Colt Pierce

Ph.D Candidate, UIUC, Department of GGIS
Coltp2@Illinois.edu

EDUCATION

Doctorate of Philosophy, Geography

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign August 2020 – May 2025

Advisor: David Wilson

Master of Arts, Geography *en route* to PhD

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Advisor: David Wilson

Bachelor of Arts with Honors, *magnum cum laude,* Geography & History

Emory & Henry College, Emory, Virginia May 2020

Advisor: Edward Davis & Jack Wells

*Honors Thesis: "*The Rise of Black Metal: A Spatial Analysis of Extreme Music, Emotion, and Norway," advised by Dr. Edward Davis.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Primary Instructor, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign — 2021- Present

Courses:

- GEOG 104 (Fall 2021): Social and Cultural Geography
- GEOG 254 (Spring 2022): American People, Places, and Environment
- GEOG 204 (Summer 2022): Cities of the World
- GGIS 204 (Winter 2023): Cities of the World
- GGIS 204 (Summer 2023): Cities of the World
- GGIS 104 (Fall 2023): Social and Cultural Geography
  - -Assigned TA to mentor
- GGIS 204 (Winter 2023-24): Cities of the World
- GGIS 204 (Summer 2024): Cities of the World

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Illinois — 2020 - Present

Courses:

- GEOG 101 (Spring 2021): Global Development and Environment, Dr. Kwame Tsikudo
- GEOG 204 (Fall 2020): Cities of the World, Dr. Sian Butcher

- GEOG 104 (Fall 2022): Social & Cultural Geography, Dr. David Wilson
- GEOG 101 (Spring 2023): Global Development and Environment

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Urban Politics and Theory

Gentrification, revitalization, and development

Latinx urbanisms

Sound studies

Ethnography

Qualitative analysis and coding

FELLOWSHIPS

George Beatty Fellow, University of Illinois, Department of GGIS, $11,040, Spring 2024

- Received to conduct fieldwork in Austin, Texas for dissertation research

University of Illinois Graduate College Block I Fellow, University of Illinois, $25,000, Fall 2024 – Spring 2025

- Received to be relieved of teaching duties to complete dissertation writing

PUBLICATIONS

Pierce, Colt. 2024. People as infrastructure: Designing nostalgia and storytelling in Austin's downtown. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 1-17.

Keller, Judith and Pierce, Colt Austin. 2024. Let's talk about emotional labor —some reflections from the field. *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, 48(2), 145-156.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Pierce, Colt & Wilson, David, forthcoming, "Existential Gentrification," chapter in Elvin Wyly's Handbook on Gentrification.

Pierce, Colt, forthcoming, "Sounding the Rent Gap," chapter in dissertation, intended for *Urban Geography*.

Pierce, Colt, forthcoming, "We are Urbanists, too," for *Latine Studies Conference*.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois

- "People as Infrastructure Politics," Masters thesis. Used thematic coding and ethnographic analysis to discuss gentrification and resistance politics. Interviewed over 100 people and hundreds of hours of observations.
- "The Politics of Sound," dissertation research, 2023-present. Consisted of archival research, interviews, observations, and qualitative coding analysis. Develops novel ways to study gentrification.
- Wilson, David, "Dracula Urbanism" — created cartographic materials for publication.

Emory & Henry College

Honors Thesis

- Successfully defended Honors College Thesis over the spatial analysis of the Norwegian Black Metal scene in front of department chairs and program directors.
- Used theories of spatiality, transcendentalism, and emotion and utilized ethnographic methods, ArcGIS, and qualitative interviews.
- Spent the summer of 2018 in Oslo using a $2,000 stipend granted by the Honors Program to conduct interviews and travel to research sites.

Department of Housing and Student Life

- Interned for Emory & Henry Housing Department for Summer 2019. Interviewed former and current coal miners.
- Used spatial analysis and qualitative analysis techniques to help the College with its strategic planning process to retain and attract native Appalachians to the school.
- Presented findings to professional college staff to enhance the student life curriculum.

