

Nikki Luke

University of Tennessee, Knoxville
417 Burchfiel Geography Building
1000 Phillip Fulmer Way
Knoxville, TN 37996-0900
865-974-6029
knluke@utk.edu

EDUCATION

PhD, University of Georgia; Geography, 2020

Title: Finding the Time: Valuing the Social Reproduction of Labor in Atlanta's
Electricity Politics

MSc with distinction, University of Manchester; Environmental Governance, 2015

BPhil summa cum laude, University of Pittsburgh; Environmental Studies, 2014

BS summa cum laude, University of Pittsburgh; Economics, 2014

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urban political ecology, energy, feminist political economy, racial capitalism, labor,
environmental justice, urbanization

CURRENT ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2020- Assistant Professor of Geography, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

AFFILIATIONS

2023- Affiliate Faculty, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Program, University of Tennessee

2022- Affiliate Scholar, Baker Center for Public Policy, University of Tennessee

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

2022-2023 Visiting Scholar, Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, University of Pennsylvania

2015-2016 Policy Analyst, Center for Labor Research and Education, University of
California, Berkeley

2015 Research Assistant, Department of Geography, University of Manchester

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Luke, N. (2023). Just Transition for All? Labor Organizing in the Energy Sector beyond the Loss
of "Jobs Property." *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 113(1), pp.
94-109.

Luke, N. and M. Huber. (2022). Introduction: Uneven Geographies of Electricity Capital in
Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space, 5(4), pp. 1699-1715.

Luke, N. (2022). Powering racial capitalism: Electricity, rate-making, and the uneven energy geographies of Atlanta. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*, 5(4), pp. 1765-1787.

Chen, C., **J. Feng**, **N. Luke**, **C.-P. Kuo**, and J. Fu. (2022). Localized energy burden, concentrated disadvantage, and the feminization of energy poverty. *iScience*.

Luke, N. and N. Heynen. (2021). Abolishing the Frontier: (De)Colonizing ‘Public’ Education. *Social and Cultural Geography*, 22(3), pp. 403-424.

Luke, N. and N. Heynen. (2020). Community Solar as Energy Reparations: Abolishing Petro-Racial Capitalism in New Orleans, special issue on Energy Pasts and Futures in American Studies, *American Quarterly*, 72(3), pp. 603-625.

Luke, N. and M. Kaika. (2019). Ripping the Heart out of Ancoats: Collective Action to Defend Infrastructures of Social Reproduction against Gentrification. *Antipode*. 51(2), pp. 579-600.

Heynen, N., Aiello, D., Keegan, C., and **Luke, N.** (2018). The Enduring Struggle for Social Justice and the City. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 108(2), pp. 301-316.

Invited Commentaries

Luke, N. (2018). “Up, Up with Education, Down, Down with Segregation.” *Southeastern Geographer*, 8(1), pp. 28-34.

Book Chapters

Heynen, N. and **N. Luke**. (2023). “The Case for Reparations, Urban Political Ecology, and the Black Right to Urban Life,” in Kaika, M., Keil, R., Mandler, T., and Tzaninis, Y. (eds.). *Turning Up the Heat: Urban Political Ecology for a Climate Emergency*. Manchester: University of Manchester Press.

Heynen, N., **Luke, N.**, Keegan, C. (2018). “Doreen Massey’s Urban Political Ecology,” in Peck, J., Werner, M., Lave, R., and Christophers, B. (eds.). *Doreen Massey—Critical Dialogues*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Agenda Publishing.

Heynen, N., Aiello, D., Keegan, C., and **Luke, N.** (2018). “The Enduring Struggle for Social Justice and the City,” in N. Heynen (ed.). *Social Justice and the City*. New York: Routledge.

Evans, J., Schwila, G. and **Luke, K.** (2016). “The glorious failure of the experimental city: cautionary tales from Arcosanti and Masdar City,” in Evans, J., Karvonen, A., and Raven, R. (eds.). *The Experimental City*. London: Routledge, Routledge Research in Sustainable Urbanism.

COMMISSIONED RESEARCH REPORTS

Knisley, B., **N. Luke**, R. McIlmoil, and J. Barrett. (July 2022). Save Energy, Grow Jobs in the Tennessee Valley. [Appalachian Voices](#).

