

Claude Lynch

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Personal Statement

Organised, effusive and inquisitive in my work, I am a keen interdisciplinarian with experience in digital and political geography as well as urban studies more broadly. I am a UCL PhD researcher looking to undertake work that supports my studies.

Academic Interests

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

Relevant Competencies

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

Academic Qualifications

University College London

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.
- This project has already 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 geographies to innovative net zero transport policy.
- I developed a working theory of “total transport justice” aiming to illustrate how models do (or don’t) represent theories of equity based on their computational abilities and application spaces.
- I built a simple cluster analysis of our simulated agents to compare to the DfT’s “Personas” report.
- I taught on three modules in my first year, including Smart Cities: Context, Policy & Governance and Political Geography & Geopolitics. This year, I taught on these as well as Gibraltar Field Class and Understanding Cities & their Spatial Cultures.

King’s College London

2021 – 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.
- Modules I studied include ‘The Right to the City’, ‘Social Media, Protest Movements & Political Campaigning’, ‘Geopolitics of Borderlands, Boundaries and Territory (GBBT)’, ‘Cultural Memory’.
- I wrote essays on 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

2015 – 2019

BA European Social and Political Studies (2:1)

- On this course, I specialised in Political Theory & Spanish, with minors in Urban Planning and Philosophy.
- I received 8.8/10 on an Erasmus placement in Political Science at UPO Sevilla, Spain.
- I received a 1st for my dissertation, *Testing the Theory of Political Hegemony: A Contextual Analysis of Podemos*.
- Modules included ‘Urban Form and Formation’, ‘Understanding Cities and Their Spatial Cultures’.
- I wrote essays on urban form in Seville, a walking tour around London’s Caledonian Road, and regeneration in Thamesmead.
- I worked on several UCL summer schools, ran the 1st year mentor programme for my course in final year, and developed focus groups for UCL’s Widening Participation office to improve mentoring in future years.

Ipswich School

2008 – 2015

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

Employment History

University College London

August 2022 – September 2023

I worked as Teaching and Learning Administrator at the UCL Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, an autonomous research centre within the Bartlett School of the Built Environment. 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 at King's, I worked part-time as a Network and Operations Coordinator in the London Team. This was my university's outreach and engagement office for the local communities in our "Home 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.
- Reporting: Assisting in building the annual report of my team's work.
- 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 famous piece was on how "connectors" on the tube map – a mediation of the transport system itself – distort behaviour and perceptions of space. A list of some of my contributions is available [here](#).
- I run a blog and YouTube channel where I discuss topics in critical theory through the frame of popular culture with 120,000+ total views to date. I have covered non-places, virtual places and the right to the city in video games.
- I have run pub quizzes for Treehouse Quizzes and Audio Network, and am known for my enthusiasm in public speaking.
- 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 UBEL student rep, I delivered the DTP's 2024 student conference.
- I taught English classes for Spanish speakers during my year abroad in a virtual format.
- I am a Prince2 Agile Practitioner with a Level 3 Certificate in Leadership and Management (ILM).

References

Adam Dennett – PhD Supervisor, UCL a.dennett@ucl.ac.uk

Phil Hubbard – MA Supervisor, King's p.hubbard@kcl.ac.uk