

TUĞBA ALTIN

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OBJECTIVE

A dedicated researcher specializing in the interplay of climate change, emotional recovery, and community resilience. My work explores the psychological and cultural bonds people form with their environments, focusing on place attachment, trauma recovery, and innovative qualitative methodologies. Through participatory approaches such as walking interviews and photo elicitation, I aim to bridge academic insights with actionable strategies for culturally sensitive and emotionally resonant disaster recovery efforts. Passionate about empowering communities and shaping recovery strategies that prioritize emotional healing alongside physical reconstruction.

EDUCATION

University of Calgary

PhD Candidate in Environmental Design | Calgary, AB Canada

September 2021 – December 2024

- GPA: 3.98 out of 4.00 High Honor Student
- Research Interests: Disaster Recovery, Community Resilience & Healing, Person-Place Relationship, Participatory Methodologies, Innovative Qualitative Research Methods
- Dissertation: *Charred Chronicles: People's Perceived Experiences of Landscape, Attachment, and Recovery in Post-Wildfire Geographies*
 - **Abstract:** In an era of pronounced climate change impacts, the 2021 Lytton Creek Fire offers a stark example of the profound emotional and cultural consequences accompanying physical destruction. This study investigates Place Attachment (PA) — the emotional and cognitive bonds people form with their environments — to comprehend the disruption of cultural identity and land connection. Central to this is exploring the 'memoryscape', or how communities remember and emotionally engage with their environment post-disaster. The research employs an interpretive phenomenological approach, enriched by hermeneutic insights, focusing on the lived experiences of the Lytton community. Innovative methods like walking audio sessions and photo elicitation are used to delve into the community's memoryscape, enabling real-time articulation of memories and feelings in the altered landscape. These approaches offer a more nuanced understanding of the changes in PA following the disaster. The findings underscore the necessity of addressing both physical and emotional traumas in adaptation and recovery efforts, advocating for strategies that are culturally sensitive and emotionally resonant. This study contributes to climate change discourse by highlighting the critical role of memoryscapes in shaping community recovery and adaptation planning after environmental disasters.
Keywords: *Place Attachment, Community Recovery, Disaster Recovery, Trauma Recovery, Innovative Qualitative Methods*
- Supervisory Committee: David Patrick Monteyne – University of Calgary (Supervisor); Julie Drolet - University of Calgary (Advisor); Sonya L. Jakubec – Mount Royal University (Advisor)

Rutgers University

PhD – ABD Researcher in Global Urban Studies | Newark, NJ USA

September 2018 – August 2021

- GPA: 3.98 out of 4.00 High Honor Student
- Fields: Climate Emotions & Climate Justice, Forced Displacement, Resettlement, Sense of Belonging, Visual Methodologies

Politecnico di Milano

MSc in Sustainable Architecture and Landscape Design | Milan, Italy

September 2016 – August 2018

- GPA: 4.00 out of 4.00 High Honor Student
- Fields: Sustainable Urban Development, Community Planning, Adaptation Strategies, Mitigation Planning
- Thesis: *Ecovillage 2.0: Redefining Life Through Ecovillage Principles in a Rural Context Avonos, Turkey*
 - This thesis proposes 'Ecovillage 2.0,' a revamped, community-driven approach emphasizing self-sustenance and local solutions, offering a practical framework for urban resilience in areas facing environmental changes where traditional governmental support falls short.

Bauhaus University

PGDip in Advanced Urbanism | Weimar, Germany

September 2015 – July 2016

- Course-based education program in Urban Studies towards rigorous academic advancement in Urbanism
- Fields: Urban Sociology, Urban Theory, Urban Planning, Policy Making

Bilkent University

BA in Urban Design and Landscape Architecture | Ankara, Turkey

September 2011 – June 2015

- Ranked 2nd in Class of 2015 - High Honor Student
- Fields: Urban Design, Graphic Design and Programming, Urban Planning, Urban Sociology

RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

Canadian Risk and Hazard Network

Emerging Professionals Committee Member | Canada

August 2024

- A committee member for the Events - Community and Networking Branch

Whole of Society Critical Infrastructure Design Labs - The City of Calgary

Working Group Member | Calgary, AB

March 2024 - Present

- A member of the emerging project designed and led by the City of Calgary.

Sustainability Hive – University of Calgary Sustainability Office

Research Member | Calgary, AB

March 2024 - Present

- As a member of the Climate Crisis and the University's Future – Facing Wicked Problems working group, I attend regular meetings of the working group, join brainstorming sessions, and contribute curating events, convenings, and research projects.

DESTECTIC Lab

Lead Graduate Researcher | Calgary, AB

January 2024 - Present

- Responsible for conducting in-depth literature review in temporary shelter design, mental and physical impacts of shelters, and its real-life application for diverse forcibly displaced populations to understand current practices and their theoretical and structural rules and regulations provided by UNHCR, Red Cross, and other relevant agencies.

Climigration Network

Researcher | Cambridge, MA

February 2022 – Present

- Actively participating in two working groups as a research member: Ecosystem and People & Research, Innovation, and Evaluation Working Groups.

- In the "Ecosystem and People" group, contributing to the development of a framework focused on integrating ecosystems and human societies. This involves creating a collective understanding based on common perspectives, principles, and practices.
- Engaging in collaborative projects aimed at disseminating knowledge and resources within the Climigration Network and beyond.
- In the "Research Engagement Working Group," focusing on fostering networking, knowledge exchange, and collaborative research. Actively participating in discussions to address community needs through equitable and meaningful research.
- Contributing to the evaluation of the implementation of the network's principles and programs, focusing on qualitative dimensions and human experience in research and help building an archival database for relevant journals and relevant mediums in dismantling knowledge on research concerned with human-side of the climate change discourse.
- Engaging in efforts to coordinate research methods and results to support communities, while pursuing innovative, interdisciplinary, and policy-relevant research approaches.

Clement A. Price Institute on Public History & Humanities at Rutgers University

Research Associate | Newark, NJ

September 2019 - Present

- Conducted extensive research on the impact of localized climate risk on urban resilience and mitigation strategies in Northern New Jersey, particularly focusing on Essex and Passaic counties.
- Utilized advanced tools such as ArcGIS, Excel Pivot Tables, and Tableau for mapping, correlation analysis, and identification of gaps in community resilience planning.
- Organized and facilitated events, workshops, and outreach programs, promoting collaboration and enhancing community knowledge and resilience.
- Collaborated and teamed up with experts from diverse backgrounds on data-driven projects to analyze 26 years of NOAA climate data, mapping climate emergencies, and proposing adaptive measures.
- Actively engaged with grassroots movements and community organizations, translating academic insights into community-aware strategies for climate mitigation.
- Took a lead role in the "Retrospective Analysis of New Jersey's Extreme Weather Events" which sought to derive a resilient plan for the state based on historical weather patterns.
- Collaborated on a pivotal project titled "Locating Climate Emergency in Northern New Jersey" where the emphasis was on understanding climate trends and their effects on urban settings, crucial for cities' adaptive strategies.
- Engaged in every phase of the publication cycle, including ideation, drafting, data analysis, and finalization, ensuring an understanding of academic rigors and standards.

The Public History Project: An Interdisciplinary Research Consortium New York

Research Advisor, Facilitator & Community Outreach | New York, NY

December 2019 - December 2022

- Led the Pavonia Commemoration Documentary Project to recognize and honor the ancestors of the Ramapough Lenape Nation Turtle Clan, fostering community engagement and acknowledgment of historical events.
- Engaged in every phase of the chronical event documentation, storytelling, drafting, editing, and finalization of the project while recognizing and honor the ancestors of the Ramapough Lenape Nation Turtle Clan, fostering community engagement and acknowledgment of historical events.
- Conducted critical archival research for the Public History Project, contributing to the Ramapough Lenape Nation's federal recognition case, with findings presented to the White House and US Parliament.

- Led the Seniors' Stories of Crisis project at Rutgers University, collecting stories from Northern New Jersey's elders on socio-environmental crises, from riots to pandemics, providing insights into cross-generational urban challenges.

The Anti-Eugenics Project, Legacies/Reckonings/Futures

Curator, Lead Researcher, Digital Producer & Archivist | New York City, NY

April 2021 - June 2022

- Conducted in-depth archival research into the publications of the conference attendees, critically examining their contributions and highlighting their roles in the broader eugenics movement.
- Played an instrumental role in tracing the grassroots institutions that supported the eugenics movement, revealing intricate networks and unseen connections.
- Pioneered the visual production of the 10-day-long Anti-Eugenics Convening in NYC in August 2021, blending traditional research with multimedia elements to cater to a broader audience.
- Was at the helm of digital curation for the project's online resources, ensuring accessibility, relevance, and accurate representation of materials.
- The curated archive can be accessed at: <https://antieugenicsproject.org/resources/>.

Rutgers University Healing Garden

Project Advisor, Designer, & Collaborator, Community Outreach | Newark, NJ

December 2022 - Present

- Conceptualized and executed the design of the Healing Garden, seamlessly integrating elements of nature with the broader vision of the Price Institute, providing a space for reflection, healing, and community engagement.
- Developed an interactive GIS map pinpointing urban garden nodes across New Jersey, utilizing spatial data to highlight areas of green space and community-driven garden initiatives.
- Conducted research on the significance and impact of healing gardens, linking their therapeutic value to broader urban planning and community welfare objectives.
- Spearheaded community outreach efforts, fostering partnerships with local organizations and stakeholders, ensuring the garden's role as an inclusive and vital community resource.

Rutgers University Urban Refugee Project

Research Associate | Newark, NJ

September 2018 - December 2019

- Collaborated on a comprehensive urban refugee study, leveraging semi-structured interviews to collect qualitative data on the experiences of refugee families in New Jersey.
- Delved into the intricate processes by which urban refugee families and children establish their sense of belonging and navigate place-making.
- Conducted, transcribed, coded, and analyzed over 70 individual interviews, utilizing NVivo Software, to derive key insights into the refugee experience and their integration pathways.

RESEARCH OUTPUT

- **Altin, T.** (in press) Understanding People's Place-Based Disaster Response and Recovery through Reflexive Qualitative Methodologies. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*.
- **Altin, T.** (in press). Walking Audio in Disaster Studies: An Explorative Journey into Place-Based Experiences and Perceptions Following Climate Catastrophes. *Disaster Prevention and Management Journal*.

- **Altin, T.** (2023). Reimagining Landscapes: Psychological Responses and Behavioral Shifts in the Aftermath of the Lytton Creek Fire [Abstract]. In *19. International Conference on Environmental Psychology 2025*. May 13-14, 2025, in Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- **Altin, T.** (2023). Harnessing Place Attachment and Trauma Recovery: Reflexive Approaches in Disaster Studies [Abstract]. In *16th International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts & Responses*. Apr. 25 – 26, 2024, in Pau, France.
- **Altin, T.** (2023). Rebuilding Beyond Bricks: The Environmental Psychological Foundations of Community Healing after Disasters [Abstract]. In *18. International Conference on Applied Psychology*. Nov. 04 – 05, 2024, in Cape Town, South Africa.
- **Altin, T.** (2023). Tangible Losses, Intangible Traumas: Re-envisioning Recovery after Wildfires [Paper Presentation]. In *18. International Conference on Wildland Fire Management*. June 13-14, 2024, in Montreal, Canada.
- **Altin, T.** (2023). Understanding Place Attachment and Adaptation Strategies in the Aftermath of Climate-Induced Disasters: Insights from the Lytton Creek Fire 2021 [Paper Presentation]. In *The Northern European Conference on Emergency and Disaster Studies NEEDS 2023 Proceedings* (p. 28-29).
- **Altin, T.** (2023). Exploring Trauma and Place: Employing Photo Elicitation and Walking Audio to the People's Experiences of the Lytton Creek Wildfire 2021 [Paper Presentation]. In *The Northern European Conference on Emergency and Disaster Studies (NEEDS) 2023 Proceedings* (p.61-62).
- Bernstein, S. and **Altin, T.** (2023). *Locating Climate Emergency in Northern New Jersey*. [Manuscript in progress].
- **Altin, T.** and Bernstein, S. (2023). *A Retrospective Analysis of New Jersey's Extreme Weather Events to Help Developing Climate Resilience Plan for New Jersey*. [Manuscript in progress].
- **Altin, T.** (2022). Chasing Sense of Belonging Among Refugees During Resettlement: Using Mental Mapping and Photo Novellas. In *Emerging Qualitative Methods in Forced Migration Studies (Eds.)*. European Press. [Manuscript in progress].
- **Altin, T.** and Rising, H. H. (2020). Flood Refugees' Place Attachment to Water [Paper Presentation]. In M. Parker (Ed.), *The Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture 2020 Conference Proceedings Addendum* (p. 150).