Luke, N., Zabin, C., Velasco, D., and Collier, R. (August 2017). Diversity in California’s Clean Energy Workforce: Access to Jobs for Disadvantaged Workers in Renewable Energy Construction. [University of California, Berkeley Labor Center](#).

Proposition 39 Jobs Reporting: Methodology and Innovation, A Report to the Citizens Oversight Board of the California Clean Energy Jobs Act. (March 2016). University of California, Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education Green Economy Program in consultation with the California Workforce Development Board.

Evans, J., Blakey, J., Borlea, F., de Vries, B., Karvonen, A., **Luke, K.**, Paskaleva, K., Wiktorski, T., and Yang, D. (July 2015). Triangulum: The Three Point Project. Common Monitoring and Assessment Frameworks. European Smart Cities and Communities Lighthouse Projects. University of Manchester.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

- 2021 Livingston Professorship, Department of Geography, University of Tennessee, 2021-2023
- 2014 Fulbright U.S. Student Award, Fulbright U.S.-U.K. Student Program
- 2013 Udall Scholarship, Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation
- 2013 Phi Beta Kappa, University of Pittsburgh
- 2010 National Merit Honor Scholarship, University of Pittsburgh

GRANTS

- 2022-2023 Housing Security, Evictions, and Legal Counsel in Knox County, TN (co-PIs Wendy Bach, Adam Hughes, Nikki Luke, Austin Sauerbrei), Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Development Community University Research Collaboration Initiative (CURCI), University of Tennessee, Knoxville, \$20,000
- 2021-2014 “As Goes the South”: Community and Worker Solutions for a Just Transition in South Carolina and Tennessee (PI Shelley Welton, Co-PIs Annie Eisenberg, Conor Harrison, Nikki Luke, and Etienne Toussaint), Sloan Foundation, \$499,438
- 2021 Scholarly Activity and Research Incentive Funds for Summer Graduate Research with Jimmy Feng, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, \$3,600
- 2020 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award, National Science Foundation, \$14,737
- 2019 Innovative and Interdisciplinary Research Grant, UGA Graduate School, \$1,984

2018 Innovative and Interdisciplinary Research Grant, UGA Graduate School, \$1,345

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures

- 2023 A Clean Energy Workforce and the Path to Equity, Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, University of Pennsylvania, March 2.
- 2022 Urban Geographies of Energy: Investigating the Municipal Politics of Electricity in Atlanta, Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, October 28.
- 2022 Urban Energy Democracy: Investigating the Historical-Geographies of Atlanta's Electricity Politics, University of California, Davis Energy Graduate Group Seminar Series, October 7.
- 2021 Climate, Jobs, and Justice? Evaluating the Politics of Clean Energy Jobs in Atlanta, GA, Geospatial Science and Human Security Division, Oak Ridge National Lab, December 1.
- 2021 Energy Justice at Work: The Geographies of Clean Energy Jobs in Atlanta, GA, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy Energy and the Environment Program, Knoxville, TN, January 28.
- 2020 Building Multi-Dimensional Community Resilience for Sustainable and Just Futures, Urban Studies Institute, Atlanta, GA, February 7.
- 2020 Energy Justice from the Ashes: Community Action to Address Energy Poverty, Department of Geography, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, January 30.

Invited Workshops

- 2023 *Bipartisan Policy Center Summit*, hosted by the Office of Research Innovation and Economic Development and Baker Center, Washington, DC, January 18-19.
- 2022 *Geographies of Clean Energy*, UT Manufacturing and Design Innovation Showcase, Knoxville, TN, October 17.
- 2022 *Connecting Rural and Urban Environments for Equitable Access to Transportation, Telecommunications and Energy*, NSF Sustainable Regional Systems Workshop, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, August 18-19.
- 2022 *Worksites: The Labor and Life-Times of Utility Value*, Social Research Workshop, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, February 18.
- 2021 *Climate and Energy Justice in the U.S. South*, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Knoxville, TN, August 30-31.

