

# KAYLA EDGETT

*University of Georgia, Department of Geography*  
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## **EDUCATION**

**University of Georgia, Athens, GA**

*Ph.D. in Geography, in progress, projected May 2026*

Dissertation title: Prison Futures: The Production of Carceral Space and Abolition Geography in Atlanta. (Supervisor: Dr. Nik Heynen)

**Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA**

*Master of Science in Geosciences, concentration in Geography, May 2022*

Thesis title: Competing Spatial Imaginaries and Counterinsurgency in the "Black Mecca": A Case Study of the Ron Carter Patrol. (Supervisor: Dr. Katherine Hankins)

**Emory University, Atlanta, GA**

*Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, May 2013*

Horatio Alger Scholarship Recipient, 2009 - 2013

**Oxford College of Emory University, Oxford, GA**

*Associate of Liberal Arts, May 2011*

Merit Scholar, Fall 2010, Spring 2011

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

Council Fellow, American Geographical Society, 2025 – 2026

Graduate Student Fellowship, Urban Geography Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers, 2025

Student Access Award, Urban Geography Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers, 2025

Summer Doctoral Research Assistantship, The Graduate School, University of Georgia, 2025

The Barbara Stevens Heusel and Dennis Moore Graduate Travel Award, Southeastern American Studies Association, 2025

Graduate School Teaching Assistantship, University of Georgia, 2023 – 2026

Graduate School Research Assistantship, University of Georgia, Summer 2024

Socialist and Critical Geography Specialty Group Student Paper Award, 2024

Graduate School Research Assistantship, University of Georgia 2022 – 2023

Outstanding Graduate Student Geography, Department of Geosciences, Georgia State University, 2021 - 2022

Geosciences Scholars Award, Department of Geosciences, Georgia State University, 2021

**JOURNAL ARTICLES**

**Edgett, K.** (2025). Toward autonomous abolition ecologies: Lessons from the Stop Cop City movement at the end of liberal democracy. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*.

**Edgett, K.** (2025). Black self-defense as social reproduction: Geographies of insurgency and counterinsurgency amidst racialized uneven development in Atlanta. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*.

**Edgett, K., Hankins, K. and Pierce, J.** (2023). Whitenesses in the city: A history of making place in Little Five Points, Atlanta, USA, *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and the City*.

**Edgett, K. and Abdelaziz, S.** (2021). The Atlanta Way: Repression, mediation, and division of Black resistance from 1906 to the 2020 George Floyd Uprising. *Atlanta Studies*.

Atlanta Abolition Research Collective (**Edgett, K., Arney, R., Milligan, R. and Freshour, C.**) (Under review). Policing Atlanta: Past, present, and future. *ACME*.

**BOOK CHAPTERS**

**Edgett, K.** (2025). Becoming External Enemies: From Occupy Atlanta to Stop Cop City. In *No Cop City, No Cop World: Writings from the Stop Cop City Movement*. Haymarket.

**Edgett, K. & Heynen, N.** (2024). Cultivating Solidarity and Trust in the Field Through the “Spiral Model”: Engaging with Communities from a Radical Geographical Perspective. In *How To Foster Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice in Geography*, eds. Chen, G., & Eaves, L. Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.

**BOOK REVIEWS**

**Edgett, K.** (forthcoming). [Review of the book *Class Warfare in Black Atlanta: Grassroots Struggles, Power, and Repression Under Gentrification*, by Augustus Wood]. *Southeastern Geographer*.

**Edgett, K.** (2025). [Review of the book *Prison Capital: Mass Incarceration and Struggles for Abolition Democracy in Louisiana*, by Lydia Pelot-Hobbs]. *Southeastern Geographer*.

**PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

**2025** *Boardrooms, squad rooms, and city hall: Intra-regime conflict in Atlanta*. Atlanta Studies Symposium. Atlanta, GA. May 2.

*Placing police in the urban regime*. American Association of Geographers, Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI. March 28.

*“You have to have a community to protect”: Black self-defense and social reproduction in public housing in Atlanta*. American Studies Association, New Orleans, LA. March 7.

**2024** *Controlled burn: Abolition ecology in an Atlanta forest*. American Association of Geographers, Southeast Division Meeting, Greenville, SC. November 25.

**2023** *Insurgents, outsiders, and other rebels: Composing resistance in and against Cop City, Atlanta*. Southeast American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA. September 29.

*(Counter)Insurgency: a study of radical Black struggle in post-60s Atlanta*. American Association of Geographers, Annual Meeting, online. March 23.

**2022** *Intown: Remaking the place imaginaries of Atlanta's eastside neighborhoods.* American Association of Geographers, Southeast Division Meeting, Atlanta, GA, with K. Hankins (co-presenter) and J. Pierce. November 21.

*Black autonomy vs. "Black mecca": Competing imaginaries in the Ron Carter Patrol.* Atlanta Studies Symposium, Atlanta, GA. May 6.

*Intown: Remaking the place imaginaries of Atlanta.* Atlanta Studies Symposium, Atlanta, GA, with K. Hankins (co-presenter) and J. Pierce. May 6.

*Plural whitenesses: Competing place identities in Little Five Points, Atlanta, USA.* American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, online, with K. Hankins (co-presenter) and J. Pierce. February 26.

**2021** *The Atlanta Way: Repression, mediation, and division of Black resistance from 1906 to the 2020 George Floyd Uprising.* Race, Ethnicity, and Place, online, with S. Abdelaziz. October 22.

*The Atlanta Way: Repression, mediation, and division of Black resistance from 1906 to the 2020 George Floyd Uprising.* Atlanta Studies Symposium, online, with S. Abdelaziz (co-presenter). May 26.

### **INVITED PANELIST**

**2025** Symposium Celebrating *How to Foster Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice in Geography* Author Conversations (I). American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI. March 27.

**2024** *Stop Cop City: Critical convergences for abolition and defense of the Weelaunee Forest.* Dimensions of Political Ecology, Lexington, KY. February 24.

**2023** *Cop City, Atlanta: Militarization of Police and the Opposition Movement.* National Council on Public History, Atlanta, GA. April 14.

*Defend Weelaunee Forest! Atlanta's Intersectional Struggle for Environmental Justice, Police Abolition, and Community Control.* Society for Community Research and Action, Biennial, Atlanta, GA. June 21.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**2025** Teaching Assistant, G1130 Introduction to World Geography, University of Georgia

Instructor of Record, G1130 Introduction to World Geography, University of Georgia

**2024** Instructor of Record, G1130 Introduction to World Geography, University of Georgia

Teaching Assistant (for J. Barkan), G1130 Introduction to World Geography, University of Georgia

**2023** Teaching Assistant (for N. Heynen), G1130 Introduction to World Geography, University of Georgia

### **CONFERENCES ORGANIZED**

Community Safety & Abolition in Appalachia Convening, The Highlander Research and Education Center, Tennessee, May 30 – 31, 2025

Atlanta Studies Symposium, May 6, 2022

### **WORKSHOPS/SESSIONS/LECTURES ORGANIZED**

Workshop: "Policing Atlanta: Past, present, and future," Atlanta Studies Symposium, May 2, 2025

Globe Lecture, University of Georgia, April 18, 2025

Roundtable: Universities and Cop City, Atlanta Studies Symposium, May 11, 2023

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Annals of the American Association of Geographers reviewer, 2025 – present

Journal of Urban Affairs reviewer, 2023 – present

Atlanta Studies Advisory Board Member, 2023 – present

Geography Graduate Student Association Co-Chair, 2024 – 2025

### **COMMUNITY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

**2025** *A Retrospective on the Ron Carter Patrol*. Moderator. Community Books, Stone Mountain, GA. March

**2023** *The movement to defend Weelaunee Forest and stop Cop City*. Interrupting Criminalization, online February

**2018** *Taking Care of Each Other: Communities Organizing for a New World*. Atlanta Radical Book Fair, Auburn Avenue Research Library, Atlanta, GA October

*Fighting for Dignity: Organizing with the Dekalb County School Bus Drivers*. Southern Labor Struggles Roundtable, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA October

**2017** *Community Antifascism*. Atlanta Radical Book Fair, Auburn Avenue Research Library, Atlanta, GA October

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**2025 – present** Athens Immigrant Rights Coalition, Athens, GA

**2024 – present** Atlanta Abolition Research Collective, Scholar-activist collective, GA

**2023 – 2024** Athens Against Cop City, Community organization, Athens, GA

**2021 – 2023** Weelaunee Coalition, Community organization, Southeast Atlanta, GA

**2016 – 2023** Atlanta Radical Book Fair (Co-founder), Community event at Auburn Avenue Research Library, Atlanta, GA

**2017 – 2021** Us Protecting Us, Disability justice organization, Dekalb County, GA

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Geographical Society, 2025 – present

Southeast American Studies Association, 2024 – present

Southeast Division of the American Association of Geographers, 2021 - present

American Association of Geographers, 2020 - present

- Feminist Geographies Specialty Group
- Urban Geography Specialty Group
- Socialist and Critical Geography Specialty Group