

# Melissa Weihmayer

Curriculum Vitae  
November 2023

Department of Geography and Environment  
London School of Economics and Political Science  
Houghton Street  
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## EDUCATION

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| Ph.D. | Regional and Urban Planning Studies                                                                                                                                         | London School of Economics (LSE)  | 2024 |
|       | Department: Geography and Environment<br>Supervisors: Dr. Romola Sanyal, Dr. Nancy Holman<br>Dissertation: <i>Essays on the local governance of (internal) displacement</i> |                                   |      |
| M.A.  | International Relations                                                                                                                                                     | Fletcher School, Tufts University | 2015 |
|       | Concentrations: Migration, Development Economics, Conflict Resolution<br>Dissertation: <i>Shifts in the Migration and Development Discourse since 2007</i>                  |                                   |      |
| B.A.  | Anthropology and Germanic Studies                                                                                                                                           | University of Chicago             | 2010 |
|       | With honors                                                                                                                                                                 |                                   |      |

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Refereed Journal Articles

- 2023 Weihmayer, Melissa. "Multilevel Governance 'from Above': Analysing Colombia's System of Co-Responsibility for Responding to Internal Displacement." *Journal of Refugee Studies*, October 28, 2023. Available open access at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/fead071>

## GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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- 2023 Knowledge, Exchange and Impact (KEI) grant to expand on PhD research, LSE
- 2019 International Inequalities Institute PhD Studentship, 4-year funding, LSE
- 2013 Somerville Pinkney Tuck Memorial Fellowship, 2-year funding, Fletcher School, Tufts University
- 2008 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Undergraduate Study Scholarship, 10-month funding, Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany
- 2007 University of Chicago language study grant, 2-month funding, Universität Heidelberg, Germany

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY and PARTICIPATION

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- 2023 “Towards a Local Governance of Internal Displacement - proposing a research agenda on urban internal displacement response”. Paper presented at:
- IIED Symposium - Forced displacement and the city, September 26 – 27.
  - Workshop on Internal Displacement in Law and Policy, Maynooth University, February 2.
- “London Borough Council Responses to Asylum: building capacity for systemic change?”. Paper presented at:
- Royal Geographic Society Annual Conference, In-person panel “The Spaces and Politics of Migration, Borders, and Law”, RGS-IBG, August 28 – September 1.
  - IMISCOE Annual Conference, Online panel “Bureaucracy and Migration Governance”, July 3 – 6.
  - Poster on this project presented at Refugee Law Initiative Annual Conference, School of Advanced Studies, University of London, June 20.
- “(Local) governance frameworks and access”. Paper on research process presented at:
- Research Affiliate Workshop “Researching Refuge: Obstacles, Practicalities, Developing Community”, Refugee Law Initiative Annual Conference, School of Advanced Studies, University of London, June 20.
- 2022 “Building Local Capacity: barriers to responding to migration and displacement in London Borough Councils”. Paper presented at:
- European Sociological Association Research Network 37: Urban Sociology Midterm Conference, In-person panel “Solidarity with precarious migrants in the city: alliances, frames and practices”, Humboldt University Berlin, October 5 – 7.
- 2021 “Investigating crisis within local government responses to migration and displacement”  
Overview of PhD research presented at:
- 1 week (online) Spring Academy, Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space, “Investigating Spaces: Current Theoretical and Methodological Approaches on Spaces of Crisis”, May 18 – 21.
- 2018 “Urban Displacement Data: Adapting methods for data collection and analysis to displacement in cities”. Case studies of four practitioner projects presented at:
- Refugee Law Initiative, Special Workshop: ‘Revitalising IDP Research’, University of London, 20 July.
- 2015 “Parallels in International Migration Policy in the European Union and the United States”. Panel Chair and organizer at:
- European Conference, Harvard University, February 28 – 29.

## ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

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Internal Displacement Research Programme, Refugee Law Initiative, Research Affiliate (2020 – present)  
 International Inequalities Institute, PhD Studentship holder (2019 – present)  
 IMISCOE Migration, Politics and Governance (MigPoG) Standing Committee member (2022 – present)

## TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

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| 2022 – 2023 | Methods specialist, LSE: advised geography undergraduate students in Methods Surgeries for dissertation projects                                                                                             |
| 2022        | Graduate Teaching Assistant, LSE: delivered seminars and marked assignments for “Geographies of Migration” 3 <sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate course, received high commendation for teaching (paid award)   |
| 2021        | Graduate Teaching Assistant, LSE: delivered seminars and marked assignments for “Economy, Society and Place” 2 <sup>nd</sup> year undergraduate course, received high commendation for teaching (paid award) |

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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| 2023        | Coordinator, Oxford University Press <i>Handbook on Internal Displacement</i> (ongoing)<br>Reviewer <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i> (IJURR)          |
| 2022        | Editor and social media manager, Researching Internal Displacement Network (ongoing)<br>PhD Student Representative, Geography and Environment, London School of Economics        |
| 2020 - 2021 | Co-organizer, Women’s Action Network, London School of Economics<br>Co-organizer, PhD Visiting Scholar Series ‘Writer meets Reader’, London School of Economics                  |
| 2019 - 2020 | Co-organizer, PhD Writing Seminar ‘Writing the World’, London School of Economics                                                                                                |
| 2014 – 2015 | Co-organizer, International Migration Group, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy<br>Co-editor, <i>Journal of Humanitarian Assistance</i> , Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy |

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| <b>Greater London Authority</b> (London, United Kingdom)<br><i>Senior Projects and Policy Officer (part-time), Social Integration Team</i>                                                                         | October 2021 – March 2022       |
| <b>Joint IDP Profiling Service</b> (Geneva, Switzerland)<br><i>Information Management Officer</i><br>Employed by the Danish Refugee Council, deployed to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) | September 2015 – September 2019 |
| <b>U.S. Department of State</b> (Washington, D.C., USA)<br><i>Internship, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration</i>                                                                                         | Summer 2014                     |
| <b>Costa &amp; Riccio, LLP</b> (Boston, MA, USA)<br><i>Paralegal, Specialist in Employment-based Immigration Cases</i>                                                                                             | September 2010 – July 2013      |

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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### Policy papers, reports and blogs

- 2022 Weihmayer, Melissa, Rosanna Le Voir and Gabriel Cardona-Fox. “Data with a Purpose? Reflecting on the UN High Level Panel on Internal Displacement’s Recommendations on Data.” Blogpost. Researching Internal Displacement. May 5, 2022. Available at: [https://www.researchinginternaldisplacement.org/short\\_pieces/data-with-a-purpose-reflecting-on-the-un-high-level-panel-on-internal-displacements-recommendation-on-idp-data/](https://www.researchinginternaldisplacement.org/short_pieces/data-with-a-purpose-reflecting-on-the-un-high-level-panel-on-internal-displacements-recommendation-on-idp-data/).
- 2021 Weihmayer, Melissa. “COVID and the Urban: Tools for (Long-Term) Crisis Response.” Blogpost. Medium: UCL Urban Laboratory, May 21, 2021. Available at: <https://uclurbanlab.medium.com/covid-and-the-urban-tools-for-long-term-crisis-response-4b6420b9821f>.
- 2019 Weihmayer, Melissa, Margharita Lundkvist-Houndoumadi, and Laura Kivelä. “Displacement Profiling in Urban Areas: Methodological Approaches for Collecting and Analysing Data on Internal Displacement in Cities.” Background paper. *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2019*. Available at: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2019/>.
- 2018 Baal, Natalia, Laura Kivelä and Melissa Weihmayer (2018) “Improving IDP data to help implement the Guiding Principles”, *Forced Migration Review*. Twenty Years of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, FMR 59. Available at: <https://www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/krynskybaal-kivela-weihmayer>.  
 “Urban Profiling for Better Responses to Humanitarian Crises.” Guidance Note. Geneva: Global Alliance for Urban Crises, 2018. Available at: <https://www.jips.org/uploads/2019/02/GUAC-KP1-urban-profiling-Feb2019-web.pdf>.

### Podcasts

- 2022 Interviewed for podcast, “What does ‘internal displacement’ mean for cities?” *Progressing Planning Podcast Series*, LSE London. October 20, 2022. Available at: <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/progressingplanning/2022/10/20/progressing-planning-our-podcast-with-melissa-weihmayer/>.

### Trainings, workshops and presentations with practitioners and policymakers

- 2023 Organized roundtable discussion, “Capacity Ecosystem for Asylum Response in London” with policymakers and civil society organisations involved in London’s migration governance, supported by Knowledge, Exchange and Impact funding, LSE, London, UK.
- 2021 Invited panellist, “The Role of Urban Planning in (Internal) Displacement Responses.” Royal Town Planning Institute, September 15, 2021. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EX2RG7pGGEA>.
- 2019 Trainer and facilitator, “Urban Analysis Network for Syria Urban Profiling Training”: developed and facilitated sessions on adapting research methods for urban areas (4-day course, Amman, Jordan).  
 Trainer and facilitator, project on “Analysing internal displacement in Luhansk”: developed and facilitated sessions on durable solutions analysis for local government staff and humanitarian and development practitioners, 2-day workshop in Sievierodonetsk, Ukraine.

- Trainer and facilitator, project on “Analysing internal displacement in Honduras”: developed and facilitated sessions on survey methods and qualitative data collection and analysis for Honduran government staff and humanitarian and development practitioners, 1-day workshops in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, Honduras.
- 2018 Trainer and facilitator, “Urban Profiling for Better Data on Displacement in Cities”, workshop session at 9th World Urban Forum (WUF9), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Presented case study, “Adapting the Dynamic Analysis and Reporting Tool (DART) for NRC displacement profiles: Case of Syrian Refugees in Ankara, Turkey”. Stronger Cities Initiative Conference “Crises in cities and cities in crisis: towards a collaborative urban response”.
- Trainer and facilitator, JIPS Profiling Coordination Training: developed and facilitated sessions on qualitative and quantitative analysis and sampling methods, 1-week course, delivered bi-annually, near Geneva, Switzerland.
- 2017 Trainer and facilitator, AHO Oslo School of Architecture and Design: developed and facilitated workshop on contextual analysis for cities affected by displacement for architectural students in practice-oriented Design Lab Studio course, 2-day workshop.
- Trainer and facilitator, project on “Analysing internal displacement in El Salvador”: developed and facilitated sessions on survey methods and qualitative data collection and analysis for Salvadoran government staff and humanitarian and development practitioners, 1-day workshop in San Salvador, El Salvador.
- 2016 Trainer and facilitator, project on “Analysing integration of Afghan refugees in Iran”: developed and facilitated sessions on qualitative analysis and survey methods for UNHCR staff, 1-day workshops in Iranian cities of Tehran, Kerman, Mashhad.
- Designed communication materials, booth, and represented the Joint IDP Profiling Service at the World Humanitarian Summit, Istanbul, Turkey.

## LANGUAGES

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English (native)

German (advanced spoken and written proficiency, completion of C,1 level)

Spanish (advanced spoken and written proficiency)

French (advanced spoken proficiency)