- 2021 *Cultures of Energy (IX): New Directions in Energy Humanities*, Rice University, Houston, TX, May 27-28.
- 2019 *Policy Institute for Civic Leadership*, Atlanta, GA, September 19-November 14.
- 2019 Antipode's 7th *Institute for the Geographies of Justice*, Mexico City, Mexico, June 16-21.
- 2018 *Labor in the Climate Transition: Charting the Roadmap for 2019 and Beyond at the Global Climate Action Summit*, Berkeley, CA, September 12.
- 2015 *U.S.-U.K. Fulbright Forum*, Belfast, United Kingdom, January 8-9.
- 2013 *The Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Scholars Conference*, Tucson, AZ, August 7-10.
- 2011 *Future Forests*, Beijing, China, April 6-11.

Conference Papers

- 2023 *Questioning the Future of Energy Work while Training Future Energy Workers*, 77th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Denver, CO, March 24.
- 2022 *The Fight for Energy Democracy in Atlanta, GA* with Wan Smith, Southeast Division of the American Association of Geographers, Atlanta, GA, November 21.
- 2022 *Employment and Energy Efficiency in the Tennessee Valley* with Bri Knisley, Connecting Rural and Urban Environments for Equitable Access to Transportation, Telecommunications and Energy, NSF Sustainable Regional Systems Workshop, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, August 18.
- 2022 *Coal Ash Legacies, Demand-Response Futures: Reproducing Racialized Uneven Development in Atlanta's Energy Transition*, 76th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, New York, NY, March 1.
- 2021 *Just Transition for All? Labor Organizing beyond Property in Jobs in the Era of Climate Change*, RGS-IBG Annual International Conference, London, UK, August 31.
- 2021 *Feminist Energy Geographies: Everyday Methods and the Politics of Knowledge*, 75th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Seattle, WA, April 8.
- 2019 *"Bright Spots," "Big Bets": Imagining Electricity Capital at Southern Company's Georgia Power through Time*, 73rd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Washington, DC, April 4.
- 2019 *An Abolition Ecology Perspective on Community Solar as Energy Reparations* with Nik

- Heynen, 9th Annual Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, Lexington, KY, February 23.
- 2018 *Ain't no Sunshine: Organizing Racialized Energy Labor Around the California Sun*, 72nd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, New Orleans, LA, Apr 10.
- 2018 *Renewing Electrical Apprenticeship: A Critical Look at How Renewable Energy is Remaking Worker Training Programs in California's Central Valley*, University of Georgia 4th Geography Graduate Research Symposium, Athens, GA, February 2.
- 2017 *Defaulting on a Post-Coal Future: The Political Ecology of Coal Company Bankruptcy, Reclamation, and the Movement for a Just Transition*. 71st Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Boston, MA, April 8.
- 2017 *Excavating the History of SMCRA: A Political Ecological Account of Work, Reclamation, and Bankruptcy in Appalachia*, 7th Annual Dimensions of Political Ecology, Lexington, KY, February 24.
- 2017 *The Miner's Protection Act: A Review of the United Mine Workers of America Pension Program and Bankruptcy in Appalachia*, University of Georgia 3rd Annual Geography Graduate Research Symposium, Athens, GA, February 3.
- 2016 *New East Manchester? Historicizing Health, Wellness, and the Working Class Body to Resist Gentrification*, 70th Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, San Francisco, CA, March 30.
- 2015 *Nature and the City: Conflicting Definitions of Sustainability in New East Manchester Regeneration*, Fulbright Forum, Belfast, United Kingdom, January 8.
- Panel Participation*
- 2023 *Energy Justice*, 3rd Annual Futures and Directions panel of the Energy and Environment Specialty Group, 77th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Denver, CO, March 24.
- 2023 *In Conversation with Ray Hudson: Placing British Coal in New Contexts of Transition*, 77th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Denver, CO, March 25.
- 2022 *Liberatory Ecologies: A Dialogue on the Intersection of Climate Justice, Reproductive Justice, and Place*, National Women's Studies Association, November 12.
- 2022 *Faculty Panel on Policy-Related Research Experiences*, Baker Center Affiliates Workshop, The Howard H. Baker Center for Public Policy, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, November 4.

