

Maya B Henderson

Seneca-Cayuga Nation Citizen
University of Geography, Dept. of Geography
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Education

- 2026 Ph.D., Geography, University of Georgia (expected: December 2026)
Dissertation: An Indigenous Urban Climate Justice: A Case Study of Seattle, Washington
Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Rice
- 2022 M.A., Geography, University of Georgia
Thesis: Carbon Colonialism by the Emerald City: Colonial Social Relations in Urban Climate Action
Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Rice
- 2020 B.A., Environmental Sustainability: Planning and Management with Geographic Information Systems (Minor), University of Oklahoma
Capstone Advisor: Dr. Mary Lawhon

Positions Held

- 2025-2026 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Geography, University of Georgia
- 2022-2025 Graduate Research Assistant, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, Dept. of Geography, University of Georgia.
- 2020-2022 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Geography, University of Georgia
- 2018-2019 Undergraduate Academic Assistant, University of Oklahoma

Publications

Under Review

- 2025 Berry, R., Orozco, A., **Henderson, M.B.**, Rao, M., Hysjulien, A., & Shannon, J. "Mapping Black Presence and Absence in Athens, GA". Submitted to *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*.
- 2025 Orozco, A., **Henderson, M.B.**, & Barrett, E. "Beyond the Seminar: Graduate Student Perspectives on Creating a Sense of Place through Community Geography". In *Beyond the Seminar: Graduate Student Perspectives on Creating a Sense of Place through Community Geography*, eds. Hammelman, C., Shannon, J., & Block, D.

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2025 **Henderson, M.B.** & Rice, J.L., “The Good Green Settler: An Examination of Settler Colonial Climate Action in Seattle, Washington”. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*.
- 2022 Arney, R.N., **Henderson, M.B.**, Deloach, H., Lichtenstein, G., & German, L. “Connecting Across Difference in Environmental Governance: Beyond Rights, Recognition, and Participation”. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*.
- 2021 **Henderson, M.** & Lawhon, M. “What is a “Green City”? Understanding Environmental Imaginaries of Residents in a Politically Conservative Area”. *Southeastern Geographer*.

Editor Reviewed

- 2025 Athena Co-Learning Collective, **Henderson, M.B.**, Mandal, S., Prostine, B., Rice, J.L., Taillefer, K., Trauger, A., Urresty-Vargas, C., and Wayson, E. ““Be In But Not Of” the University: Collective Refusal as Resistance to Isolation and Precarity”. *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geography*.
- 2021 Lawhon, M., **Henderson, M.**, & McCreary, T. “Neither more nor less, but enough: Towards a modest political ecology of the future”, *Political Geography*.
- 2018 **Henderson, M.**, Person, A., & Pepler, R. “Constructing Green Cities”, Feature Article in SCIPP Newsletter, November 2018.

Book Review

- 2020 Lawhon, M. & **Henderson, M.** “Book Review of *A Planet to Win: Why We Need A Green New Deal* by Kate Aronoff, Alyssa Battistoni, Daniel Aldana Cohen and Thea Riofrancos”. Antipode Online, July 2020.

Honors & Awards

- 2025-2026 Science Post Graduate Scholarship Finalist-Native Forward (\$18,000)
- 2025 Young, Gifted, and Green 40 Under 40 Award
- 2023 Globe Award for Conceptual Advancement (\$500)
- 2022 Science Post Graduate Scholarship-Native Forward (up to \$30,000, Declined)
- 2021-2025 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (\$159,000)
- 2021 Cobell Scholar Graduate Award (\$12,500)
- 2020 Cobell Scholar Graduate Award (\$12,500)
- 2020 Letzeiser Honor List
- 2020 Clyde F. Bollinger Award (\$750)
- 2020 Academic Achievement Award (\$1,000)
- 2020 Gamma Theta Upsilon Member

2019	Udall Scholar (\$7,000)
2019	Academic Achievement Award (\$1,000)
2019	Cobell Scholar Undergraduate Award (\$5,000)
2019	PE-ET Top 10 Senior Honor Society
2019	Vernon and Sandra Nutter Scholarship (\$1,250)
2018	Academic Achievement Award (\$1,000)
2018	Ralph and Margaret Olson Scholarship (\$750)
2017	Academic Achievement Award (\$1,000)
2016	Academic Achievement Award (\$1,000)

Conference Sessions

2025	Rivera, I., Orozco, A, Henderson, M.B. , & Fitch, C. CO-Organizers. “Insurgent Life!: Insisting on Life through Anti-Colonial Digital Geographies”. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting
2024	Henderson, M.B. & Rivera, I. Co-Organizers. “Insurgent Life!” Worldmaking through Anti/Decolonial Digital Geographies”. Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference
2023	Henderson, M.B. , Arney, A. & Rice, J.L. Co-Organizers. "Politics of Environmental Knowledge: From (Settler) Colonial Spaces to Anti-Colonial Praxis”. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting

Conference Presentations

2026	Henderson, M.B. “Creating Urban Settler Environments: A Historical Analysis of Topographic Alterations in Seattle, WA”, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting.
2025	Henderson, M.B. “Carbon Colonialism in the City”, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting
2023	Shannon, J., Orozco, A., Henderson, M.B. , Rao, M. “Mapping Black Presence (and Absence) in Athens, GA”, Race Ethnicity and Place Conference
2023	Henderson, M.B. & Rice, J.L. “Seeking Climate Justice: Confronting Settler-Colonial Climate Action in Seattle, WA”, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting
2023	Henderson, M.B. & Orozco, A. “(Un) Abstracting Place Through Indigenous and Black Scholarship”, American Indian Studies Conference

