Nina Olney

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EDUCATION

Expected 2030	PhD in Sociology, The University of Chicago Graduate Certificate in Environment, Geography, and Urbanization Chair: Neil Brenner
2025	MA Sociology, The University of Chicago Thesis: "The Dirt Beneath the Deed: Historical Formations of Waste, Space, and Property in the Calumet"
2022	MA Social Sciences, The University of Chicago Thesis: "Green Places, Green Aesthetics: (Re)producing Vulnerability and the Spatial Politics of Street Tree Planning in Chicago"
2021	BS Economics & Sustainability in the Built Environment, Drexel University Honors with Distinction

BOOK CHAPTERS

2020 **Nina Olney**, Solomon Tamiru, Carol Anthony, and Lev Boonin. Park Farm Play: A Sustainable Approach to Urban Parking. In *Responsive Urban Environments: The Case of Porta Genova in Milan*. Eugenia Victoria Ellis and Giuliana Iannaccone (Editors). Lulu Press: US.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025 Settling Swamps: Terraformations of Waste & Property in 19th-Century Chicago. Panel on Landscapes of Power: Environmental transformations of the 20th century, Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

2025 The Dirt Beneath the Deed: Ecologies of Environmental Justice in the Calumet. Panel on Racial Capitalism & Environment, Section on Environmental Sociology, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

2025 The Roots of Green Gentrification: The Spatial Politics of Street Trees in Chicago. Panel on Whiteness & Urbanization, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI.

2023 Green Places, Green Aesthetics. Environmental Sociology Roundtable on Land, Placemaking, and Place Attachment (table presider), American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

2022	Seeing Like A Street Tree: The Work of the Green Aesthetic on Chicago's South Side. (Re)Making Landscapes and Signaling Frontiers panel, University of Chicago Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, Chicago, IL.
2020	Community Empowerment & Waste Reduction: The Role of Place-Based Activism in Sustainability, Waste session, Drexel University Annual Student Conference on Global Challenges, Philadelphia, PA.
2018	Park Farm Play: A Sustainable Approach to Urban Parking, Venice Biennale Architettura (collaboration of Politecnico di Milano and Drexel University), Venice, Italy.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental justice, discard studies, urban political ecology, racial capitalism, qualitative methods.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2025	Graduate Student Fund Award, Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory (3CT)
2025	Charles Henderson Research Grant, University of Chicago Department of Sociology
2024	Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation Urban Doctoral Fellowship
2024	University of Chicago PhD Advance Internship Grant
2021	University of Chicago Director's Fund for Applied Research Scholarship
2021	University of Chicago Maroon Scholar Research Award
2021	UCLA Williams Institute LGBTQ + Racial Justice Small Grant (Co-wrote)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago

2026	Teaching Assistant: Cities, Space, Power (Dr. Neil Brenner)
2025	Teaching Assistant: Intro to Spatial Data Science (Dr. Luc Anselin)
2025	Teaching Assistant: Cities, Space, Power (Dr. Neil Brenner)
2024-25	Thesis Preceptor: Committee on Environment, Geography & Urbanization
2024	Teaching Assistant: Urban Structure and Process (Dr. Robert Vargas)
2023-24	Thesis Preceptor: Committee on Environment, Geography & Urbanization
2023	Graduate Assistant: Berlin: Conflict, Community, and Sustainability (Dr. Evan Carver)
2023	Teaching Assistant: Urban Design with Nature (Dr. Sabina Shaikh & Dr. Emily Talen)
2023	Teaching Assistant: Sustainable Urban Development (Dr. Elizabeth Kocs)
2022	Teaching Assistant: Chicago Neighborhoods (Dr. Emily Talen)
2022	Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Urban Sciences (Dr. Luis Bettencourt)
2022	Teaching Assistant: Urban Design with Nature (Dr. Sabina Shaikh & Dr. Emily Talen)
2021	Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Urban Sciences (Dr. Luis Bettencourt)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2026	Research Assistant, Dr. Robin Bartram
2025 – Present	Volunteer, Environmental Data & Governance Initiative (EDGI)

2024 – Present	Doctoral Researcher, Urban Theory Lab, Dr. Neil Brenner (PI)
2025	Research Assistant, Arts + Public Life, Dr. Adrienne Brown (Faculty Director)
2024	Research Assistant, UChicago Justice Project, Dr. Robert Vargas (PI)
2021 – 2022	Research Assistant, Urbanism Lab, Dr. Emily Talen (PI)
2019 – 2021	Lab Manager & Research Assistant, Urban Sexualities Lab, Dr. Jay Orne (PI)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, Chicago, IL
Instructional Assistant (Committee on Geography, Environment, and Urbanization), September 2022 – August 2023

- Assisted for two undergraduate classes per quarter by leading discussion sections, assisting with syllabus development, grading, and offering office hours.
- Led curriculum design for new undergraduate program beginning 2024-25 and coordinated with faculty, administrators, and staff to develop program requirements.
- Advised current and prospective CEGU students on BA thesis research and courses of study, developing website for new major requirements and graduate certificate.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF PHILADELPHIA, Philadelphia, PA
Community Development Research Intern, June 2020 – September 2020

- Contributed to preliminary project planning for report on individuals' residential mobility from low-income to higher-income neighborhoods in Philadelphia.
- Geocoded and cleaned Infutor Data Solutions dataset using Stata and ArcGIS.
- Merged cleaned dataset with data from the Philadelphia housing court system dating back to 1995 to evaluate relationship between court interactions and later mobility.
- Designed preliminary data visualizations for neighborhood mobility statistics using Tableau.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2025 – Present	*American Journal of Sociology* Book Review Board, Associate Editor
2024 – 2025	Environment, Geography & Urbanization Colloquium, Graduate Coordinator
2025	Chicago Ethnography Conference, Finance Chair & Planning Committee
Present	American Sociological Association, Student Member
Present	American Association of Geography, Student Member