- 2022 *Utility Justice and Disparities Across the Board*, Justice & Beyond Louisiana, April 25.
- 2022 *Sustainable Urban Water and Energy*, Black Ecologies Week, Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, March 8.
- 2022 *Climate Justice and Reproductive Justice*, 76th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, New York, NY, March 1.
- 2022 *Energy Justice: Pedagogy and Praxis*, 76th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, New York, NY, February 25.
- 2021 *Feminist Energy Geographies*, 75th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Seattle, WA, April 8.
- 2021 *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Research*, The Graduate School, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, February 18.
- 2021 *Building Union and Community Partnerships*, Tennessee New Green Economy Compass Conference, Nashville, TN, February 9.
- 2020 *Place, Power, and Plural Knowledges: Navigating Community-Based Initiatives in Uncertain Times*, 10th Annual Dimensions of Political Ecology, Lexington, KY, February 27-29.
- 2019 *Author Meets Critics for Juan De Lara's Inland Shift: Race, Space, and Capital in Southern California*, 73rd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Washington, DC, April 7.
- 2019 *Frontiers of Rent and Rentiership in the Green Economy*, 73rd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Washington, DC, April 6.
- 2019 *Uneven Geographies of Electricity Capital*, 73rd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Washington, DC, April 4.
- 2018 *Advancing Equity in Language Education Roundtable with U-Lead Athens*, Georgia Association of Multilingual and Multicultural Educators Dual Language Symposium, Athens, GA, March 9.
- 2017 *A Just Transition? Critical Geographies of Appalachia*, 71st Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Boston, MA, April 5.

TEACHING

University of Tennessee

Introductory Level

Sustainability: Reducing Our Impact on Planet Earth
Sustainability Service-Learning Class

Upper Division, Undergraduate

Cities as Economic Engines
Energy, Governance, and Sustainability
Livable Cities

Graduate Level

Colloquium in Geography
Topics in Urban/Economic Geography: Urban Crisis
Qualitative Methods

University of Georgia

Introductory Level

World Geography

Teaching Assistant

World Geography,
Sapelo Island Service-Learning Maymester Course

University of Pittsburgh

Teaching Assistant

Environmental Communications

ADVISING

PhD Advisor

Caleb Gore, UTK Geography (expected graduation May 2026)

Master's Advisor

Lutfiyah Madyun (co-advised with LaToya Eaves), UTK Geography (expected graduation, May 2024)

Rose Shelor (co-advised with Solange Muñoz), UTK Geography (expected graduation August 2023)

Sam Myers-Miller, UTK Geography (2022)

Victoria Haynes, UTK Geography (2022)

Bethany Craig (co-advised with Derek Alderman), UTK Geography (2022)

PhD Committee Member

Abel Traslaviña-Arias, UTK Geography (expected graduation May 2026)

Sukanya Das, UTK Geography (expected graduation May 2026)

Haya Albaker, UTK Geography (expected graduation May 2025)

Allie Kahl, UTK Bredesen Center (expected graduation May 2024)

Master's Thesis Committee Member

Anna Mesa, UTK Geography (expected graduation May 2024)
Luke Brice, UTK Geography (expected graduation May 2024)
Livingstone Makwerere, UTK Geography (expected graduation May 2023)
Rosemary Ayelazuno, UTK Geography (2023)
Kayla Roulhac, UTK Geography (2023)
Devyn Kelly, UTK Geography (2023)
Yael Uziel, UTK Geography (2021)

Undergraduate Advisor

Hayley Simpson, UTK College Scholars (expected graduation May 2024)
Isabella Killius (co-advised with Michael McKinney), UTK Haslam Scholar (2022)

Undergraduate Thesis Reader

Emily Morgan, UTK College Scholars (2023)
Carly Broady, UTK College Scholars (2022)
Elizabeth Wilkes, UGA Geography Honors (2018).

SERVICE

Conferences Organized

2018 4th Annual Geography Graduate Research Symposium, University of Georgia, February 2.

