

Leslie McLees

Teaching Professor
Department of Geography, University of Oregon
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EMPLOYMENT

- 2026 – Present Teaching Professor
Department of Geography University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon
- 2020 – 2026 Associate Teaching Professor
Department of Geography University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon
- 2021 – 2022 Commissioner
Springfield Historic Commission, Springfield, Oregon
- 2017 – 2022 Geography Education Committee
Gray Family Foundation, Eugene, Oregon
- 2015 – 2021 President (2019-2021), Vice President (2018-2019), Board member (2014-2018)
Oak Street Child Development Center Parent Board, Eugene, Oregon
- 2014 – 2020 Instructor & Undergraduate Coordinator and Advisor
Department of Geography, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon
- 2016 – 2018 Geography Education (EDGE) Program Director
Department of Geography, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon
- 2016 – 2017 Associate Director
Carnegie Global Oregon Program, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon
- 2014 – 2015 Undergraduate Advisor,
General Social Sciences Program, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon
- 2012 – 2014 Assistant Professor
Department of Geography & Planning, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina

EDUCATION

- 2012 PhD. University of Oregon. Dissertation: *Understanding the Urban: The role of Urban agriculture in the urban system of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.*

2005	M.A. Geography, University of Hawai‘i-Mānoa: <i>Pictures of ‘Paradise:’ Understanding perspectives of development in the community of North Kohala.</i>
1999	B.S. Zoology, Washington State University

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2024 – Present	Program Director, General Social Sciences
2024 – Present	Academic Council member
2024 – Present	Undergraduate Council chair
2024 – Present	Geography Undergraduate Advisory Board faculty mentor (founded Jan 2024)
2022 – Present	CAS Advisory Council (Previously CAS Advising Council)
2021 – Present	Undergraduate Council member
2021 – Present	College of Arts and Sciences Career Readiness course design and delivery
2020 – Present	Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Geography
2026	UO Online Instructional Designer Search Committee (Feb-Mar)
2025 – 2026	Associate Vice-President and University Registrar Search Committee (Nov-Feb)
2024 – 2025	Core Education Council member
2024 – 2025	UO Leadership Academy
2023	Access Pathway, Summer Institute, Teaching Engagement Program
2022 – 2023	High Enrollment Online Courses CAIT
2022 – 2023	All-Campus Advising Association (ACAA) Executive Board, President
2022	Hybrid Teaching Pathway, Summer Institute, Teaching Engagement Program
2021 – 2022	University Senate & CAS Caucus
2021	Manuscript review for <i>The Geographical Journal</i>
2020 – 2021	Career Readiness CAIT, University of Oregon Provost’s Office
2019 – Present	Geography Curriculum & Assessment Coordinator
2018 – Present	Provost’s Teaching Academy Fellow

2017 – Present	Geography Summer Program Coordinator
2014 – Present	Academic and Career Advising
2014 – Present	Internship Coordinator
2014 – Present	Geography course scheduling
2019	Tykeson College and Career Center Flight path coordinators search committee (6 positions)
2018 – 2024	Summer Academy to Inspire Learning (SAIL) Geography Program Coordinator
2018	Tykeson College and Career Center Director of Advising search committee
2017 – 2022	Office Specialist Interview committee (2017, 2020, 2022)
2017-2019	All-Campus Advising Association (ACAA) Awards Committee
2017-2019	Tykeson College and Careers Social Science Advising Pilot Program (Social Sciences Discovery Center) and Tykeson Working Group (Program under University of Oregon College of Arts & Sciences)
2017	Manuscript Reviewer for <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research and City</i>
2012-2014	Appalachian State committees: Department Personnel Committee, Graduate Admissions Committee, Graduate Exam Committee, Gamma Theta Upsilon.
2013	Committee for Opening up Social Justice Center on Campus of Appalachian State University.
2012	Manuscript Reviewer for <i>African Geographical Review and Development Southern Africa</i> .
2011-2012	Assistant Director of the Carnegie Global Oregon project, Carnegie Initiative on International Ethics at the University of Oregon.
2011	Committee member on Honor's College undergraduate thesis project (as a PhD student).
2011	Redesigned the Peace Studies Certificate Program at the University of Oregon.
2010	Advocacy work on land tenure regularization for urban farmers in Dar es Salaam in conjunction with the Sustainable Cities: African Network NGO.
2009-2012	Graduate School Advisory Board, University of Oregon.
2008-2012	Reading & writing group organizer, Department of Geography, University of Oregon.

2009	Graduate Student Rep on Faculty Search Committee for position in Sustainable Urbanism, Department of Geography, University of Oregon.
2007-2009	Undergraduate Advisor for the Department of Geography at the University of Oregon.
2007-2009	Director of Geography Awareness Week and GIS Day activities, University of Oregon.
2007-2009	Department steward to the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation (GTFF), University of Oregon.
2007, 2008,	Organizer of weekly speaker series at University of Oregon, Department of Geography.
2004-2006	Evaluating freshmen writing placement exams. Mānoa Writing Program, University of Hawai'i - Mānoa.

