

Maya Weinberg

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EDUCATION

M.S., 2025. Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education

The Pennsylvania State University (PSU)

Thesis Title: *Beyond the Original Contour: Legitimizing Transition on Eastern Kentucky's Mined Landscapes*

B.A. 2019. Political Science, Highest Honors in Latin American Studies

The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (UNC)

Thesis Title: *Culture, Consumption, and the Decline of Subsistence Farming in Oaxaca, Mexico*

COMPLETED APPOINTMENTS

2025-2026	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Governor's Science and Technology Fellowship Led the Untold Stories public history initiative to document stories, impacts, and experiences of underrepresented groups on public lands.
2024-2025	PSU College of Agricultural Sciences Graduate Assistant Led campus integration program for rural community college and commonwealth campus transfer students.
2025-2025	Centre County Conservation District Public Education Consultant Developed and led high school curricula and zine creation on Abandoned Mine Drainage used at 7 local public schools
2021-2024	Oak Foundation, Learning Differences Program Fellow & Consultant Managed \$300,000 capacity building portfolio, monitored grantee progress, facilitated youth engagement, co-organized triennial grantee convening
2021-2023	Princeton in Latin America, Carmen Pampa Fund Fellow Interviewed students for development materials, secured \$50,000 in scholarship grants
2020- 2021	Carolina College Advising Corps, Scotland County High School Career Advisor Counseled rural, first-generation students and their families at a Title I high school

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Weinberg, Maya**, Spangler, Kaitlyn, & Curry, Kevin. (2026). Beyond the Original Contour: Legitimizing Transition on Eastern Kentucky's Post-Mining Landscapes. *Energy Research and Social Science*.
- Kampman, Halie, Brant, Kristina, **Weinberg, Maya**, King, Brian, & Sterner, Glenn. (2025). Initial stakeholder perceptions around opioid settlement funds in Pennsylvania. *Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention Policy* 20, 45 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13011-025-00665-7>
- Spangler, Kaitlyn, Baka, Jennifer, Wiseman, Hannah, Goldberg, Zachary A., Schoenecker, Kristin, & **Weinberg, Maya**. (2024). Legitimizing grid-scale solar: Shaping Pennsylvania's farmland as renewable energy landscape. *Sustainability Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-024-01622-2>

Weinberg, Maya, Brant, Kristina, Kampman, Halie, King, Brian, & Glenn Sterner. (2026, submitted)
Decentralized by Design: Sociospatial Implications of County Control over Opioid
Settlement Funding, *Qualitative Research in Health*.

Noroña, Belén, **Weinberg, Maya**, & **Spangler, Kaitlyn**. (manuscript in preparation). Unruly Encounters:
Liveliness and knowledge production amidst cross-hemispheric ruin. *Target Journal: Environment
and Planning E: Nature and Space*

GRANTS

- 2024 PSU Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education (AESE)
(\$1,500) Endowment Grant for thesis research
- 2024 PSU AESE Travel Fund, Global Land Program (GLP) Open Science Meeting (\$800)
- 2024 PSU College of Agricultural Sciences, Global Land Program Travel Grant (\$500)
- 2023 PSU College of Agricultural Sciences, UNESCO Global Youth Forum Travel Award (\$800)
- 2019 Davis Projects for Peace (\$10,000)
- 2018 UNC-Chapel Hill Global Research Institute, Global Food Program Research Grant (\$5,000).
- 2018 UNC-Chapel Hill Institute for the Study of the Americas, Crane Research Award, (\$500)

AWARDS

- 2025 PSU Fox Graduate School, Distinguished Master's Thesis Award
- 2025 PSU College of Agricultural Sciences, Paul Hand Research Award
- 2025 PSU College of Agricultural Sciences, Distinguished Master's Award
- 2024 NSF Innovations in Graduate Education Summer Fellowship
- 2023 PSU College of Agricultural Science, Black Family Endowed Graduate Fellowship
- 2019 UNC-Chapel Hill, Gil Undergraduate Thesis Award
- 2019 UNC-Chapel Hill, Highest Honors in the Curriculum in Latin American Studies
- 2019 UNC-Chapel Hill, Center for Public Service Buckley, Public Service Scholar
- 2018 UNC-Chapel Hill, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Paper Presentations

- 2025 **Weinberg, Maya**. Beyond the Original Contour: (De)Legitimizing Transition on Eastern
Kentucky's Post-Mining Landscapes. Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociology Society. Salt Lake
City, UT. August 2025.
- 2025 **Weinberg, Maya**. Legitimizing Land Imaginaries: Methods for mapping youth land
relations in sites of energy transition. American Association for Geographers' Annual
Conference. Detroit, MI. March 2025.
- 2025 **Weinberg, Maya**, Spangler, Kaitlyn, & Jarrell, Desi. Contestations of land use transitions on
Central Appalachian Mountaintop Removals Landscapes. Global Land Program Open
Science Meeting. Oaxaca, México. November 2024

