

Beki L. McElvain

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bekimcelvain.com

Education

- PhD City & Regional Planning, University of California, Berkeley, 2024
Designated Emphases in Global Metropolitan Studies and Science and Technology Studies
- MCP Master of City Planning, University of California, Berkeley, 2016
- BA Public (Urban) Policy, Mills College, 2014
Minor in Chinese History and Language

Academic Appointments

Lecturer in Human Geography, 2024-present
Loughborough University, Department of Geography and Environment

Research Visits

Research Fellow, Colegio de México, *Centro de Estudios Demográficos, Urbanos y Ambientales* (CEDUA), 2022-2024

Research Exchange, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), *The Social Implications of Urbanization and the Changing Landscapes of South China*, 2013-2014

Publications

Refereed

- McElvain B. and De Coss-Corzo, A. (2025) "Rethinking the Urban South? Centring 'Unprecedented' Risk and Repair." *Urban Geography*. doi.org/10.1080/02723638.2025.2561962
- McElvain, B. (2024) "Fixing" Finance? The Dialectical Publics of Resilient Disaster Governance in Mexico City." *Urban Geography*, 45:5, 776-797, doi.org/10.1080/02723638.2023.2234780
- McElvain, B. (2023) "Autorecovery and Everyday Disaster in Mexico City's Peripheries." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 41(2), 253–274. doi.org/10.1177/02637758231161613
- Knuth, S., Cox, S., Savareh, S., Taylor, Z., Morris, J., and McElvain, B. (2023) "Interrupted Rhythms and Uncertain Futures: Mortgage Finance and the (Spatio-) Temporalities of Climate Breakdown." *Journal of Urban Affairs*. doi.org/10.1080/07352166.2023.2229462
- Moreno Carranco, M. and McElvain, B. (2020) "Life Above, Rubble Below: A Case of Historically Produced Risk & Perception in Mexico City." *Ardeth 6: Contingency*. doi.org/10.17454/Ardeth06.12

Refereed (Pipeline)

- McElvain, B. (Under review) "The Mexico Model: 'New State Capitalism' and the Populist Resilience Regime." Revised and resubmitted to *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*.
- McElvain, B. and Colven, E. (Under review) "Imagining a Risk Market: Constructing the 'Finance Gap' in Indonesia and Mexico." Revised and resubmitted to *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*.
- McElvain, B. and De Coss-Corzo, A. (In preparation) "Making Life Possible: Unprecedented Risk and Emergent Labour Economies After the Storm." Special issue for *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*.

Book Review

- McElvain, B. (forthcoming) "Introduction to the book forum on *Climate Finance: Taking a Position on Climate Futures* by Gareth Bryant and Sophie Webber." Exchange symposium for *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*.

Public Scholarship

- McElvain, B. (2025) "Trying to Reason with Hurricane Season: The Death Drive in Florida." Essay. *The Break—Down* (in partnership with Commonwealth).

McElvain, B. (2024) "The Politics of Force: Militarized Care and Disaster Recovery in Acapulco." Essay. *Turning Point Magazine*.

McElvain, B. (2024) "Development, Debt, and Disaster Risk in 'Nature's Casino'." Essay. Debt and Climate Research Series. *Climate and Community Institute*.

Mattiuzzi, Elizabeth and McElvain, B. (2022) "Bouncing Forward from Disasters on Hawaii's Big Island: Lessons for Equitable Recovery and Future Resilience." Report. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

Grants, Fellowships & Honors

- 2025 Loughborough Education & Student Experience Award for 'Climate Futures: A Zine-Making Workshop'
- 2024 Loughborough School of Social Sciences and Humanities Research Funding Award
- 2023 Michael B. Teitz Fellowship
- 2023 Network for a New Political Economy/Hewlett Foundation Research Grant
- 2022 Institute for Human Geography Research Grant
- 2022 Network for a New Political Economy Fieldwork Fellowship (Mexico)
- 2021 US Dept of Education: Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Year Fellowship (Mexico)
- 2021 US Dept of Education: Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Summer Fellowship (Mexico)
- 2021 Global Metropolitan Studies Summer Fieldwork Grant (Mexico)
- 2020 NSF-INFEWS Blum Center for Developing Economies' Fellowship
- 2020 NSF-INFEWS Summer Research Grant (Mexico)
- 2019 Global Metropolitan Studies Summer Fieldwork Grant (Mexico)
- 2019 NSF-INFEWS Winter Research Grant (Mexico)
- 2018 Doctoral Fellowship (4 years), Department of City & Regional Planning, UC Berkeley
- 2018 Outstanding Service in Public Policy, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute

