

Timothy Daniel Ravis

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[Academia.edu](https://www.academia.edu/)

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I am an urban planner and geographer with a background in geographic information science, urban policy, and political science. My current research focuses on the political economy of geospatial technologies in the context of the developmental state and international development institutions. I am especially interested in the relationships between standardization and classification on the one hand, and theoretical concepts of distance, value, abstraction, and legibility on the other. How and for whom have historical projects of standardization and classification shaped nations, states, and markets? In the past, I have researched localized schemes to prevent foreclosure epidemics in the US; the effects of decentralization on urban and regional spatial planning in Indonesia; and the effects of social institutions on urbanization patterns in India. I have also worked for, among others, the Indonesia Infrastructure Initiative and the World Bank on related topics. From 2018-2020, I studied urban planning as a Presidential Scholar at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Now I am a first-year doctoral student and Dean's Scholar in development sociology at Cornell University, where I am researching the use and abuse of mapping technologies in international development.

Education

2024 (expected)	Cornell University, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Ph.D. Development Sociology
2020	Harvard Graduate School of Design Master of Urban Planning
2015	University of Connecticut M.A., Geography Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems
2010	Tufts University B.A. Political Science

Fellowships, Scholarships, and Grants

2020–2024	Dean's Excellence Fellowship Cornell University
2020	Critical Language Scholarship—Swahili (<i>cancelled, Covid-19</i>) U.S. Department of State

- 2019 Harvard Asia Center Winter Research Grant
Thesis fieldwork, Indonesia
- 2019 Harvard Asia Center Summer Research Grant
UN Pulse Lab, Indonesia
- 2019 Harvard GSD Community Service Fellowship (*declined, scheduling conflict*)
UN Pulse Lab, Indonesia
- 2018–2020 Presidential Scholarship
Harvard University
Graduate School of Design
- 2015–2016 Fulbright U.S. Student Research Grant
Urban Planning & Policy, Indonesia
- 2015 Fulbright Critical Language Enhancement Award (*declined, scheduling*)
Bahasa Indonesia

Small Grants (less than \$5,000)

- 2019 Heffernan Travel Prize
Harvard Graduate School of Design
- 2014 Thesis Research Fellowship
University of Connecticut Graduate School
- 2014 Summer Research Fellowship
University of Connecticut Geography Department

Publications

Peer Reviewed

- 2020 Ravis, T. and Notkin, B. "Data Fix: the Urbanization of Frontiers Digital and Agrarian." *Berkeley Planning Journal* 31.

Other

- 2019 Bablon, G., Ravis, T., Notkin, B., Su, R. "Oil Palm Plantations: Stop This," *Domus* 1038.
- 2019 Ravis, T. "State Simplifications and the Changing Landscapes of the Globalizing South." *Harvard Urban Review*, Spring 2019.

Invited Talks

- 2020 Annual Meeting, Assoc. of American Geographers (*cancelled, Covid-19*)
Asia Symposium: New Research Perspectives on Asia
"Unconscionable Maps: The Standardization of Spatial Knowledge in a Post-Colony"
- 2016 Bandung Institute of Technology, Indonesia

- Department of Architecture and Planning
 "Multilevel Governance & State Rescaling in Indonesia & the West"
- 2015 **Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia**
 Department of Urban and Regional Planning
 "Suburbanization and American Housing Policy: A Brief History"
- 2014 **University of Connecticut**
 Department of Geography
 "The Geographies of 21st Century Urbanization"
- 2014 **University of Connecticut**
 Department of Geography
 "The Crisis in Ukraine, or: What is (Political) Geography?"

Employment & Service

- 2018–2020 **Harvard University & Massachusetts Institute of Technology**
 Research Assistant
 Prof. Sai Balakrishnan & Prof. Arindam Dutta
- 2019 **Harvard University**
 Teaching Assistant
 Urban Politics & the Governance of Planning in the Developing World
- 2018–2020 **Harvard Urban Forum**
 Managing Editor
- 2017–2018 **World Bank, Jakarta**
 Short-Term Consultant,
 Trade & Competitiveness
- 2016–2017 **Indonesian Infrastructure Initiative**
 Impact Evaluation Advisor
- 2016– **Center for Youth and Community**
 Board Member
- 2016 **Save the Children Indonesia**
 Short Term Research Consultant, development practices
- 2016 **Yayasan Kota Kita**
 Volunteer, Program Development & Communications
- 2015 **New York City Department of City Planning**
 Intern, Geographic Systems Research
- 2013–2015 **UConn Department of Geography**
 Graduate Assistant & Instructor
 Geog 1000: "Introduction to Geography"
 Geog 1700: "World Regional Geography"
 Geog 2100: "Economic Geography"

2014 Northeastern University Law Lab
 Volunteer, GIS Applications
2012–2015 Center for Youth and Community
 Research Assistant
 “Rites of Passage & Youth Development”
 Published text: Blumenkrantz, D.G. 2016. *Coming of Age the Rite Way*.
 Oxford University Press.

Teaching Experience

2015 Introduction to Geography (GEOG 1000)
 University of Connecticut
2011–2013 English as a Second Language
 Nam-Gwangju ECC & Pohang SLP, South Korea

Professional Memberships

American Planning Association
Association of American Geographers

Foreign Language Skills

Bahasa Indonesia: Working proficiency
Spanish: Elementary proficiency
Russian: Elementary proficiency

Software and Programming Proficiency

Languages: R, SQL, Python (learning), JavaScript (learning)
GIS: ArcGIS, QGIS, Google Earth Engine
Statistics & Visualization: SPSS, R, Tableau, Pandas (learning)
Data Management: PostgreSQL, PostGIS
Qualitative Data Analysis: MaxQDA, NVivo
Design: Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, Rhinoceros (learning)
Other: Microsoft Office, Scrivener, Ulysses

Hobbies

Cycling & bicycle repair; hiking & camping; photography; creative writing; foreign languages; meditation (zazen and vipassana)

International Experience

Residence greater than 1 month: Indonesia (3 years), Israel (5 months), Netherlands (6 months), South Korea (2 years)

Extensive travel in: East, South & Southeast Asia; Western & Central Europe, Middle East