UK Geography Graduate Student Union*

2020 – 2022 Kickball Team Captain, *UK Geography Graduate Student Union*

2021 – 2022 Mentorship Program Coordinator, *UK Geography Graduate Student Union*

2020 – 2021 Research Committee Member, *United Campus Workers of Kentucky*

2020 – 2022 Graduate Student Steward, *United Campus Workers of Kentucky*

2020 Session Chair, *Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference*.

2019 – 2020 Colloquium Committee Representative, *UK Geography Graduate Student Union*

### public panels & committees

2018 Global UGRAD Exchange Program Panelist, *U.S Embassy in Georgia*

### conference & workshop organization

2020 “Space, Technology and Difference”. Summer Brown Bag Series. Member of Graduate Student Organizing Committee, with J. Saindon and I. Spangler. Lexington, KY.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### full-time positions

2018–2019 Research & Outreach Coordinator  
Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises (CDFI)

2017–2018 Instructor  
*Fulbright Program in the Country of Georgia*

### research assistantships

2016 Research Assistant, *Harold Rugg and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Curriculum Studies* (PI: Dr. Zac Casey)

### internships & professional experience

AP Human Geography Distributed Reader, *College Board* (2022)

**SOFTWARE SKILLS****mapping & gis**

Desktop (ArcGIS Desktop/Pro, QGIS, ENVI)

Libraries & APIs for mapping & web design (Leaflet, IIF, D3.js, Chart.js, jQuery, Bootstrap)

**language proficiencies**

Query (SQL)

Markup (CSS, HTML, XML, AJAX)

Programming (JavaScript, R)

**data & database systems**

Relational databases (ArcCatalog, PostgreSQL/PostGIS)

Version control software (GitHub)

Web services (GitHub Pages, SEO/Google Search Console)

**AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS**

Urban Affairs Association (Since 2023)

Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers (since 2022)

Global Network on Financial Geography (since 2021)

New Mappings Collaboratory (since 2021)

Committee on Social Theory (since 2019)

Association of American Geographers (since 2019)

Digital Geography Specialty Group

Economic Geography Specialty Group

Urban Geography Specialty Group