GUS WENDEL

Fishman Fellow | Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
2000 Bonisteel Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI 48109
guswen@umich.edu | 541.280.4043

EDUCATION

2025   **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)**
Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning
Dissertation: *Planning the gay city: Incorporation, redevelopment, and the formation of West Hollywood*
Committee: Professor Dana Cuff (Chair), Professor Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, Professor Kian Goh, Professor Todd Presner (European Languages and Transcultural Studies)

2022   Graduate Certificate in Gender Studies

2017   M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning

Brown University
2011   B.A. in International Relations and Italian Studies

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2025 - present   Fishman Fellow
Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

2025   Nelischer, C., Ramirez, A. F., & **Wendel, G**. Turn of Events: Community Events as a Practice for Inquiry in Public Space Research. *Planning Theory & Practice*, *0*(0), 1–20.

2025   **Wendel, G**. Situating the critical history of gay neighborhoods and urban planning: A review of the literature. *Journal of Planning Literature*, *0*(0).

2024   Nelischer, C., Loukaitou-Sideris, A., & **Wendel, G.** Caring public space: Advancing justice through intergenerational public space design and planning. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *0*(0), 1–20.

2022   **Wendel, G.,** Loukaitou-Sideris, A., Nelischer, C., & Bastar, G. "We should all feel welcome to the park": Intergenerational Public Space and Universal

Design in Disinvested Communities. *The Journal of Public Space*, *7*(2), 135–154.

2019   Bennett, A., Cuff, D., & **Wendel, G.** Backyard Housing Boom: New Markets for Affordable Housing and the Role of Digital Technology. *Technology|Architecture + Design*, *3*(1), 76–88.

2016   Becerra, M., Lin, L. S. K., & **Wendel, G**. The 43: Remembering Ayotzinapa. *Boom*, *6*(3), 32–39.

Book

Forthcoming spring 2026   Banfill, J., Barrios, J., Crisman, J., Shkuda, A., Stitelman, J., **Wendel, G.**, & Wong, K. *Urban Humanities 2: An (Un)Volume on Place, Pedagogy, and Practice*. Routledge.

Book Reviews

2022   **Wendel, G.** Book Review: Design for the Crowd: Patriotism and Protest in Union Square. *Journal of Planning History*, *21*(2), 191–193.

Book Chapters

Forthcoming spring 2026   **Wendel, G.**, Nelischer, C., & Ramirez, A. Event as Inquiry in the Urban Humanities: A Manifesto. In J. Banfill, J. Barrios, M. Bernstein, J. Crisman, A. Shkuda, J. Stitelman, G. Wendel, & K. Wong (Eds.), *Urban Humanities 2: An (Un)Volume on Place, Pedagogy, and Practice.* Routledge.

Forthcoming spring 2026   Ramirez, A., **Wendel, G.**, Nelischer, C. Inhabiting the Night, Conflict and Negotiation in Public Spaces After Dark. In C. Mady, S. Ragozino, & K. Landman (Eds.), *Public Space, Peace, and Everyday Life*. Routledge.

2025   Yang, Y., **Wendel, G.**, & Nelischer, C. Framing the Commons: Starting Small. In *Architecture and Social Sustainability: Understanding the New Paradigm*. Routledge.

Research Reports

2022   Loukaitou-Sideris, A., **Wendel, G.**, Bastar, G., Frumin, Z., & Nelischer, C. *Green Open Space and Physical Activity for Seniors: A Post-Occupancy Evaluation of Golden Age Park* (pp. 1–89). cityLAB-UCLA and UCLA Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies.

2021   Loukaitou-Sideris, A., Cuff, D., Leclerc, G., Zubiaurre, M., **Wendel, G.**, Nelischer, C., & Bastar, G. *Creating Common Ground: Opportunities for*