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

University of Oregon

Department of Geography

- Introduction to Human Geography/ Our Global Planet
- Our Digital Earth
- Geography of Oregon
- Geography of the US & Canada
- Geography of the Middle East and North Africa
- World Regional Geography
- Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa (upper-division)
- Social Science Research & Inquiry
- Urban Geography
- Contemporary Food Systems
- The Professional Geographer
- Fundamentals of Geography for Educators I and II
- Theory and Practice in Geography II

First Year Programs

- Top: Career Success (2025)
- Top: Digital Earth (2017)

Prison Education Program

- Geography of Food Systems
- Landscapes of Climate Change
- Urban Geography

Clark Honors College

- Climate change landscapes
- Food landscapes

College of Arts & Sciences

- Career Readiness

Lane Community College

Geography Program

- The Natural Environment
- Introduction to Human Geography
- World Regional Geography

Appalachian State University

Department of Geography & Urban Planning

- World Regional Geography
- Introduction to Human Geography
- Urban Geography
- Senior Seminar: Professional Development
- Graduate Seminar: Urban Political Ecology and Sustainability
- Graduate Seminar: Urban Informality

University of Hawaii System

University of Hawai'i, Honolulu Community College, Trans Pacific Hawai'i University

- World Regional Geography

Kapi'olani Community College

- The Natural Environment
- The Natural Environment Lab

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

Craig, T, **L McLees** and V. Kalafsky, 2023. Chapter 10: Integrative project-based exercises. *Teaching Human Geography: Theories and Practice in Thinking Geographically*. Elgar Guides to Teaching. Edward Elgar Publishing Limited. 209-228.

McLees, L. 2017. Intersections and flow on open-space farms in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. *Global Urban Agriculture: Convergence of Theory and Practice between North and South*. WinklerPrins, A. (ed). CABI International.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

McLees, L. 2013. A postcolonial approach to urban studies: Interviews, mental maps and photo voices on the urban farms of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. *Professional Geographer*. 65 (2): 283-295.

Braun, Y., and **L. McLees**, L. 2012. Changing space and inequality: Economic development and tourism in the highlands of Lesotho. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*. DOI: 10.1093/cjres/rsr039.

McLees, L. 2011. Negotiating access to land for urban farmers in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: Histories, benefits and insecure land tenure. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*. 49 (4): 601-624.

Mahanty, S., J. Fox, M. Nurse, P. Stephen, and **L. McLees** (eds.). 2006. *Hanging in the Balance: Equity in Community-Based Natural Resource Management in Asia*. Bangkok: RECOFTC (Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific); Honolulu: East-West Center.

Book Reviews

McLees, L. 2011. (Book Review) *Learning from Delhi: Dispersed Initiatives in Changing Urban Landscapes*. Shamoon Patwari and Bo Tang (eds). Written by Maurice Mitchell. Ashgate, 2010, 322 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4094-0102-5. £35.00 (paperback). Online publication for the Urban Geography Research Group (UGRG) of the Royal Geographical Society- Institute of British Geographers. <http://urban-geography.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/McLees-Learning-from-Dehli-Final1.pdf>.

McLees, L. 2007. (Book Review) *From Squaw Tit to Whorehouse Meadow: How Maps Name, Claim, and Inflamm*. Mark Monmonier. University of Chicago Press. 230 Pages. ISBN: 978-0-2265-3466-4. \$16.00 (paperback). *Information Bulletin*. 38(2):82-83.

AWARDS & RESEARCH SUPPORT

2025 Career Leaders Fellowship

2024	University of Oregon Implementation Grant to support integration of experiential learning and career readiness into Geography curriculum and courses
2023	Williams Instructional Award to develop Career Readiness class in Hybrid modality to all College of Arts & Sciences students
2022	All-Campus Advising Association (ACAA) Faculty Advisor of the Year, 2022
2019	Open Oregon Educational Resources (OER) Grant to develop OER for World Regional Geography.
2018	Williams Instructional Award to develop a field trip-based course called “Explore Oregon”
2018	College of Arts and Science Online-Hybrid Course Development Initiative funding 2018-2019
2017	University of Oregon, Department of Geography, Ed Price Faculty Service Award
2013	Appalachian State University Humanities Scholars Fellowship. “Using photo voice to explore informal food networks in Seattle, Washington.” \$1800.
2013	Appalachian State University Microgrants Award “Homelessness and food security in Boone, North Carolina: Exploring an invisible population through photo voice.” \$300
2010	National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant: “Recognizing urban space in developing places: Everyday practices and urban farms in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.” NSF-BCS-GRS #208630. \$11,995
2010	University of Oregon Public Impact Fellowship. “Growing security in the city: Everyday practices and urban agriculture in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.” \$6000
2010	Charles Reed Fellowship for Graduate Students. \$1500
2009	Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (SYLFF) Graduate Fellowships for International Research. “Everyday spaces and social change: Urban farms in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.” \$12,000
2009	American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS), University of Oregon Chapter, Summer Research Award. “Use of photography in social science research.” \$500
2008	Department of Geography, University of Oregon, Summer Research Award. \$500
2008	Center of Community and Diversity (CoDaC) at the University of Oregon, Summer Research Award “Saving the farm: understanding the functions of urban-ecological