Teaching

Loughborough University

Undergraduate

- *Political & Economic Geography* (Autumn 2024; 2025)
- *Research Methods Tutorial* (Autumn 2024; 2025)

Postgraduate

- *The Global Financial System Under Climate Change* (Spring 2025; 2026)

University of California, Berkeley

Undergraduate

- *Future Ecologies* (Autumn 2019)
- *Planning for Sustainability* (Autumn 2018)
- *Geographic Information Systems* (Autumn 2014, Spring 2020)

Pre-baccalaureate

- *Sustainable Planning* (Summer 2016): Embarc Design Academy for promising high school seniors.

Postgraduate

- *PhD Colloquium* (Autumn 2019, Spring 2020)
- *Introduction to Planning Practice* (Spring 2019)
- *Introduction to GIS and City Planning* (Spring 2015)

City College of San Francisco

- *Introduction to GIS* (2012-2017): Adult learning and post-baccalaureate preparation

Selected Conference Activity (*= upcoming)

Sessions Organized

- 2025 Session Chair and Organizer, More-than-Author-Meets-Critics: "*Climate Finance: Taking a Position on Climate Futures* by Bryant and Webber." AAG Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI, US, March 24-28.
- 2024 Session Chair and Co-organizer, "New Financial Frontiers: Reimagining Risk, Nature, and Economies in a Financialized World." DOPE 2024, Lexington, KY, US, Feb 22-24 (with Adriana Disilvestro).
- 2023 Session Co-Organizer, "Climate Finance and Reparative Urban Futures in Latin America." RGS-IBG Annual Meeting, London, UK, Aug 29-Sept 1 (with Dr. Alejandro de Coss Corzo & Dr. Nate Millington).
- 2022 Session Chair and Co-Organizer, "Discursive Methodologies for Critical Climate Change Research." AAG 2022, New York City, US, Feb 25-March 1 (with Dr. Yanin Kramsky).

Papers & Panels

- 2026 *Paper, "Trying to reason with hurricane season: Death drive and embedded risk in Florida." British Journal of Sociology Conference, London School of Economics, London, UK, April 23-24.
- 2025 Paper, "Informal Reconstruction Economies in Post-Disaster Acapulco." AAG Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI, US, March 24-28.
- 2024 Paper (Accepted), "A Tale of Two Economies: Financing Uneven Development in Post-Disaster Acapulco." RGS-IBG Annual Meeting, London, UK, August 27-30.
- 2023 Paper, "Imagining a Market: A Relational Study of Disaster Risk Finance in Indonesia and Mexico." AAG Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, US, March 23-27 (with Dr. Emma Colven).
- 2022 Paper, "Developing a Market: A Comparative Study of Disaster Risk Finance in Indonesia and Mexico." RGS-IBG Annual Meeting, Newcastle University, Newcastle, UK, Aug 30-Sept 2.
- 2022 Paper and Panel Member, "Precarity and Publics: Climate Finance and the Muddy Politics of 'Resilience Planning' in Mexico City." AAG Annual Meeting, New York City, US, Feb 25-March 1.