	Intergenerational Use of Public Spaces in Disinvested Communities (pp. 1–96). cityLAB-UCLA and UCLA Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies.
2019	
	Cuff, D., & **Wendel, G.** *Living in the 21st Century Schoolyard: Exploring the School-Housing Nexus in Southern California* (pp. 1–66). cityLAB-UCLA.
2019	Cuff, D., & **Wendel, G**. *My Commute is Hell: UCLA Students, Extreme Commutes, Impacts, Solutions* (pp. 1–49). cityLAB-UCLA.
2019	Cuff, D., **Wendel, G.**, Carlson, C., & Laborde, R. (2019). *Imagining Future Campus Life: Site Strategy Analysis in Opportunity Starts at Home: Addressing Housing Insecurity for Underserved L.A. Community College Students* (pp. 21–39). Southern California Association of Nonprofit Housing.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025	**Wendel, G.** "Towards the Creative City: West Hollywood between 1984-1990" at Los Angeles History & Metro Studies Group, Los Angeles, CA.
2024	**Wendel, G**. "Planning the Gay City: Incorporation politics and the formation of West Hollywood" at Queer History Conference "Queer Spatial Histories and Imaginaries" panel, Cal State Fullerton, Fullerton, CA.
2024	**Wendel, G**. "Planning West Hollywood: Incorporation politics and the formation of the first gay city" at Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI.
2023	Banfill, J; Barrios, J; **Wendel, G**; Wong, K. "Dispatches from the Urban Humanities: Making and sustaining an emergent global network" at HASTAC, Pratt Institute, New York City, NY.
2023	**Wendel, G** & Nelischer, C. "Event as Method in the Urban Humanities" at Inaugural Urban Humanities Global (Un)Conference, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.
2022	**Wendel, G** & Barrios, J. "Podcast city: Crisis, urban audiography and the Digital Salon" at Urban Affairs Association Annual Conference, Washington D.C.
2019	Banfill, J; Barrios, J; **Wendel, G**; Wong, K. "The work of cityLAB as a model of Urban Humanities practice put to use in a think tank setting" at Urban Affairs Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA.

INVITED LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

2025   "Public Architecture at UCLA" for Core III: Tech Core Studio at Department of Architecture and Urban Design, UCLA.

2025   "The UCLA Urban Humanities Initiative: Frameworks for Fused Practices" for Graduate Student Seminar: Multispecies Humanities at Department of European Languages and Transcultural Studies, UCLA.

2024   "Creating more just public spaces through community-based events" for People in Parks Seminar at Luskin School of Public Affairs, UCLA.

2023   "Urban planning and the regulation of sexuality in Los Angeles" for Graduate Student Seminar: Pressure Points: The Subjects of Race and Feminism at ETH Zurich.

2022   "Not just dorms: Expanding housing options for university students" for Undergraduate Studio: I Will Do My Utmost at Architectural Association in London.

2021   "Queering the street: Designing for intersectionality in Los Angeles' everyday public spaces" for Graduate Student Seminar: Pressure Points: The Subjects of Race and Feminism at ETH Zurich.

2021   "The Digital Salon: Podcast-as-method in urban research" for Introduction to Applied Humanities at the University of Arizona.

2020, 2021   "Sound scavenging & sonic production in the Urban Humanities" for Urban Humanities Theory & Methods Seminar at Architecture & Urban Design, UCLA.

2020   "Introduction to engaged scholarship" for Urban Humanities Theory & Methods Seminar at Architecture and Urban Design, UCLA.

2020   "Just be(ing) yourself: Transgender women of color in Los Angeles everyday public spaces" for Introduction to Qualitative Methods at Luskin School of Public Affairs, UCLA.

PUBLIC TALKS & EVENTS

2025   "The Gay City: The politics of municipal incorporation, redevelopment, and the shaping of West Hollywood, CA" for Lunch UP+T Lecture Series at Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

2023	"Going public: Framing events as a tool for inquiry in public space research" with The Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP).
2023	"Queer in Planning Panel" with LA County Department of Regional Planning. Facilitated by HR&A Advisors.
2022	"Fostering intergenerational public spaces in disinvested neighborhoods" at Public Space Research Group Network Events.
2022	"Makespace: DIY urbanism" event for UCLA (Un)Common Event Series.
2022	"Nightseeing: Inhabiting the night " event for UCLA (Un)Common Event Series.
2022	"Creating common ground: A festival for intergenerational public space" event For UCLA (Un)Common Event Series.

