

GEORGIA J. MAPP

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Geography, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Department of Geography and Sustainability (expected August 2026)

Dissertation: *"Reclaiming the Vacant Lot: Land Bank Governance and Neighborhood Change in Mid-Sized Southern Cities"*

Committee Chair: Dr. Renata Okafor

M.S., Geography, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Department of Geography and Sustainability, 2022

B.A., Sociology, University of Florida, 2018 — Graduated with High Honors, cum GPA 3.86; Phi Beta Kappa

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Instructor of Record**, Department of Geography and Sustainability, University of Tennessee, Knoxville — Spring 2026
GEOG 341: Contemporary Urban Spaces (undergraduate)
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Department of Geography and Sustainability, University of Tennessee, Knoxville — 2021–2025
GEOG 121: Human Geography – People/Places; GEOG 101: World Geography
- **Graduate Research Assistant**, Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research (Tennessee State Data Center), Haslam College of Business, University of Tennessee, Knoxville — 2020–2021
Assisted with county-level population and housing data projects used in the Boyd Center's Tennessee population projections.

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

1. Mapp, G. (in press). The vacancy fix: Land banks and the remaking of urban land markets in the postindustrial South. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*.
2. Mapp, G., & Chen, L. (2025). Land banking and the uneven geography of vacancy in Rust Belt and Sunbelt cities. *Urban Geography*, 46(3), 512–534.
3. Mapp, G., Torres, M., & Whitfield, R. (2024). Greenways as gentrification? Trail development and displacement in mid-sized southern cities. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 46(2), 210–229.
4. Mapp, G. (2023). Mapping food access in Appalachian foothill cities: A case study of Knoxville, Tennessee. *Southeastern Geographer*, 63(1), 45–67.

PUBLICATIONS SUBMITTED / UNDER REVIEW

Mapp, G. (under review). Post-industrial placemaking in small southern cities. In R. Okafor & J. Voss (Eds.), *Rethinking the New South City*. University Press. (Book chapter; submitted March 2026.)

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCE MEETINGS AND SEMINARS

1. Mapp, G. (2026, April). Land banks as slow infrastructure: Governing vacancy in the New South. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), Detroit, MI.
2. Mapp, G., & Chen, L. (2025, November). Uneven vacancy, uneven recovery: Comparing Rust Belt and Sunbelt land banks. Paper presented at the Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers (SEDAAG) Annual Meeting, Knoxville, TN.
3. Mapp, G. (2025, April). Trails, taxes, and turnover: Greenway investment and residential change. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), Detroit, MI.
4. Mapp, G., Torres, M., & Whitfield, R. (2024, November). Greenways as gentrification? Evidence from three southern cities. Paper presented at the SEDAAG Annual Meeting, Knoxville, TN.
5. Mapp, G. (2024, April). Vacant lots, visible futures: Participatory mapping of land bank parcels. Paper presented at the AAG Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI.
6. Mapp, G., & Whitfield, R. (2023, November). Food deserts or food mirages? Rethinking access metrics in Appalachian foothill cities. Paper presented at the SEDAAG Annual Meeting, Norfolk, VA.
7. Mapp, G. (2023, April). Mapping food access in Knoxville, Tennessee. Poster presented at the AAG Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
8. Mapp, G. (2022, October). Land bank governance and neighborhood change: A dissertation proposal. Paper presented at the Applied Geography Conference, Baton Rouge, LA.
9. Mapp, G., & Chen, L. (2022, April). Comparative approaches to vacant land reuse. Paper presented at the AAG Annual Meeting, New York, NY.
10. Mapp, G. (2021, November). Reimagining vacancy: Toward a research agenda. Paper presented at the SEDAAG Annual Meeting, Knoxville, TN.
11. Mapp, G. (2018, August). Perceptions of neighborhood change in a growing college town: A case study of Gainesville, Florida. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Philadelphia, PA. (Undergraduate research, Department of Sociology, University of Florida; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Laura Bennett.)

GRANT ACTIVITY

- **National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF GRFP), 2019- 2022 Role: PI. \$138,000**
Three-year fellowship supporting graduate study and dissertation research in geography (stipend and cost-of-education allowance).
- **SEDAAG Ph.D. Mini-Research Grant, Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers, \$500, 2024** Awarded to support dissertation fieldwork on land bank governance in mid-sized southern cities.
- **AAG Dissertation Research Grant, American Association of Geographers, \$1,000, 2025** Awarded to support completion of dissertation fieldwork and data collection.

SCHOLARSHIP OF ENGAGEMENT: COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

GIS Day Outreach, Maple hollow Elementary School, Knoxville, TN — 2023–present

Role: Volunteer facilitator, working through the Department of Geography and Sustainability's GIS Outreach and Community Engagement Laboratory. Co-designed and led an annual hands-on mapping workshop introducing 4th- and 5th-grade students to GIS and neighborhood mapping, in partnership with the school's STEM enrichment program. Developed kid-friendly mapping activity guides now used annually by classroom teachers; reached approximately 90 students across three years.

RECOGNITIONS

- Graduate School Travel Award, University of Tennessee, Knoxville — 2025
- Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, Department of Geography, University of Tennessee, Knoxville — 2024
- Graduate School Travel Award, University of Tennessee, Knoxville — 2023
- 2nd Place Finalist, Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition, University of Tennessee, Knoxville — 2022

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

- American Association of Geographers (AAG)
- Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers (SEDAAG)
- AAG Urban Geography Specialty Group

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

- Graduate Student Representative, Assistant Professor Search Committee, Department of Geography, University of Tennessee, Knoxville — August 2025 - December 2025
- Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GSS) Representative, Department of Geography, University of Tennessee, Knoxville — August 2023–May 2024
- Peer Reviewer, Southeastern Geographer graduate student paper competition — 2024
- Co-organizer, Department of Geography Graduate Student Research Symposium, University of Tennessee, Knoxville — 2023