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Adjunct Professor

University of Calgary | Canada

August 2024

- Instructor at the School of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape

Climate Change, Forced Displacement, & Recovery

Rutgers University, USA

Fall Semester 2021 - 2022

- **Keywords:** *Climate Change, Forced Displacement, Climate Recovery, Decolonial Methodologies in Storytelling, Person-Place Relationship in Climate Emergency*

Our Planet Crisis: Foodways

Co-Instructor with Dr. Jack Tchen | Rutgers University, USA

Spring Semester 2020 - 2021

- **Keywords:** *Climate Change, Climate Justice, Food Desert, Foodways, Decolonial Methodologies in Storytelling, Anthropocene, Climate Emergency*

The Munsee Lunaape Way: Decolonizing Newark-NYC | Documenting the Estuarial Ecoscape

Co-Instructor with Dr. Jack Tchen | Rutgers University, USA

Fall Semester 2020 - 2021

- **Keywords:** *Indigenous Rights, Reclaiming the Land, Environmental Justice, Collaborative Archive and Research, Decolonial Methodologies*

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Rutgers University, USA

Fall Semester 2019 - 2020

- **Keywords:** *Cultural Anthropology, Cultural Relativism, Systems of Power, Cultural Construction of Gender, Anthropocene*

Our Planet Crisis: Change, Justice, Urgency

Co-Instructor with Jack Tchen & Leora Fuller | Rutgers University, USA

Spring Semester 2019 - 2020

- **Keywords:** *Environmental Justice, Chronotope, Healing Environments, Anthropocene, Climate Change, Decolonial Methodologies*

PRESENTATIONS

18. International Conference on Wildland Fire Management

Panelist | Montreal, Canada

June 2024

- Title: Tangible Losses, Intangible Traumas: Re-envisioning Recovery after Wildfires

16th International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts & Responses

Panelist | Pau, France

April 2024

- Title: Harnessing Place Attachment and Trauma Recovery: Reflexive Approaches in Disaster Studies

7th International Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference

Panelist | Tralee, Ireland

April 2024

- Title 1: Place Attachment and Disaster Recovery after Lytton Creek Fire 2021
- Title 2: Exploring Trauma and Place

The Northern European Conference on Emergency and Disaster Studies

Panelist | Enschede, Netherlands

November 2023

- Title: Exploring Trauma and Place: Employing Photo Elicitation and Walking Audio to the People's Experiences of the Lytton Creek Wildfire 2021
- Title: Understanding Place Attachment and Adaptation Strategies in the Aftermath of Climate-Induced Disasters: Insights from the Lytton Creek Fire 2021

Mobilizing Knowledge on Newcomers Symposium 2023

Presenter | Calgary, Canada

October 2023

- Title: Place-based Trauma and Recovery: Navigating Emotional Landscapes Amidst Sudden Environmental Shifts

SEMINARS

Measurements and Metrics in Disaster Management

Guest Lecturer and Seminar Speaker | Cambridge University, UK

February 2024

- The Cambridge Disaster Research Network (CDRN)
Interdisciplinary Research Institute

What's Place Got to Do with It? Place-based Meanings in Understanding People's Disaster Response and Recovery

Guest Lecturer | Utrecht University, Netherlands

December 2023

- Course Name: Science of Happiness
Undergraduate Level Course offered by the Psychology Department

Home Landscapes, Place Attachment, and Trauma Recovery in Wildfire Communities

Guest Lecturer | University of Calgary, CA

June 2023

- Course Name: Advanced Practice in Sustainable Development
Graduate Level Course offered by the Faculty of Social Work

Dis-placed Attachment: Climate Migrants' Home Processes

Speaker | University of Torino, Italy

May 2021

- DISTant Talks: PhDs Behind the Scenes Seminar Cycle

Flash Flooding and Climate Emergency in Northern New Jersey

Speaker | Price Institute at Rutgers University, USA

November 2020

Turkish Diaspora in the USA: Patterns of Resettlement

Speaker | Rutgers University, USA

September 2019

Syrian Refugee Experiences and Sense of Belonging During Resettlement

Speaker | Rutgers University, USA

March 2019

AWARDS | FELLOWSHIPS | GRANTS

The SAPL Dissertation Writing Fellowship

University of Calgary | Calgary, AB Canada

August 2024

Eyes High International Doctoral Scholarship

University of Calgary | Calgary, AB Canada

May 2024

Transdisciplinary Connector Grant Recipient – Initiating Stream

University of Calgary | Calgary, AB Canada

April 2024

Conference Scholarship Recipient

7th International Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference | Tralee, Ireland

April 2024

Emerging Scholar Award Recipient

Sixteenth International Conference on Climate Change | Pau, France

March 2024

Visiting Researcher

University of Twente | Enschede, Netherlands

October 2023

Ph.D. School Fellow – Dilemmas and Opportunities of Fieldwork in Disaster Studies

NEEDS 2023 | Enschede, Netherlands

October 29th, 2023

Travel Grant

University of Calgary | Calgary, AB Canada

October 2023

Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship (AGES) – International

University of Calgary | Calgary, AB Canada

September 2023 – August 2024

SARE Research Fellow

Rutgers University | Newark, NJ USA

September 2022 – August 2024

Jim and Jean Cragg Doctoral Research Fellow

University of Calgary | Calgary, AB Canada

September 2021 – August 2025

International Graduate Award

University of Calgary | Calgary, AB Canada

September 2021 – August 2025

Partnerships for Listening and Action by Communities and Educators (PLACE) Fellow

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation | Pittsburgh, PA USA

September 2020 – August 2022

Travel Grant

Rutgers University | Newark, NJ USA

April 2020

Presentation and Travel Grant

Congress for New Urbanism | Washington, DC USA

June 2019

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Member of Climate Mental Health Network

Climate Mental Health Network | USA

January 2024 – Present

Member of American Society of Adaptation Professionals

Member & 2024 Mentorship Cohort Member | USA

September 2023 – Present

Member of Emerging Professional in Environmental Health

National Environmental Health Association | USA

January 2023 – Present

Member of Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange

Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange | USA

April 2022 – Present

Member of Climigration Network

Workgroups | USA

February 2022 – Present

Member of Upsilon Sigma - Urban Studies Honor Society

The Urban Affairs Association | USA

September 2019 – Present

CERTIFICATIONS

Conducting Emotionally Challenging Research

National Science Foundation | USA

April 2024

Disaster Mental Health

National Science Foundation | USA

April 2024

Indigenous Sovereignty in Disaster

National Science Foundation | USA

April 2024

Broader Ethical Considerations for Hazards and Disaster Researchers

National Science Foundation | USA

April 2024

Cultural Competence in Hazards and Disaster Research

National Science Foundation | USA

April 2024

Social Vulnerability and Disasters

National Science Foundation | USA

April 2024

Positionality in Hazards and Disaster Research and Practice

National Science Foundation | USA

April 2024

Social Vulnerability and Disasters

National Science Foundation | USA

April 2024

Cultural Competence in Hazards and Disaster Research

National Science Foundation | USA

April 2024

Facing Human Wrongs 2.0: Climate Complexity and Relational Accountability

University of Victoria | Canada

March 2024

Psychological First Aid

Canadian Red Cross | Canada

March 2024

Indigenous Relations Training Program

University of Calgary | Canada

February 2024

Trauma-informed Care

Alberta Health Services | Canada

November 2022

SKILLS

- **Computer Skills:** Proficient in Adobe Creative Cloud, MS Office, NVivo, ATLAS.ti, Notion, EndNote, Logseq, ArcGIS
- **Research Skills:** Proficient in Qualitative Research Methodologies & Methods; Intermediate in Quantitative Research Methodologies & Methods
- **Language Skills:** Fluent in English, Turkish; Basic Italian skills

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Reviewer of the Regional Environmental Change Journal

Hybrid

May 2024 – Present

Member of the River Run Community Garden

Calgary | Canada

April 2024 – Present

Member of the Montgomery Community Garden

Calgary | Canada

March 2024 – Present

REFERENCES

- Available upon request.