TEACHING CREDENTIALS AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Illinois Teaching Institute

- Received credentials in multimodal teaching
- Received credentials in hybrid teaching
- Received credentials in innovative assessment and pedagogy
- Received credentials in increasing student engagement

- Trained in syllabus and curriculum development
- Worked with the University of Illinois graduate college and Department of Geography to redevelop GGIS 204: Cities of the World curriculum.

INVITED LECTURES & CONFERENCES PRESENTATIONS

- "We Are Urbanists, too," paper presentation, Latine Studies Graduate Student Conference, October 5th, 2024.
- "Affective Urban Soundscapes," Invited lecture at UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design, Spring 2024.
- "People as Infrastructure Politics: Designing Nostalgia and Storytelling in Austin's Downtown," American Association of Geographers, Denver, Spring 2023.
- "People as Infrastructure: Meaning Politics of Austin's Redevelopment Machine," American Association of Geographers, New York, Spring 2022.
- "A Theoretical Analysis on Coal in Appalachian Communities," Appalachian Studies Association Conference, University of Kentucky, Spring 2020
- "The Rise of Black Metal," Ampersand Day, Emory & Henry College, Spring 2020
- "The Rise of Black Metal," National Collegiate Honors Conference, New Orleans, Fall 2019

ADVISING

University of Illinois

- Selected to advise Jakob Robinson's Honors College Capstone Project on Geographic Foodways
- Selected to develop Oscar Gershfeld's individual education curriculum focused on music & GIS
- Advised Kei Kato in the development of the Graduate Teaching Assistant position
- Advised GD Kim in the development of GGIS 254 ONL course website
- Fall 2020 and Fall 2022, served as Dr. Butcher's and Dr. Wilson's teaching assistant, taking over tutoring duties for undergraduate courses. Fall 2020, oversaw 150 students with the development of writing and testing skills. Fall 2022, oversaw 30 students in the development of geographical thought, writing skills, and testing skills.

RESIDENCE LIFE

Emory & Henry College

Resident Advisor, 2017-2018; Student Resident Director, 2018-2019

- Oversaw over 100 residents
- Head resident advisor of 6 RA's

- Developed monthly educational programming for student and resident engagement
- Trained in mental health first aid
- Lead monthly staff meetings

Community Advisor, 2019-2020

- Supervisor of 3 Head RA's and 20 RA's
- Lead weekly developmental staff meetings
- Part of Department of Housing and Residence Life strategic and programmatic development
- Helped develop housing policy and worked with university administration to plan networking events for post-graduate student success
- On-call for disciplinary recording and reporting

RELEVANT HONORS & MEMBERSHIPS

- UIUC Teachers Ranked as Excellent (Ranked 90th percentile of all faculty across the campus)
    - Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2022, Winter 2023, Summer 2023, Fall 2023, Winter 2024
- VCHC Honors Scholar of the Year Nominee, 2020
- Top GPA Award in Geography, Emory & Henry, 2020, received $100
- Emory & Henry College Scholar-Athlete of the Year, 2020
- President of the Hermesian Society, longest-running collegiate debate club, 2019-2020
- Blue Key Honors Society Inductee, 2019
- Student Resident Director of the Year, 2019
- Gamma Theta Upsilon Honors Society Inductee, 2018
- Phi Gamma Mu Honors Society Inductee, 2017
- NCAA Highest Team GPA 2016, 2017, 2018
- Academic All-ODAC, Cross Country, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
- Emory & Henry Cross Country/Track & Field Captain, 2019-2020

REFERENCES

Dr. David Wilson, Professor
Department of Geography, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Dwilson2@illinois.edu

Dr. Sian Butcher, Assistant Professor
Department of Geography, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Sbutcher@illinois.edu

Dr. Julie Cidell, Professor & Department Head
Department of Geography, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Jcidell@illinois.edu

Dr. Nikolai Alvarado, Assistant Professor
Department of Geography, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Nikolaia@illinois.edu

Dr. Edward Davis, Professor & Department Chair
Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences, Emory & Henry College
ehdavis@ehc.edu