**Nina Roberts, MA, ABD**

*2072 S. Orchard St. A, Urbana, IL 61801 Department of Geography and GIS*

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# Education

## PhD in Geography (in progress) Aug 2024

*University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*  (expected)

**Dissertation:** “Risk, Refuge, and the Rhetoric of Crisis: Connecting

the ‘Real Estate State’ with Climate Change in Flagstaff, Arizona”

**Advisor:** David Wilson

**MA in** Geography **and Environmental Studies A**ug 2016

*Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, Illinois*

**Thesis:** “Tourism and Gentrification in the Land of Enchantment: The Discourses

of Capital and Colonialism in Early Twentieth-Century Santa Fe, New Mexico”

**Advisor:** Dennis Grammenos

**BA, Geography and Board of Governors, *summa cum laude*** May 2006

*Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, Illinois*

# Teaching Experience

**Instructor, Cities of the World** 2019-2022

*Department of Geography and GIS, University of Illinois*

* Guided students through an exploration of global urban geographies
* Provided extensive feedback on assignments, discussions, and exams
* Recognized on *List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students* (2020)

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, Social and Cultural Geography** 2018-2019

* Conducted three weekly discussion sections for students in first-year geography course
* Advised and mentored students to encourage comprehension of complex social issues
* Recognized on *List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students* (2018 and 2019)

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, Global Development and Environment** 2020-2023

* Review and grade assignments in large introductory geography course
* Encourage student understanding of challenges faced by developing countries
* Facilitate student progress and recognition of uneven global processes

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, Geographies of Globalization** 2019, 2022

* Advised and graded undergraduates studying impacts of globalization
* Mentored students on written assignments and group presentations
* Provided feedback, advised, and posed questions to advance critical thinking skills

# Research Experience

**Research Assistantship** 2022-2023

*University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*  winter term

* Analyzed literature on real estate investment trusts (REITs) in the US, Europe, and Asia
* Compiled annotated bibliographies for faculty research in urban political economy
* Conducted intensive project during 2022-2023 four-week winter semester break

**Dissertation research** In progress

*University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*

* Investigate impacts of the climate crisis on real estate development in the American city
* Use Flagstaff, AZ, as a model for studying this process in other US municipalities
* Connect the “real estate state” with climate change theoretically and empirically
* Employ a qualitative methodology of interviews, content analysis, and ethnographic work
* Assess equity concerns in climate-driven redevelopment processes and outcomes
* Examine climate justice for marginalized populations in threatened urban environments
* Interrogate the potential encounter of urban real estate with environmental catastrophe

**Master’s thesis research** 2015-2016

*Northeastern Illinois University*

* Explored early 20th-century remaking of Santa Fe, NM, as tourist destination (1905-1930)
* Analyzed content of 90 articles published in the local newspaper between 1900 and 1930
* Examined one of the earliest examples of city planning and placemaking in the US
* Investigated White elites’ use of Indigenous culture to redevelop city for profit from tourism
* Argued that this redevelopment was an early example of American urban gentrification

# Research Interests

My current research examines problems in urban geography including gentrification, displace­ment, socioeconomic inequality, and the impacts of climate change on US cities and their inhabitants, particularly in the American Southwest. Through the lens of critical theory, I focus on the contradictions of this century’s urban responses to the climate crisis as it intersects with the drive for profit from real estate, exacerbating the marginalization of the most vulnerable populations. Areas of interest: political economy, the “real estate state,” growth machine theory, climate justice, Southwest studies, social and cultural geography

# Publications

* **Roberts, N. E. (2016). Tourism and gentrification in the Land of Enchantment: The discourses of capital and colonialism in early twentieth-century Santa Fe, New Mexico**(Order No. 10155707). Available from *ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I* (1817661600)
* **Roberts, N. (2008). Geographic literacy at the freshman and senior levels: A survey of students at Northeastern Illinois University**. *Bulletin of the Illinois Geographical Society,* 50(1), pp. 27-53.

