

Emma Jean Slager
Urban Studies Program
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Education

- 2018 PhD Geography
University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Dissertation Title: *Infrastructures of survival: digital justice and Black poetics in community Internet provision*
- 2013 MA Geography
University of Oregon, Eugene, OR
Thesis Title: *Touring Detroit: Ruins, Representation, and Redevelopment*
- 2010 BA Geography, History (with honors)
Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI

Professional History

- 2019-Present Assistant Professor, School of Urban Studies, University of Washington Tacoma
- 2013-2018 Graduate Student Employee, Department of Geography, University of Washington Seattle
- 2011-2013 Graduate Teaching Fellow, Department of Geography, University of Oregon

Research Interests

- Digital Geographies (community technology, critical GIS, queer and feminist digital geography)
- Urban Geographies (urban spatial politics, neoliberalization, urban commoning)
- Black Geographies (geographies of survival, Afrofuturism, poetic imaginaries)
- Infrastructure Studies (post-colonial infrastructure, infrastructure and scale)

Publications

[Peer reviewed journal articles](#)

Slager, E.J. (In preparation). "Where freedom dreams meet sociotechnical imaginaries: Digital Justice and community wireless Internet networking." In preparation for *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*.

Slager, E.J. (2020). "Ruin Tours: Performing and Consuming Decay in Detroit." *Urban Geography*, 41(1): 124-142, DOI: [10.1080/02723638.2019.1637194](https://doi.org/10.1080/02723638.2019.1637194).

Other published work

Slager, E.J. (2014, July 8). "Fighting with Family and Seeking Transformation through Care." *Relational Poverty Network Blog*. Available at <https://depts.washington.edu/povblog/fighting-family-seeking-transformation-care/>

Slager, E.J. (2008, January). "Victorio Communion." *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*.

Fellowships and Research Support

- 2013-2017 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, Proposal: "Technologies of citizenship: evaluating community-based responses to the digital divide," \$132,000
- 2017 Howard Martin Research Grant, Dept. of Geography, University of Washington Seattle, \$1,500
- 2016 Graduate Student Research Grant, Urban Geography Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers, \$500
- 2011-2014 Lilly Graduate Fellowship in the Arts and Humanities, \$9,000
- 2012 Margaret Trussell Scholarship, Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, \$1,000
- 2012 Larry Ford Fieldwork Scholarship in Cultural Geography, Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, \$500
- 2012 Summer Research Award, Dept. of Geography, University of Oregon, \$450

Awards and Honors

- 2015, 2018 Outstanding Teaching Assistant, University of Washington Department of Geography
- 2012 President's Award for Outstanding Paper by a Master's Student, Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Annual Meeting

Academic Teaching Experience

University of Washington Tacoma

Instructor

Participatory Mapping (TGIS 450)
Web-based GIS (TGIS 503)
Mobile Geospatial Application Development (TGIS 504)
Environmental Planning Applications (TGIS 506)
Practicum I: Planning and Design (TGIS 507)
Practicum II: Implementation (TGIS 508)

University of Washington Seattle

Instructor

Introduction to Globalization (GEOG 123)
Digital Geographies (GEOG 258)

Teaching Assistant

Digital Geographies (GEOG 258)
Introduction to Urban Geography (GEOG 277)
Urban GIS (GEOG 461)
GIS and Geovisualization Workshop (GEOG 469)

University of Oregon

Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Human Geography (GEOG 142)
World Regional Geography (GEOG 201)
Geography of Europe (GEOG 202)
Geography of Pacific Asia (GEOG 205)
Geography of U.S. and Canada (GEOG 208)

Calvin College

Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Cartography and GIS (GEOG 261)
Human Impacts on the Environment (ENVS 210)
History and Philosophy of Environmental Thought (ENVS 395)

Community Teaching Experience

Detroit Community Technology Project, Allied Media Projects. NextGen Apps Instructor (16-week intensive after-school coding program for middle and high-school students), 2017.

Telluride Association Sophomore Seminar, University of Michigan. Factotum (6 week-residential summer program in critical Black studies for high school students), 2010.

Service Learning Center, Calvin College. Community Garden Manager (summer-long community garden manager leading weekly gardening workshops), 2009.