Conference Sessions Organized

- 2021 *Feminist Energy Geographies* with Danya Al-Saleh, 75th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Seattle, WA.
- 2019 *Uneven Geographies of Electricity Capital*, co-organized with Matthew Huber, 73rd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Washington, DC.
- 2019 *Abundant Futures for Whom? Embodying the Uneven Geographies of Decarbonization and Energy Transitions*, co-organized with Nik Heynen, Patrick Korte, and Jesse Goldstein, 8th Annual Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, Lexington, KY.
- 2018 *Locating Socially-Just Energy Transitions*, co-organized with Carlo Sica, 72nd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, New Orleans, LA.

Departmental Service

- 2020- Diversity Committee Co-Chair, Department of Geography
2023- Supporting Women and Non-Binary Geographers
2022-2023 Faculty Advisor to the Graduate GeoSym Conference
2022 Colloquium 501 Coordinator
2022 Special Event Coordinating Committee
2020-2021 McCroskey Scholarship Committee Member

College Service

2023- Connections Packages: Sustainability and Environment Curriculum Committee
2022-2023 Dean's Advisory Council, College of Arts and Sciences
2021-2023 College Diversity Committee, College of Arts and Sciences

University Service

2022- Sustainability Working Group
2022 Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement, Social
Science Poster Competition Judge
2021-2022 Committee for the Campus Environment, Sustainable Procurement and Solar
Energy Working Groups

Editorial Board Member

2021-2024 Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space

Research Advisory Board Membership

2023 TVA Pathways Study
2022 TVA Connected Communities, Elders Alerts System about Imminent
Environmental Risks (EASIER) project

Journal Editorial Assistant

2017-2019 Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space

Book Reviewer

1) Cambridge University Press; 2) University of Mississippi Press

JOURNAL REVIEWER

1) Annals of the American Association of Geographers; 2) Antipode; 3) Environment and
Planning E: Nature and Space; 4) Geoforum; 5) Nature Communications; 6) Energy
Research and Social Sciences; 7) Journal of Geography in Higher Education; 8)
Environment and Society: Advances in Research; 9) Journal of Urban Affairs; 10)
Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers; 11) Dialogues in Human Geography;
12) Progress in Environmental Geography; 13) Anthropological Theory; 14) Renewable
and Sustainable Transitions

Proposal Reviewer

National Science Foundation

Community Engagement

2016-2020 Volunteer Coordinator U-Lead Athens

CONSULTING

- In progress* *Sectoral Bargaining and the Clean Energy Workforce* with the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy
- In progress* *Critical Minerals Refining and Processing* with the Bipartisan Policy Center
- 2022 *Comments on TVA’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Cumberland Fossil Plant Retirement* for Appalachian Voices.
- 2018-2019 *Economic Justice Metrics: 2018-19 Update of Metrics and Mechanisms for Job Quality, Job Access, and Just Transition in Illinois* for Sierra Club Illinois with Inclusive Economics, LLC.
- 2018 *Pre-Apprenticeship in Proposition 39 Best Practices Report* for the California Workforce Development Board with Inclusive Economics, LLC.
- 2018 *Employment Impacts of Electrification of California Buildings* for Sierra Club California with Inclusive Economics, LLC
- 2018 *San Francisco Bay Area Analysis: Creating Economic Opportunities in Green Infrastructure Investments* for The Greenlining Institute with Inclusive Economics, LLC.
- 2016 *Just Transition Toolkit* for The Clean Power Plan for All Collaborative with the Center for Labor Research and Education at the University of California, Berkeley

INTERVIEWS IN PRINT, ON FILM, OR ON RADIO

“U-Lead Athens: Educating Un(der)Documented Students” in Nothing Never Happens: A Podcast of Radical Musings on Social Justice, Pedagogies for Transformation, and Feminist Activism, January 31, 2019.

RESEARCH PRESS COVERAGE

Segerstrom, C. (2022) Building equity into the renewable energy transition: Community and labor organizers shape New Mexico’s changing economy. [High Country News](#), 12 January.

Freund, J. (2021). Apprenticeships and the Labor Movement. [U.S. Department of Labor Blog](#), 19 November.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association of American Geographers

- Black Geographies Specialty Group
- Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group
- Environment and Energy Specialty Group

-Feminist Geographies Specialty Group
-Urban Geography Specialty Group
Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers