Noah Allison

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Spatial Governance; Migration & Diaspora; Informal Economies; Built Environments

Social Reproduction; Labor; Politics of Difference

Ethnography & Qualitative Methods; Community Engagement; Counter-Cartography

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic

2026-Present	Visiting Assistant Professor, Urban Studies, Loyola Marymount University
2024-26	Term Assistant Professor, Urban Studies, Barnard College-Columbia University
2023-24	Visiting Assistant Professor, Urban Studies, Loyola Marymount University
2021-23	Postdoctoral Fellow, Culinaria / Urban Studies, University of Toronto
2019-20	Visiting Scholar, School of Architecture, McGill University
2018-19	Visiting Scholar, College of Environmental Design, UC Berkeley

Industry

2014-18	Principal Transportation Planner, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, New York City Transit
2012-14	Associate Environmental Planner / Architectural Historian, California Department of Transportation, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties
2011-12	Preservation Planner, GPA Environmental, Los Angeles
2010-11	Architecture & Planning Consultant, Design Vidal, Los Angeles
2009-10	Intern, Office of Historic Resources, City of Los Angeles Planning Department

EDUCATION

2021	Ph.D. Urban & Public Policy, The New School
2022	M.A. Gender in Global Politics, (*dist.)* SOAS, University of London
2011	M.U.R.P. Urban & Regional Planning, California Polytechnic State University
2008	B.A. History of Architecture & Environment, (*cum laude),* UC Santa Barbara

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

2026 "The Anatomy of a Multigroup Streetscape." *Cultural Geography,* forthcoming.

2025 "How Restaurants Shape National Identity in a Culturally Diverse City." *Food, Culture & Society*, vol. 29. Issue 3: 766-785.

2025 "The Forces and Illusions of Queens' Superdiverse Neighborhoods." *Race, Ethnicity, & The City,* vol. 6. Issue 2: 158-182.

2025 "Sidewalk Toil as Performance of Insurgent Citizenship." *Urban Geography*, vol. 46. Issue 8: 1842-1864.

2024 "Urban Governance, A Food Hall, and a City's Capacity to Care." *Urban Governance*, vol. 4. Issue 4: 329-339.

2024 "Home Care in the Face of a Pandemic." *Feminist Review,* vol. 138, issue 1: 60-67.

2023 "Little Arabia: A California Ethnoanchor." *Urban History*, vol. 47, issue 2: 111-132.

2023 "Nations, Shadow Borders, and the Production of Gender in the Present." *Border Crossing*, vol 13, issue 1: 35-45.

2021 **Allison**, **N**., Ray, K. and Rohel, J. "Introduction" in Mobilizing the Streets: The Role of Food Vendors in Urban Life, *Food, Culture & Society* vol. 24 issue: 2-15.

2020 **Allison**, **N**., and Rohel, J. "Epilogue: A Round Table on Street Vending," *Gastronomica*, vol. 20 No. 1: 22-27.

2017 "Migration & Restaurants: Mapping America's Most Diverse Thoroughfare." *Food Studies,* vol. 4, issue 1.

Guest Editorship

2021 **Allison**, **N**., Ray, K., and Rohel, J. (eds.) "Mobilizing the Streets: The Role of Food Vendors in Urban Life." *Food, Culture & Society,* vol. 24 issue 1.

Reviews

2022 Fuster, Melissa. Review of "Caribeños at the Table: How Migration, Health, and Race Intersect in New York City." *Gastronomica*, Vol. 22, issue 4: 102-103.

2021 Mogilevich, Mariana. Review of "The Invention of Public Space: Designing for Inclusion in Lindsay's New York." *Buildings & Landscapes: Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum* Vol. 28, issue 2: 124-126.

2021 Rosales, Rocio. Review of "Fruteros: Street Vending, Illegality, and Ethnic Community in Los Angeles." *Gastronomica*. Vol. 21 Issue 3:102-103.

2021 Fincher, Ruth, Kurt Iveson, Helga Leitner, and Valerie Preston. Review of "Everyday Equalities: Making Multicultures in Settler Colonial Cities." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* vol. 45, issue 3: 498-500.

2019 Rhys-Taylor, Alex. Review of "Food and Multiculture: A Sensory Ethnography of East London." *Food and Foodways* vol. 27, issue 4: 356-358.

Other Publications

2025 "The Making of an Ethnoburb." *Urban Space Labnotes*

2025 "Hustling in Los Angeles." *Platform Space.*

2023 "The Branding Dangers of a New York City Public Plaza." *Platform Space.*

2021 "Unpacking the Composition of a Multiethnic Streetscape in Queens, New York." *Platform Space*.

2020 "Street Food, Spatial Struggles, and Citizenship," *Medium, Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative*.

2019 "Towards a Southern California Ethnoanchor," *Platform Space.*

IN PREPARATION

Book Chapters

"The Spatial Politics of a Multethnic Ethnoburb," in Crawford, M. and Allen-Kim, E. (eds.) *Ethnoburbia: Built Landscapes of Suburban Migration.* University of Minnesota Press. (in progress)

Journal Articles

*"*Policing and Surveillance in Ultra-Orthodox Geographies*," Antipode*. (in progress)

"The Making and Governance of a Multigroup Ethnoburb," *Urban Affairs* (in progress)

"Foods, Folds, and Façades: Making Room for Commerce in the Multiethnic City," *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, with Kang Y. J. and Heathcott, J. (in progress)

"Intersectionality in City Planning Research," *Journal of Planning Education and Research.* (in progress)

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Collaborations

2021-23 Associate, Feeding City Lab, University of Toronto - supported Toronto's small food enterprises, local organizations, and city agencies to ensure local food security and sovereignty.

2016-21 Digital Director, City Food, Department of Nutrition and Food Studies, New York University - collaborated with the Street Vendor Project and city agencies to expand vending permits and reduce vendor criminalization.

Reports

2022 "Small Food Enterprise Outreach Project," City of Toronto and the University of Toronto. Co-lead with Sharma, J., Rohel, J., and Dickau, J.

2022 "Little Arabia's Community Needs Survey," Arab American Civil Council. Collaboration with Al-Dabbagh, R., and Nash, A.

Podcasts

2023 "Mohamed Attia on NYC's Street Vendor Project," Voices from the Food Frontlines.

2019 "Migrant Foodways in America" Open Belly Podcast, https://www.openbellypodcast.com/episodes-season-two

2012 "Eating in Boyle Heights," *89.9* KCRW-Good Food. https://www.kcrw.com/shows/good-food/stories/brainaise-irradiated-food-eating-in-boyle-heights

Films

2021 "Los Angeles Urban Forest Initiative," Co-created with Amat Ollé, E., and Razi, S. American Institute of Architects Film Competition.

2020 "Reimagining Los Angeles' Public Sphere," Co-created with Amat Ollé, E. American Institute of Architects Film Competition.

Exhibits

2025 "Street Life Outside New Delhi Railway Station," Laboratory for Spatial and Landscape Research: Cities and Landscape Exhibit. New York, New York.

2022 "Street Food: Practices of Urban Citizenship," University of Toronto's Research Revealed Exhibition. https://researchrevealed.utoronto.ca/street-food-practices-of-urban- citizenship/. Online.

FUNDING & AWARDS

2025 Social Research Award, la Caixa Foundation, Collaborator

2024 Professional Development (Delphi), Loyola Marymount University

2023 DEIA Department Curricular Planning, Loyola Marymount University

2021 Clusters of Scholarly Prominence, University of Toronto, Collab

2021 Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Toronto

2020 The Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility, The New School

2018 Student Research Award, The New School

2017 Milano School of Policy, Management, and Environment Award

2016 Metropolitan Transportation Authority Tuition Award

2011 Cal Poly Graduate Planning Student Association Thesis Award

2010 Dean's Scholar, Cal Poly

2006 UCSB National Society of Leadership and Success Honors recipient

INVITED TALKS

2022	"Postdocs A-Z," Milano School of Policy, Management, and Environment, The New School
2021	"Negotiating Difference in Suburban Southern California," Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Center, University of California, Irvine (declined)
2021	"From Dissertation to Book," Milano School of Policy, Management, and Environment, The New School
2020	"Building Culture & Everyday Urbanism," Department of Architecture, City College of New York
2019	"Migration, Mobilities, and Space: A Queens Case Study, "Department of History, Yale University
2018	"Eating and Moving along Queens' Roosevelt Avenue, "Department of Nutrition and Food Studies, New York University
2016	"Spatial (in)Justice & NYCT," School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, Columbia University

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Papers

2026	Little Lima: The Making of a New Jersey Ethnoburb, Society of Architectural Historians, Mexico City, Mexico, April 15-19.
2025	The Forces and Illusions of Super-Diverse Settlements, Urban Affairs Association, Vancouver, British Columbia, April 15-19.
2024	Food Incubators: An Infrastructure of Care, Urban Affairs Association, New York, NY, April 26.
2023	Care Work as Performance of Insurgent Citizenship, Feminising Urban Struggles, Online International Seminar, November 6-7.
2023	Formalizing Insurgent Citizenship in Global Cities, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Chicago, IL, October 18-21.
2023	Intersectionality and Critical Cartography: Strategies to Understand Spatial Disparities, Gender Urban Research Workshop, Cardiff University, Hybrid, June 6-7.
2023	Sidewalk Toil as Performance of Insurgent Citizenship, Culinaria Symposium, Toronto, ON, May 23-25.
2023	Spatializing Exploitations in a Toronto Food Incubator Program, Urban Affairs Association, Nashville, TN, April 26-29.
2022	The Ecology of Queens Diversity Plaza. Society For American City and Regional Planning History, New York, NY, October 21.

2022 Small Food Enterprise Outreach. Urban Food Security and Sustainability in Times of Crisis and Beyond-Workshop III, University of Manchester Sustainable Consumption Institute, Online, April 15.

2022 Multigroup Neighborhoods and Bottom-Up Projects of Nationalism, Association for the Study of Food and Society, Athens, GA, May 19.

2020 Little Arabia: A California Ethnoanchor, Divergence in Architecture, Atlanta, GA, March 5.

2020 Multiethnic Landscapes: Ordinary Architectures, PhD Student Architecture & Planning Round Table. McGill University, Montreal, QC, February 14.

2019 Restaurants, Street Food, and Everyday Urban Practices, Society for American City and Regional Planning History, Arlington, VA, October 31-November 3.

2019 Immigrant Foodways: Everyday Urban Practices in Multiethnic Neighborhoods, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Greenville, SC, October 25.

2019 New York City + Ethnic Multiplicity, Architecture Round Table Presentation. University of California at Berkeley, February 5.

2017 Methods for Understanding Difference in Twenty-First Century Cities, International Conference on Food Studies. Rome, Italy, October 27.

2017 Mapping the Unmapped: Sidewalk Vendors Along New York City's Roosevelt Avenue, City Food Conference-A Political and Cultural History of Street Food Vending, New York, NY, April 5.

2017 Negotiating Difference Along America's Most Diverse Thoroughfare, Krueckeberg Doctoral Conference in Urban Studies, Urban Planning, and Public Policy, New Brunswick, NJ, March 9.

Panels Organized

2027 Third Spaces of Nourishment and Care: Rethinking Places of Feeding and Eating in Urban Life, with Tiana Bakic-Hayden, Urban Affairs Association, New York, New York, April 15.

2022 Community Engaged Research: Pandemic and Beyond, with Jayeeta Sharma and Jaclyn Rohel, Association for the Study of Food and Society, Athens, GA, May 18.

