

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 2027

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

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Atlanta Abolition Research Collective (**Edgett, K.**, Arney, R., Milligan, R. and Freshour, C.) (Forthcoming 2026). Policing Atlanta: Past, present, and future. *ACME*.

Edgett, K. (2025a). Toward autonomous abolition ecologies: Lessons from the Stop Cop City movement at the end of liberal democracy. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*. 9(1), 293-311.

Edgett, K. (2025b). Black self-defense as social reproduction: Geographies of insurgency and counterinsurgency amidst racialized uneven development in Atlanta. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*. 115(5), 1088-1103.

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*. 4(2), 135-152.

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*. October 20, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.18737/atls20211020>.

Atlanta Abolition Research Collective (Arney, R. and **Edgett, K.**). (In progress). Policing and Property.

INVITED ARTICLE

Edgett, K. (In progress). Defending a forest in Cop City: Abolitionist struggle under rising authoritarianism. Invited contribution to *Struggles over Reproduction: Prospects and Challenges for Emancipatory Socio-Ecological Transformation in Times of Rising Authoritarianism*.

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. pp. 49-61

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. pp. 256-266

BOOK REVIEWS

Edgett, K. (forthcoming 2026). 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*. pp. 257-259

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

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

Socialist and Critical Geography Specialty Group Student Paper Award, 2024

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

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

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Graduate School Teaching Assistantship, University of Georgia, 2023 – 2027

Graduate School Research Assistantship, University of Georgia, 2022 – 2023, Summer 2024, Summer 2025

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

2027 *The war over the city: Accumulation, policing, and resistance in globalizing Atlanta.* American Association of Geographers, Annual Meeting, New York, NY. February.

2026 *Constructing the carceral city: From the “long 1960s” to neoliberal consensus.* Atlanta Studies Symposium, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA. May 14.

“The point is to change it”: Research as learning, teaching, and organizing for abolition ecology. Integrative Conservation Conference, University of Georgia, Athens, GA. February 27.

The struggle for the future of Cop Cities: Atlanta as laboratory for urban counter/insurgency. American Association of Geographers, Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. March 17.

2025 *Policing property: Robot cops and citizen deputies in Atlanta, GA.* American Association of Geographers, Southeast Division Meeting, Lexington, KY, with R. Arney. November 24.

The Long Atlanta Rebellion: Carceral development and contestation in Atlanta, GA since 1971. American Association of Geographers, Southeast Division Meeting, Lexington, KY. November 24.

Boardrooms, squad rooms, and city hall: Intra-regime conflict in Atlanta. Atlanta Studies Symposium, Morehouse College, 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 WORKSHOP

- 2026** Participant. *Antipode's* 10th Institute for the Geographies of Justice (IGJ): "Organizing and Solidarity in a Polycrisis." University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, CA. 1/25 invited participants of 119 applicants.

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

- 2026** Teaching Assistant (for J. Rice), G1101 Introduction to Human Geography, University of Georgia

Instructor of Record, G1130-S (300 student section) Introduction to World Geography, University of Georgia

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

Instructor of Record, G1130 (87 student section) Introduction to World Geography, University of Georgia

2024 Instructor of Record, G1130 (87 student section) 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, Georgia State University, May 6, 2022

WORKSHOPS/SESSIONS/LECTURES ORGANIZED

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

Globe Lecture, Dr. Danielle Purifoy (University of North Carolina), University of Georgia, April 18, 2025

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Graduate Student Representative, Socialist and Critical Geography Specialty Group, 2025 - present

Environment and Planning D: Society and Space reviewer, 2026 – present

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

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