

Maya B Henderson

Seneca-Cayuga Nation Citizen

PhD Candidate

University of Geography, Dept. of Geography

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Education

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

Research

Areas of Interest

Indigenous geographies, urban climate justice, settler-colonial cities, community geography

Research Projects

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| 2024 | Doctoral Dissertation, “An Indigenous Urban Climate Justice: A Case Study of Seattle, WA”, supervised by Dr. Jennifer Rice, University of Georgia, expected: May 2026 |
| 2022 | Master’s Thesis, “Carbon Colonialism by the Emerald City: Colonial Social Relations in Urban Climate Action”, supervised by Dr. Jennifer Rice, University of Georgia, August 2022 |
| 2020 | Undergraduate Capstone Project, “What is a “Green City”? Understanding Environmental Imaginaries of Residents in a Politically Conservative Area”, supervised by Dr. Mary Lawhon, University of Oklahoma, May 2020 |
| 2019 | Undergraduate Academic Assistant, “Imaginations and moral connotations of “green city” in politically conservative areas”, supervised by Dr. Mary Lawhon, University of Oklahoma, May 2019-August 2019 |

2018 Undergraduate Academic Assistant, “Constructing Green Cities”, supervised by Dr. Angela Person and Dr Randy Peppler, University of Oklahoma, June 2018-August 2018

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

- 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., Proshine, 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”. Submitted to *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., & Peppler, 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 Science Post Graduate Scholarship Finalist (\$9,000)
2023 Globe Award for Conceptual Advancement (\$500)
2022 Science Post Graduate Scholarship (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)

Panels

- 2025 **Henderson, M.B.**, Panelist, Historic Athens, University of Georgia
- 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

Conference Presentations

- 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

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

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

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

- 2025 Alternatives Energies, GEOG 1125, University of Georgia
2025 Understanding 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.

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

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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- Co-Founder and Interim Council Keeper, Southern Indigenous Student Coalition