Discussant

2023 Layers of Gendered and Racial Geographies on Constructed Landscapes, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Chicago, IL, October 20.

Posters

2019 Taste and Place: Engaging Difference in Multiethnic Neighborhoods, International Conference on Diversity in Organizations, Communities, & Nations. Patras, GR, June 6.

CAMPUS TALKS

2025	Three lectures on "Immigration in New York City," Barnard College-Columbia University
2023	"Community Engaged Research," The Anthropology of Foods, University of Toronto
2021	"Banal Nationalism: A Wicked Problem," Collaborative Specialization in Food Studies, University of Toronto Scarborough
2020	"Planning Informality," Parsons School of Design, The New School

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Loyola Marymount University (2023-2024; 2026-Present)
Urban World
Urban Planning
Senior Project

Barnard College-Columbia University (2024-2026)
Neighborhood and Community Development
Introduction to Urban Planning
Junior Seminar
Senior Seminar
Food & Society in Global Cities
Nation, City, & Inequality

University of Toronto (2022-2023)
Food & Society in Global Cities

Macaulay Honors College-CUNY (2023)
The People of New York

The New School (2023)
Planning Sustainable Cities

Hunter College-CUNY (2017; 2022-2023)
Introduction to Gender & Sexuality Studies
Introduction to Urban Planning & Policy (Graduate)

Queens College-CUNY **(**2017)
Urban Research Methods (Graduate)

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

2025-2026	Laboratory of Urban Spatial + Landscape Research, New School for Social Research

2023-24 Metro Studies & LA History Group, Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West

2022-23 Sustainable Farming & Food Futures, University of Toronto Scarborough

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Scientific & Organizational Committee Member

Resilient Urban Communities & Local Food Systems Beyond COVID 19 hybrid Summit. Culinaria Research Centre, University of Toronto Scarborough, 2022

City Food Symposium "Food and Regulation: Practitioner Perspectives on Vending and Markets in Four American Cities." Institute of Public Knowledge, New York University, 2020 (Postponed)

Doctoral Student Architecture & Planning Round Table. School of Architecture, McGill University, 2019

City Food Workshop: "Comparative Study of Street Vending Across Place and Time." Nutrition and Food Studies Department, New York University, 2018

City Food Symposium: "A Political and Cultural History of Street Vendors in the Global City." Nutrition and Food Studies Department, New York University, 2017

Workshops, Colloquia, Forums, & Reviews

Chair, Urban Worlds: Cities, Spaces, and Materialities in the 21st Century Colloquium. Making Home in the City Panel. The New School, 2025

Chair, Sustainable Farming and Food Futures Cluster Winter Symposium. Peri-Urban-Agriculture Research Partners Panel. University of Toronto, Scarborough, 2022

Chair, SF3 Symposium. City of Toronto's Small Food Enterprise Outreach Project. University of Toronto Scarborough, 2022

Char, Urban Food Security and Sustainability in Times of Crisis and Beyond-Workshop II. University of Manchester Sustainable Consumption Institute (SCI), University of Toronto's Culinaria Research Centre, 2021

Reviewer, Long Term Care Studio. McGill University, Department of Architecture, 2021.

Reviewer, Building Culture Studio 25. City College of New York, Department of Architecture, 2020

Chair, City Food Public Event-A Political and Cultural History of Street Food Vending. New York University, Institute of Public Knowledge, 2017

Panelist, Planning Accreditation Board, Program Renewal Process. City University of New York- Hunter College, Department of Policy and Planning, 2016.

Reviewer, "Land Use, People and Environment, Hunter College, Department of Policy and Planning, 2016.