- 2022 **Henderson, M.B.** “Against (Settler) Colonial Climate Action: A Look into Seattle, Washington’s Climate Mitigation Plans”, Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers Conference
- 2022 **Henderson, M.B. & Arney, R.N.** “Beyond Rights, Recognition, and Participation: Rupturing Settler Colonial Approaches to Environmental Governance”, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. (virtual)
- 2022 Arney, R.N. & **Henderson, M.B.** “Decolonizing Conservation and Environmental Governance: Theoretical Foundations for Situating Research and Practice Beyond Coloniality”, Integrative Conservation Conference. (virtual)
- 2020 **Henderson, M.B.** “Imaginations of “green cities” in a politically conservative area”, Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, Undergraduate Symposium
- 2019 **Henderson, M.B.** “Constructing Green Cities”, Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, Undergraduate Symposium

Invited Panels

- 2025 **Henderson, M.B.**, Panelist, History Hour: Native American Heritage Month, Historic Athens
- 2022 **Henderson, M.B.**, Panelist, Lunch and Learn with Native Students, UGA Career Center, University of Georgia
- 2021 **Henderson, M.B.**, Panelist, Transnational Movements for Land, Water, and Home, Dept of Geography, University of Georgia (Online Panel)
- 2020 **Henderson, M.B.**, Panelist, Graduate School Informational, Dept of Geography & Environmental Sustainability, University of Oklahoma (Online Panel)
- 2019 **Henderson, M.B.**, Panelist, Student Heroes: Environmental Sustainability Panel, Student Heroes Organization, University of Oklahoma
- 2019 **Henderson, M.B.**, Panelist, Affording College Panel, Edmond Indian Education Edmond, Oklahoma

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistantships

- 2025 Teaching Assistant, GEOG 1125 Resources, Society, Environment, University of Georgia
- 2022 Teaching Assistant, GEOG 1101 Human Geography, University of Georgia
- 2021 Teaching Assistant, GEOG 1101 Human Geography, University of Georgia
- 2021 Teaching Assistant & Discussion Section Lead, GEOG 1130 World Geography, University of Georgia
- 2020 Teaching Assistant, GEOG 1101 Introduction to Human Geography, University of Georgia

Guest Lectures

- 2026 Understanding (Urban) Indigenous Land Relations, GEOG 4644, Georgia State University
- 2025 Indigenous Environmentalisms, GEOG 147, University of California- Los Angeles
- 2025 Alternative Energy, GEOG 1125, University of Georgia
- 2025 Green and Sustainable Cities, GEOG 1125, University of Georgia
- 2025 Brooklyn Cemetery: Community Geography, GEOG 6385, University of Georgia
- 2024 Understanding Settler-Colonialism, GEOG 1101, University of Georgia
- 2023 Native Politics, POLS 4790, University of Georgia.
- 2023 NAGPRA & Tribal Identity, NAMS 3000, University of Georgia.
- 2022 Climate Action & Colonialism, GEOG 1101, University of Georgia.

Community-Scholarship Experience

- 2023 - Member, Georgia Community Geography Collective, University of Georgia
- 2023 - Member, Community Mapping Lab, University of Georgia
- 2023 Student, Community GIS Course, University of Georgia
- 2021 Community Workshop Organizer, Linnentown Mosaic Project, Social Theory Seminar, Fall 2021, University of Georgia

Professional Association

- 2023- Community Mapping Lab, University of Georgia
- 2020 - American Association of Geographers (AAG)
- 2020 - Athena Co-Learning Collective

Service and Volunteer Experience

Departmental & University Service

- 2025-2026 Vice President of the Native American Student Association, University of Georgia
- 2025 Graduate Student Representative on Search Committee for Clinical Faculty in Community Geography, University of Georgia
- 2023- 2024 Co-Chair of the Geography Graduate Student Association, University of Georgia
- 2022 -2023 Graduate Student & Tribal Citizen Committee Advisor on Search Committee for Institute of Native Studies Director, University of Georgia
- 2022 - 2023 Vice-Chair of the Geography Graduate Student Association, University of Georgia
- 2022 - 2023 Cultural & Outreach Chair of the Native American Student Association, University of Georgia

- 2021 Panel Chair for Integrative Conservation Panel, Allied Action & Anti-Colonial Conservation, University of Georgia
- 2018- 2020 President of the Geography and Environmental Sustainability Club, University of Oklahoma
- 2018-2020 Chair of the Liaison Committee for Green Week, University of Oklahoma
- 2019-2020 Co-Chair of Cultural Council for Gamma Delta Pi (American Indian Sorority), University of Oklahoma

Service to Discipline

- 2022 - 2023 Student Representative, Indigenous Peoples Specialty Groups of the American Association of Geographers

Service to Community

- 2025 Instructor, Corn Husk Doll Event, Native Heritage Month Family Day, Georgia Museum of Art
- 2025- Co-Founder and Interim Council Keeper, Southern Indigenous Student Coalition