HONORS & AWARDS

2023 – 2024	Graduate Student Mentorship, UCLA Graduate Division
2023	Graduate Student Working Groups, UCLA Institute on Inequality and Democracy for (Un)Common Public Space Group
2021, 2023	Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA Graduate Division
2020 – 2021	cityLAB Graduate Fellowship, cityLAB-UCLA
2020 – 2023	Luskin Graduate Fellowship, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs
2016 – 2017	Franklin D. Gilliam Jr. Social Justice Award, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

GRANTS

2024 – 2027	Building Departmental Capacity for Community Engagement Grant, UCLA Center for Community Engagement for cityLAB-UCLA and the Department of Architecture and Urban Design - $121,243
2020 – 2021	Transdisciplinary Research Acceleration Grant, UCLA Research and Creative Activities for cityLAB-UCLA and the UCLA Lewis Center - $40,000

2020 – 2024	Architecture, Urbanism and the Humanities, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for cityLAB-UCLA - $1,000,000

TEACHING

Urban Planning, University of Michigan

Fall 2025	Instructor: "Urban Technology 103: Urban Observation" (undergraduate).

Urban Planning, UCLA

Spring 2025	Teaching Fellow (Primary Instructor): "People's Library for Downtown LA: Archiving the Past and Projecting the Future" (graduate).
Fall 2024	Teaching Fellow (Primary Instructor): "Tuning the Commons in Downtown LA: Urban Humanities Theory and Methods" (graduate).
Summer 2024	Teaching Fellow (Primary Instructor): "The Urban Revolution: Space and Society in Global Context" (undergraduate).
Spring 2024	Teaching Fellow (Primary Instructor): "Queer Space Studio: Queering the Public Realm for Intersectional Lives and Livelihoods" (graduate).
Spring 2023	Teaching Assistant: "The Urban Revolution: Space and Society in Global Context" (undergraduate).

Architecture & Urban Design, UCLA

Summer 2024	Teaching Fellow (Primary Instructor): "The Public, The Library: Mapping Public Space, Archives, and Embodiment" (graduate).
Winter 2024	Teaching Fellow (Primary Instructor): "Engaged Public Art: Methods and Approaches for Arts-Based Interventions in Public Space" (graduate).
Summer 2023	Teaching Fellow (Primary Instructor): "Learning from Westlake: Mapping Spaces of Mobility, Power, and Resistance" (graduate).
Fall 2019	Teaching Assistant: "Introduction to Urban Humanities Theory and Methods" (graduate).

Urban and Environmental Policy, Occidental College

Fall 2022	Visiting Assistant Professor: "Introduction to Urban and Environmental Policy" (undergraduate).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2023 – 2025	*Associate Director (part-time), UCLA Urban Humanities Initiative*

Teach, manage, and coordinate the year-long Graduate Certificate in Urban Humanities program; Manage grant report submissions and current budgets and accounts, including the multi-year Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant ($1 mil).

2017 – 2020   *Assistant Director (full-time), cityLAB-UCLA*
Led and managed cityLAB's major research initiatives; Coordinated work with faculty and graduate students from architecture and urban planning; Successfully applied to and managed both internal and external grants.

SERVICE

Editorial work

2025	Reviewer: Journal of Race, Ethnicity, & the City
2025	Reviewer: Cities
2025	Reviewer: GeoHumanities
2024	Reviewer: Journal of Housing and the Built Environment
2022 – 2025	Editorial Board Member: Critical Planning Journal
2021 – 2022	Co-Managing Editor (Vol. 26): Critical Planning Journal

Conferences and exhibitions

2021 – present	Co-Founder & Organizer: Urban Humanities Network & Inaugural Conference
2021 – present	Co-Founder & Organizer: UCLA (Un)Common Public Space Group & Event Series
2021	Co-Organizer: Digital Salon Podcast: Season 2: The Collective [virtual]
2020	Co-Curator: cityLAB Opens House: Activism in Design+Dialogue [virtual]
2020	Co-Organizer: Digital Salon Podcast: Season 1: The Pandemic is a Portal [virtual]
2019	Co-Organizer: Urban Humanities Alumni Symposium & Exhibition: Salon 02_PLAN
2018	Co-Organizer: Urban Humanities Alumni Symposium & Exhibition: Salon 01

Student affairs

2020 – 2021	Doctoral Student Representative: Dean's Committee, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Languages: Italian (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate)
Technical: ArcGIS, Adobe CC, Figma