Poster Presentations

- 2026 **Weinberg, Maya.** Inclusive History Lessons in Pennsylvania State Parks Programs. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Annual Park Managers' Conference. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Erie, PA. April 2026.
- 2026 **Weinberg, Maya.** Building a Public History of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). DCNR Annual Foresters Conference. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. State College, PA. January 2026.
- 2025 **Weinberg, Maya & Armesto, Alejandra.** Tracing Abandoned Mine Drainage in the Moshannon Creek Watershed: Imagining past, present, and future waterways through high school student zines. Annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum. National Conservation Training Center, WV. November 2025
- 2024 **Weinberg, Maya.** Legitimizing Landscape Transitions: Visualizing the construction and projection of land use by Community College students in sites of de-industrialization. Gamma Sigma Delta Research Symposium. State College, PA. March 2024.
- 2024 **Weinberg, Maya.** Participatory mapping as a scaffolding method for land imaginaries research. PSU Graduate Research Symposium. State College, PA. March 2024.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2025 **Weinberg, Maya.** Global Perspectives on Water Challenges: Community resource governance in the Paramos of Chingaza. Penn State Water Conference. March 2025.
- 2024 Spangler, Kaitlyn & **Weinberg, Maya.** Case Studies of Participatory Mapping in Qualitative Research. Qualitative Research Methods Workshop, Social Science Research Institute's Rural Health Workgroup. November 2024. State College, PA.
- 2024 **Weinberg, Maya.** Engaging Young Adults Through Participatory Methods to Imagine Alternative Climate Futures. Workshop: Examining Facets of Justice in Government and Public Climate Responses and Operationalizing Transformative Climate Justice. Penn State Huck Institute for Life Sciences. October 2024. State College, PA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2024 **Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano - Bogotá, Colombia**
Youth Diploma Facilitator: Caring for the High Mountains: Water-Energy-Food Nexus Governance (15 students)
- 2016-2019 **UNC-Chapel Hill Global Studies Curriculum**
Teaching Assistant: Current Topics in International Relations (~12 students/year)
- 2018 **UNC-Chapel Hill Food for All Curriculum**
Instructor of Record and Spring Trip Leader: North Carolina Food Systems (10 students)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2026-present University of Tennessee, Department of Geography and Sustainability
Graduate Research Assistant | National Science Foundation DISES: Enhancing ecological and community resiliency through sustainable forestry and forest-based climate solutions
- 2024-present PSU Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering
Graduate Research Assistant | Novel Carbon-Sequestering Production of Biochar and Building Materials from Crop Residues to Enhance Crop Yields in the Northeastern United States

2023-2025	PSU Social Science Research Institute Graduate Research Assistant Analyzed qualitative data, created codebook, co-authored and led research publications on community governance of Opioid Settlement funds and cross-county harm reduction priorities.
2019-2020	Stanford University Center for Poverty and Inequality American Voices Project Research Fellow Conducted 90 interviews in 5 Central Appalachian census blocks on economic mobility, wrote ethnographic reports, coded data

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2023-2025	Degree Representative College of Agricultural Sciences, Graduate Student Advisory Committee
2023-2024	Department Representative College of Agricultural Sciences, Office of Multicultural Affairs
2023-2024	Graduate Student Representative College of Agricultural Science, Leadership Hiring Committee
2023-2025	Treasurer Education, Development, and Community Engagement Graduate Student Organization

NEWS MEDIA AND ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

- Kampman, Halie, King, Brian, Brant, Kristina, Sterner, Glenn, & **Weinberg, Maya**. (2025). Pennsylvania counties face tough choices on spending \$1 billion in opioid settlement funds. The Conversation. <https://theconversation.com/pennsylvania-counties-face-tough-choices-on-spending-2b-opioid-settlement-funds-267725>
- Weinberg, Maya**. (2025). Youth-led Rural Transformation: Imagining a post-coal future. Just Rural Futures Blog of the American Association for Geographers. <https://justruralfutures.substack.com/p/shaping-land-futures-eastern-kentucky>
- Weinberg, Maya** & Longo, Magnolia. (2025). Co-creating conservation governance solutions with Colombia's rural Páramo communities: Reflections from the Water-Energy-Food Nexus Diploma Program. Longo Lab and Colombia-US WEF Nexus Project Report. <https://sites.psu.edu/wefnexus/newsletter/>
- Weinberg, Maya**. (2023). Accessibility Toolkit for Supporting Learning Differences at Work. *Oak Foundation's Learning Different Programme*. bit.ly/3ZNKI5f

PROJECTS

2025	Beyond the Ruins A creative exploration of post-disaster livelihoods Pine Mountain Settlement School Gloaming Exhibit, Pine Mountain, Kentucky
2024	Remediating the Red Moshannon A beginner's guide to the past, present, and future of Abandoned Mine Drainage in Central Pennsylvania. Collaborative zine with Philipsburg High School Students. https://tinyurl.com/3jbjd9zn
2019-2021	Davis Projects for Peace Semillas Sostenibles (Sustainable Seeds) landrace seed bank, Oaxaca, Mexico.

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Excellent

MEMBERSHIPS

American Association for Geography: Energy Geography SIG, Political Industrial Ecology SIG

Global Land Program: Early Career Network
Rural Sociology Society: Natural Resources SIG, Youth & Education SIG
PSU Botany, Ethnobotany, and Agroforestry Lab (Under Dr. Erik Burkhart)