Claude Lynch

London, SE24   siskiyoucedar.github.io   claude.lynch.15@ucl.ac.uk   +44 7564332780

Personal Statement

I am a keen interdisciplinarian with experience across multiple strands of geography. My experience includes project delivery, policy and research and I pride myself on being both highly organised and inquisitive in my work.

Academic Interests

Critical GIS, transport planning and policy, geography of space and place, urban geography, digital geography.

Relevant Competencies

Teaching and mentoring, project delivery, spatial data science, desk research, discourse analysis, presentation skills, interviewing.

References

Adam Dennett – PhD Supervisor, UCL a.dennett@ucl.ac.uk   Gerry Casey – PhD industry sponsor, Arup gerard.casey@arup.com

Academic Qualifications

University College London   *September 2023 – present*

MPhil / PhD Advanced Spatial Analysis (UBEL DTP) – Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA), with Arup and Transport East

- I am currently studying a PhD on the use of agent-based models for generating policy interventions in transport planning that relate to net zero, looking to understand the socioeconomic impact of such interventions before we make them.
- The core work packages for the PhD comprised a look at the relationship between transport models and transport policy (through qualitative methods), an inspection of modelling paradigms for "equity analysis" (quantitative methods), and a summary statement designed to help guide my co-funder and bodies like it in building out the role of transport modelling.
- This project has enhanced my skillset in data science, transport planning and qualitative methods, both by examining outputs from modelling scenarios and interviewing transport planning practitioners in local government.
- I completed an in-depth literature review on the applicability of regional geographical theory to transport planning.
- I developed a working theory of "total transport justice" aiming to illustrate how agent-based models do (or don't) represent theories of equity based on their computational abilities and application spaces.
- I currently have two papers under review and one published with my research group.
- I taught on five different modules, including Smart Cities: Context, Policy & Governance and Understanding Cities & their Spatial Cultures. I acquired Associate Fellowship of the Higher Educational Academy, recognising my teaching experience.

King's College London   *September 2021 – September 2022*

MA Critical Theory (Distinction) – specialised in Critical Geographies

- I received a Distinction for my dissertation on a theory of "Placewashing", drawing on a relation of place, authenticity and identity to show how theories of the three may interlace to understand authentic place identities in post-industrial society.
- Essays I wrote included the impact of Google Maps on digitally mediated memory, the geopolitical effects of Interrail, the relationship between degrowth, development and environmentalism, and the socio-political impact of LTNs.
- I also supported the work of the King's Civic Challenge, an extracurricular volunteering programme for students, and provided a drop-in service for students taking the programme to come to me with concerns.

University College London   *September 2015 – September 2019*

BA European Social and Political Studies (2:1) – specialised in Political Theory and Spanish

- In my final year I shifted my interest to urban planning and took modules including Urban Form & Formation and Understanding Cities & their Spatial Cultures (which I enjoyed so much I later taught on it).
- I undertook an Erasmus placement at UPO, Sevilla and ran focus groups for UCL Widening Participation in my final year.
- I received a first for my dissertation on the Spanish political party Podemos and their reflection of participatory democracy.

Ipswich School   *September 2008 – September 2015*

A Levels: 1 A* (Mathematics), 3 A (Economics, Russian, Spanish)   GCSE 8 A* 2 A   Bursary student

Employment History

House of Commons Select Committees   *April 2025 – July 2025*

I completed a UKRI Policy Internship as part of my PhD that comprised a three month placement as part of the Transport Select Committee staff team. My responsibilities included:

- Helping draft the briefings for the Committee's inquiry on rail investment pipelines, including securing witnesses from combined authorities and collating their evidence.
- Scoping future possible inquiries including a response to the Integrated Transport Strategy, by carefully matching existing political priorities to members' particular interests.
- Assisting in co-ordinating the Committee's visit to Hitachi Newton Aycliffe and Network Rail's Transpennine Route Upgrade.

University College London   *August 2022 – September 2023*

I worked as Teaching and Learning Administrator at the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis. My responsibilities included:

- Admissions: Managing admissions to the MSc Connected Environments course and directing PhD applications.
- Administrative support: Providing secretariat for the Staff-Student Consultative Committee and Departmental Teaching Committee in addition to recruiting and electing student representatives and ensuring best practice.
- Stakeholder management: Liaising with students and academics alike to carry administrative concerns to my team.
- Programme delivery: Handling the day-to-day operations of the MSc Connected Environments course, including examinations, essay deadlines, online environment maintenance, events management and student wellbeing.

King's College London   *November 2021 – August 2022*

During my master's, I worked part-time as a Network and Operations Coordinator in the London Team. This was King's outreach and engagement office for local communities in the boroughs of Westminster, Lambeth and Southwark. My responsibilities included:

- Drafting communications: Writing up letters for senior stakeholders in the Home Boroughs.
- Media and internal comms: Drafting news stories and tweets for collaborative and charitable activities connected to King's.
- Administrative support: Providing secretariat for the quarterly College London Committee meeting.
- Event management: Providing support at virtual and in-person events, editing recordings for publication on King's websites.

Department for Transport   *December 2020 – September 2021*

I worked as a Programme Officer, working within the Corporate Delivery directorate at the DfT. We worked with the department's partners in HS2, Network Rail, and National Highways. My responsibilities included:

- Continuous improvement: Building a team-wide risk register and managed a reorganisation of the team Sharepoint site.
- Stakeholder management: Collecting updates from DfT's arms' length bodies to report up monthly.
- Handling communications: Managing team meetings, the team inbox, and other secretarial duties as single point of contact.

Home Office   *November 2019 – November 2020*

I worked as a Project Support Officer within the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism. My responsibilities included:

- Reporting: Keeping note of ongoing work and conveying it persuasively in reports for varied audiences within my directorate.
- Project work: Roadmapping new projects for my team and keeping statistical information on current projects up to date.
- Handling communications: Speaking for my group at departmental meetings and organising regular team meetings.
- Process development: Building new "ways of working" for my team and creating process documents with collaborative input.

Hobbies, Interests and Qualifications

- I was a regular freelance contributor to the New Statesman sister site CityMetric, now CityMonitor, for three years. My most read piece was on how "connectors" on the tube map distort travel behaviour. A list of my contributions is available here.
- I run a YouTube channel where I discuss topics in critical theory through the frame of popular culture with 160,000+ total views to date. I have covered non-places, virtual places and the right to the city in video games.
- I ran pub quizzes for a year as part of a London franchise, then branched out to conferences and private companies.
- I volunteered with Oxfam for 6 years, including at Festival Shops such as Glastonbury 2022, where we raised £120k for charity.
- I became the lead student representative for my BA course cohort after representing students for four years running and was a representative to Academic Board during my MA. As a PhD student rep, I delivered my DTP's 2024 student conference.
- I am a Prince2 Agile Practitioner with a Level 3 Certificate in Leadership and Management (ILM).