Other Invited Activities

- 2025 Guest Lecture, "Researching Risk and Repair in Different Economic Contexts." Infrastructural Landscapes II: Design Futures, Carnegie Mellon University, US, Nov 21.
- 2025 Invited participant, "Trying to Reason with Hurricane Season: Death Drive in Florida." Workshop: *Limits and Frontiers of Insurance*, University of Edinburgh Futures Institute, Edinburgh, UK, Jun 5-6.
- 2025 Invited participant, "Fixing Finance: The Dialectical Publics of Mexican Climate Governance." Workshop: *The Financial Fix in the Global South*. London School of Economics, UK, May 22-23.
- 2025 Invited participant, "Irregular Labor Economies and 'Unprecedented' Climate Risk." *Urban Futures of Popular Neighborhoods: An (Audio)visual Roundtable*, University of Bristol, UK, April 10-11.
- 2024 Invited participant, "Making Life Possible: Development and Emergent Economies After the Storm." Workshop: *Conjunctures of the Global Climate Economy*, University of Sydney, Sydney, AU, December 2-4.
- 2023 Guest Lecture, "The Financialization of Risk and its Material Effects." Department of Geography & Environment, University of Maryland Baltimore County, US.
- 2023 Guest Lecture, "Climate Governance and Autorecovery." Department of Geography and Environment, Loughborough University, UK.
- 2022 Paper, "Politics in the Mud: Making and Unmaking Resilience in Mexico City." Urban Climate Finance Network In-person Workshop, University of Zurich, CH.
- 2021 Paper, (Postponed for pandemic), "Making and Unmaking Resilience in Mexico City." Urban Climate Finance Network Inaugural Workshop, Durham University, UK.
- 2020 Guest Lecture, "Critical Mapping and Data Collection in the Field." College of Environmental Design, University of California, Berkeley, US.

Service & Outreach

Editorial Boards

Urban Geography (Editor, 2026-present)

Berkeley Planning Journal (Editor, 2019-2020)

Peer Review

Globalizations

Urban Studies

Urban Geography

Human Geography

Berkeley Planning Journal

Journal of Cultural Economy

The Professional Geographer

Environment and Planning C: Politics & Space

Environment and Planning A: Economy & Space

International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction

Service to the Discipline

Board Member, Economic Geography Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers (2024-present)

Board Member, Socialist & Critical Geography Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers (2023)

Co-organizer, Women in Economic Geography Social Hour, RGS (2024-present)

Peer Review, *Berkeley Planning Journal* (2019-2020)

Founder and Editor, *The Policy Forum at Mills* (Student Academic Journal), Mills College (2012-2014)

Service to the University

Organizer, *Mike Davis 'Celebration of Life & Work' Reading Group*, Social Science Matrix, UC Berkeley (2023)

Co-Organizer, *The City & the Cinema Film Club*, Global Metropolitan Studies, UC Berkeley (2023)

Organizer, *Marx & The City Working Group*, Social Science Matrix, UC Berkeley (2023)

Participant, *Urban Resilience Working Group*, Social Science Matrix, UC Berkeley (2018-2020)

To the Department

Independent Dissertation Review, Geography and Environment, Loughborough University (2024-present)

Ethics Officer, Geography and Environment, Loughborough University (2024-present)

Organizer, Seminar Series, Geography and Environment, Loughborough University (2024-present)

PhD Admissions Committee Representative, City & Regional Planning, UC Berkeley (2023)

Committee for Graduate Funding Reform, City & Regional Planning, UC Berkeley (2022-2023)

PhD Committee Student Representative, City & Regional Planning, UC Berkeley (2021-2022)

Faculty Search Committee Representative, City & Regional Planning, UC Berkeley (2021)

Union Representative (UAW Local 2865), City & Regional Planning, UC Berkeley (2018-2020)

Other Relevant Work Experience

Consultant, San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank, San Francisco, CA (2019-2020)

Consultant, SPUR Resilience Hazard Mapping Project, San Francisco, CA (2018-2019)

Program Manager, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, Oakland, CA (2016-2018)

Environmental Planner, San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco, CA (2015-2016)

Environmental Planner, City of Oakland Public Works & Capital Projects. Oakland, CA (2013-2014)

Coordinator, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, Salinas, CA (2011-2012)

Professional Memberships

Royal Geographical Society w/IBG (RGS-IBG)

Urban Affairs Association (UAA)

American Association of Geographers (AAG)

Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S)

Other Affiliations

Fellow of Advance Higher Education, FHEA (awarded June 2025)

Fellow of the Network for a New Political Economy, UC Berkeley

Member of the Urban Climate Finance Network

Relevant Languages

English – Native speaker

Spanish – Proficient speaking, reading, writing