# Selected Conference Presentations [author and presenter]

* **Urban Justice at the Crossroad: Connecting the “Real Estate State” with the Climate Crisis in a 21st-Century American City.** 2023 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Denver, CO, March 2023 (forthcoming).
* **“Resilience” for Whom? Climate Gentrification vs. Climate Justice in the American Southwest.** 2022 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (virtual meeting, Feb. 2022)
* **Climate Havens from the Sun Belt to the Rust Belt: Resilience, Growth, and Exclusion in the 21st-Century American City*.*** 2021 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (virtual conference, April 20, 2021).
* **Tourism and Gentrification in the Land of Enchantment: The Discourses of Capital and Colonialism in Early Twentieth-Century Santa Fe, New Mexico.**2019 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), Washington, DC (April 2019).
* **Tourism and Gentrification in the Land of Enchantment: The Case of Santa Fe, New Mexico.** 2015 Annual Meeting of the AAG, Chicago, IL (April 2015).
* **Aspen Mortality and Defoliation in the Santa Fe National Forest of New Mexico.** 21st Annual Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) Student Research & Creative Activities Symposium. Chicago, IL (April 2013)
* **The Cerro Grande Wildfire of New Mexico: Modeling Fire Behavior in an Era of Climate Change.**20th Annual NEIU Student Research & Creative Activities Symposium (April 2012).
* **Land Use Change in Northeastern Illinois: Losing Agricultural, Open, and Vacant Lands at the Turn of the 21st Century.** 2011 Annual Meeting of the AAG, Seattle, WA (April 2011).
* **The Appropriation of Indigenous Culture in Santa Fe, New Mexico: Tourism and the Production of Place in the Land of Enchantment*.*** 2010 Annual Meeting of the AAG, Wash., DC (April 2010).
* **Tourism in Santa Fe: Appropriation of Culture in the Land of Enchantment*.*** 2009 Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Chicago, IL (March 2009), and 2009 Annual Meeting of the Illinois Geographical Society (IGS), Chicago, IL (April 2009).
* **Geographic Literacy at the Freshman and Senior Levels: A Survey of Students at Northeastern Illinois University** (honors thesis). Annual Meeting of the IGS, Glen Ellyn, IL, and 14th Annual NEIU Student Research & Creative Activities Symposium, Chicago (April 2006).

# Other Experience / Professional Services

**Freelance Academic Editor (part time)** 2015-2021

* Specialize in editing academic articles for non-native English speakers
* Edited articles published in high-ranking academic journals

**Guest Lecturer** 2014, 2016

* Invited speaker in graduate and undergraduate geography classes, Chicago

# Certificates

* **Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** 2010 *Northeastern Illinois University*
* **Certificate in the Liberal Arts (Western Canon)** 2000

 *University of Chicago*

# Awards and Distinctions

**PhD Program:**  *University of Illinois*

* Charles A. Alexander Fellowship, fall semester 2021
* George Beatty Fellowship, spring semester 2021
* Full 5-year funding with graduate teaching assistantship (GGIS Dept.) 2018-2022
* Recognized on List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students 2018-2020
* Elected to Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society 2020

**MA Program:** *Northeastern Illinois University*

* Outstanding Student Award (Geography & Environmental Studies Dept.) 2017
* Academic Achievement Award (GES Department) 2017
* Scholarship and Service Award (GES Department) 2017
* Awards of Merit in Recognition of Outstanding Research (University) 2008-2013

**BA Program:** *Northeastern Illinois University*

* *Summa cum laude* Honors Scholar (4.0 GPA) 2006
* University Honors Program Certificate, Level II 2006
* Alpha Chi National College Honor Scholarship Society (elected) 2004
* Full junior & senior year tuition funding: Honors Merit Tuition Award 2003-2005
* Awards of Merit in Recognition of Outstanding Research 2003-2006
* Dean’s Honors List, all semesters 2003-2005
* Dean’s Honors Scholars List 2003-2004
* High Academic Achievement Award 2003-2006
* Highest Academic Achievement in Honors Award 2003-2005

# Affiliations and Memberships

* Affiliate Student, Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory, University of Illinois
* Member, American Association of Geographers and AAG Specialty Groups
* Member, Illinois Geographical Society
* Member, Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society
* Member, Alpha Chi National College Honors Scholarship Society