University Committees

2023-24 Urban and Environmental Studies Department Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility liaison to Bellarmine's College of Liberal Art's Dean's Office

Curriculum Development

2022 Ph.D. in Public and Urban Policy Core Courses, New School for Social Research

Peer-Review

Urban Studies; Anthropological Forum; Planning Education & Research; Geo: Environment and Geography; Verge: Studies in Global Asia; *Local Environment*; *City & Community*; *Gastronomica*; *Urban Governance*; *Buildings & Landscapes*; *Ethnic and Racial Studies*; *Food, Culture & Society.*

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Doctorate

Elena Agudo Sierra (Ph.D.) "City After Hours: Lighting, Safety, and Gendered Mobility between EU and US." Université Catholique de Louvain. Supervisor, Current.

Natalia Matesanz Ventura (Ph.D.). "Affect and Space: Grassroots' Networks, Codes, and Artifacts for Urban Innovation." Polytechnic University of Madrid. Reader, 2021.

Graduate

Pedro Cruz Cruz (M.Arch.) "The Theater of the People: Queens' Street Vendor Culture." CUNY- City College. Reader, 2021.

Undergraduate

Advised over 30 senior theses since 2022. Selected projects listed below

Faiza Chowdhury (B.A.) "A City Goes Dead: How NYC's Fiscal and Energy Crises of the 1970s Fueled the Smart City." Barnard College. Advisor, 2025.

Esther Sun (B.A.) "The Right to Shelter and the State of Exception in New York City's Asylum Seeker Influx." Barnard College. Advisor, 2025.

Gavi Wind (B.A.) "Transforming Beloved East River Park: A Comparative Analysis of Waterfront Development Plans and Park User Experience. Barnard College. Advisor, 2025.

Katherine Mason (B.A.) "Film, Imagination, and Los Angeles's Transportation Networks." Loyola Marymount University. Advisor, 2024.

Ryan Bradley (B.A.). "Substance Abuse Impacts on the Urban Landscape." Loyola Marymount University. Advisor, 2023.

Matilda Dipieri (B.A.). "Public Markets, Private Space: Toronto's Food Supply Chain." University of Toronto. Advisor, 2022.

Fellowships

Martha Sinai Castro (B.A.), "Housing Experiences of Immigrant Families in Queens, New York," The Laidlaw Foundation, 2025.

EXTRA TRAINING

2024 Higher Education Teaching Certificate, Harvard University
2020 Creative Writing Workshop, Quebec Writers Federation
2010 Historic Preservation Certificate, University of Southern California

MEDIA COVERAGE

2024 "Ribbons of Division," *LMU Magazine.* https://magazine.lmu.edu/digital-issue-fall-2024/#scrollTo

2024 "Know the March 5 Ballot: Measure HLA's Transportation Proposal," *The Los Angeles Loyolan.* https://www.laloyolan.com/news/know-the-march-5-ballot-measure-hla-s-transportation-proposal/article_0cf71375-0e40-53b1-b30b-b9bf638eaed4.html

2023 "Food Bank Use in Toronto is Soaring. Can a U of T Scarborough Lab Help?" *University of Toronto Magazine*. https://magazine.utoronto.ca/research-ideas/culture-society/hunger-pains-utsc-feeding-city-lab/

2017 "Mapping Queens' Roosevelt Avenue, Bite by Bite," *Culinary Backstreets*. https://culinarybackstreets.com/cities-category/queens/2017/mapping-roosevelt-avenue/

2017 "PhD Student Can Say He Ate All Along Roosevelt Ave. for Research," *DNA.info*. https://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20170316/corona/roosevelt-avenue-restaurants-immigrant-study/

2012 "Cultural Preserver & Environmental Planner-Good Food Preservation Blog," *Good Food Jobs*. https://www.goodfoodjobs.com/blog/noah-allison-cultural-preserver-environmental-planner-good-food-preservation-blog-consultant/

RELATED SKILLS

QGIS, StoryMaps, MAXQDA, Photoshop, Illustrator, SketchUp, WordPress, and Office

MEMBERSHIPS

2022- American Association of Geographers
2020- Urban Affairs Association
2018- Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning