

Maya B Henderson

Onek di gyoh

Seneca-Cayuga Nation Citizen

University of Georgia, Dept. of Geography

PhD Candidate // mbh75542@uga.edu

Education

- 2026 Ph.D., Geography, University of Georgia (expected: December 2026)
Dissertation: Always Indigenous Land: A Case Study of Indigenous Inclusion in Seattle, WA's Climate Policy
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.

Funding, Honors and Awards

- 2026 Cobell Scholarship- Summer (\$2,500)
- 2026 Summer Research Assistantship, University of Georgia Graduate School (\$5,074)
- 2026 Conference Travel Funding, University of Georgia Graduate School (\$800)
- 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 and Speaker

- 2026 **Henderson, M.B.**, Keynote Speaker, Norman Public Schools Indian Education Senior Recognition
- 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

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistantships

2026	Teaching Assistant, GEOG 1101 Introduction to Human Geography, University of Georgia
2026	Teaching Assistant, GEOG 1101 Introduction to Human Geography, University of Georgia
2025	Teaching Assistant, GEOG 1125 Resources, Society, Environment, University of Georgia
2022	Teaching Assistant, GEOG 1101 Introduction to Human Geography, University of Georgia
2021	Teaching Assistant, GEOG 1101 Introduction to Human Geography, University of Georgia
2021	Teaching Assistant & Discussion Section Lead, GEOG 1130 Introduction to World Geography, University of Georgia
2020	Teaching Assistant, GEOG 1101 Introduction to Human Geography, University of Georgia

Guest Lectures

2026	Regrounding Climate Justice Through Indigenous Ecosocial Relations, ENV 285, Emory University
2026	Indigenous Methods in Social Justice Research, OX-DSC 101, Oxford College of Emory University
2026	Indigenous Environmentalisms in the City, GEOG 1101, University of Georgia
2026	The Skagit River Through Indigenous Environmentalisms, GEOG 1101, University of Georgia
2026	Understanding (Urban) Indigenous Land Relations, GEOG 1101, 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

2026 -	Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA)
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

2026-2028	Director, Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographer
2022 - 2023	Student Representative, Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers

Service to Community

2026	Garden and Historic Preservation Volunteer, Oakland Cemetery, Historic Oakland Foundation
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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