Talks and Conference Participation

Invited talks

"Infrastructures of digital justice." (Keynote presentation). Critical Geographies Mini-Conference. University of Oregon. Eugene, OR. October 2019.

Paper presentations

"Where freedom dreams meet sociotechnical imaginaries." American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Denver, CO. April 2019. *Cancelled due to CoVID-19.

"The infrastructure of digital justice: mesh networking in Detroit, MI." American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. April 2017.

"Ruin Tourism: Consuming Decay in Detroit." Transformations Graduate Conference in Anthropology. Wayne State University. Detroit, MI. March 2017.

"Comparing media framings of wireless mesh networks." American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. April 2015.

"Touring Detroit: ruins, representation, and redevelopment." Critical Geographies Conference. Port Angeles, WA. October 2013.

"Niche tourism, urban redevelopment, and the representation of industrial decline in Detroit." American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA. April 2013.

Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Annual Meeting. Olympia, WA. October 2012.

"Tourism, urban redevelopment, and the representation of industrial decline in Detroit, MI."

"Women's leadership in the CRC: A social movement analysis," (with Helen Sterk). Annual Conference of the Organization for the Study of Language, Communication, and Gender. Nashville, TN. October 2008.

Panels

"Activist approaches to techno-capitalism." (Invited). American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Denver, CO. April 2019. *Cancelled due to CoVID-19.

"New voices in Digital Geographies." (Invited). American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Denver, CO. April 2019. *Cancelled due to CoVID-19.

Poster Presentations

"Political boundaries and obscured barriers: rethinking food desert mapping." Graduate Student Research Forum, University of Oregon. February 2012.

Sessions organized

“Politics and Identity in Digital Geographies I, II, and III,” (with Casey Lynch and Will Payne). American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Denver, CO. April 2019. *Cancelled due to CoVID-19.

“Digital Geographies of Difference: Digital Geographies Keynote Panel,” (with Will Payne). American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Washington, DC, April 2019.

“Anti-Racism Politics in the City: a Graduate Student Roundtable,” (with Rachael Baker). American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA, April 2018.

Leadership & Service

Professional Service

ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies. Editorial Collective Member, 2020-present.

Digital Geographies Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers. Board Member, 2018-present.

Urban Geography Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers. Student Board Member, 2017-2019.

University Service

Urban Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, University of Washington Tacoma. Member, 2019-present.

Urban Studies GIS and Geospatial Technology Committee, University of Washington Tacoma. Member, 2019-present.

Department of Geography Diversity and Inclusivity Committee, University of Washington Seattle. Member, 2017-2018.

Academic Workers for a Democratic University, University of Washington Seattle. Organizing Member, 2014-2018.

Geography Graduate Student Writing Group, University of Washington Seattle. Organizer, 2014-2016.

Geography Graduate Student Association, University of Washington Seattle. Co-President, 2014-2015.

Geography Department Colloquium Committee, University of Oregon. Member, 2012-2013.

Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation, University of Oregon. Department Steward, 2012-2013.

American Federations of Teachers-Oregon. Annual Convention Delegate, 2012.

Community Service

Tacoma Cooperative Network. Tacoma, WA. Outreach volunteer. 2020-present.

Telluride Association (educational non-profit). Ithaca, NY and Ann Arbor, MI. Board of Directors, Central Advisory Committee (elected), and Officer of Conduct and Equity (past appointment). 2011-present.

Uniting Detroiters/Detroit People's Platform. Detroit, MI. Data analyst, mapping assistant, community mapping workshop leader. 2012-2017.

Michigan Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. Detroit, MI. Legal Observer. 2017.

Tricycle Collective/United Community Housing Coalition. Detroit, MI. Canvasser and data analyst. 2017.

City/University Community Advisory Committee (CUCAC). Seattle, WA. University of Washington Graduate Student Representative. 2013-2015.

Washington Geodetic Survey. Seattle, WA. Data analyst. 2011.

Current Professional Memberships

American Association of Geographers (AAG)

Black Geographies Specialty Group

Digital Geographies Specialty Group

Urban Geography Specialty Group

Association of Pacific Coast Geographers (APCG)

Washington Women in GIS and Technology (WWGT)