Maya B Henderson

Seneca-Cayuga Nation Citizen

University of Geography, Dept. of Geography

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow

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**Education**

2026 Ph.D., Geography, University of Georgia (expected)  
*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

**Research**

*Areas of Interest*

Indigenous geographies, urban political ecology, settler-colonial cities, urban climate justice

*Research Projects*

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.

2024 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”. Submitted to ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geography.

*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*

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*

2020Lawhon, 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**

2023 Globe Award for Conceptual Advancement

2022 Science Post Graduate Scholarship (Declined)

2021 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program

2021 Cobell Scholar Graduate Award

2020 Cobell Scholar Graduate Award

2020 Letzeiser Honor List

2020 Clyde F. Bollinger Award

2020 Academic Achievement Award

2020 Gamma Theta Upsilon Member

2019 Udall Scholar

2019 Academic Achievement Award

2019 Cobell Scholar Undergraduate Award

2019 PE-ET Top 10 Senior Honor Society

2019 Vernon and Sandra Nutter Scholarship

2018 Academic Achievement Award

2018 Ralph and Margaret Olson Scholarship

2017 Academic Achievement Award

2016 Academic Achievement Award

**Panels**

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

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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 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 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