- spaces in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.” \$1500
- 2008 Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers Summer Field Research Award “Saving the farm: understanding the functions of urban- ecological spaces in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.” \$500
- 2005 Department of Geography, University of Hawai‘i-Mānoa: Wein’s Award for Academic Achievement and Contributions to the Department.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2013 Principal Investigator: Homelessness and food security in Boone, North Carolina: Exploring an invisible population through photo voice. Boone, North Carolina.
- 2010 Dissertation Research: Growing cities in the global south: The role of urban agriculture in the development of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- 2009 Dissertation Research: Cultivating community?: Urban community gardens in Eugene, Oregon
- 2008 Research Assistant: *Object Effects: Mental Rotation of a Geometric Objects versus Maps*.
P.I. Dr. Amy Lobben, Department of Geography, University of Oregon.
- 2008 Research Assistant: Dr. Lise Nelson, University of Oregon, Department of Geography:
- 2005 Master’s Thesis Research: *Pictures of ‘Paradise:’ Understanding perspectives of development in the community of North Kohala*. M.A. thesis. University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa.
- 2004-2005 Researcher: Sea Grant- Hawai‘i & West Hawai‘i Fisheries Council (Big Island of Hawai‘i)
- 2003-2005 Research Assistant: *Property, Culture & Technology- Aquaculture in Hawai‘i*. Dr. Krisnawati Suryanata, Department of Geography & Dr. Karen Umemoto, Department of Urban & Regional Planning, University of Hawai‘i- Mānoa, Department of Geography.

PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

- 2026 Integrating Career Readiness into the Geography Curriculum, Department of Geography
- 2025 “Why are we here: Translating your university experiences to non-academic career pathways for graduate Students.” Institute for Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainability, University of British Columbia.
- 2024 Non-Academic Career Workshop for Graduate Students (Two sessions). American Association of Geographers. Honolulu, Hawaii
2019. Non-Academic Career Workshop for Graduate Students (Two sessions). American Association of Geographers. Washington, D.C.
- 2018 Invited Panelist “Teaching and advising about careers in geography.” American Association of Geographers. Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2018 Invited Career Mentor. American Association of Geographers. Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2018 Session Organizer “The role of undergraduate education in the professional development of geographers.” American Association of Geographers. Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2016 Invited panelist for “Faculty Perspectives in Assessment.” Association of Pacific Coast Geographers. Portland, Oregon.
- 2014 The role of sustainable development discourse in official acceptance of urban crop cultivation in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Association of American Geographers. Tampa, Florida.
- 2013 Invited panelist at “Global Opportunities Conference: Creative Solutions for Africa.” Hosted by the Walker College of Business at Appalachian State University.
- 2013 Invited seminar series presentation “Negotiating between formal and informal urban systems on the open-space farms of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.” University of North Carolina-Greensboro.
- 2011 “Cultivating a social space in the southern city: Open-space urban farms in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.” Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) Annual International Conference. London, England.
- 2011 *Session Organizer.* “Urban Spaces in the Global South: Moving Past the Developmentalist Framework” (two sessions). Association of American Geographers. Seattle, Washington.
- 2011 “Urban agriculture and legitimate urban practice: A qualitative analysis of open-

- space farms in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.” Association of American Geographers. Seattle, Washington.
- 2010 “Recognizing urban space in developing places: Everyday practices and urban farms in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.” Oregon Academy of Science Annual Meeting. Portland, Oregon.
- 2009 “Saving the farm: understanding the functions of urban-ecological spaces in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.” Center on Community and Diversity (CoDaC). Eugene, Oregon.
- 2009 Panel: “Organizing the Edu-factory: Radical Geography and Collective Action in the Academy.” Association of American Geographers, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- 2008 “Race in the Landscape: *Haole* resistance to development in Hawai’i.” Association of American Geographers, Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2008 “Local spaces of engagement: the effectiveness of community resistance to development in North Kohala.” Oregon Academy of Science, Portland, Oregon.
- 2007 “Mobilizing Race in Place: De-whitening resistance to development in North Kohala, Hawai’i.” Association of American Geographers, San Francisco, California.
- 2005 “Who says what happens here? Diverse roles of place in a community’s resistance to development.” Association of American Geographers, Denver, Colorado.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Engaged & inclusive teaching practices
- In-person, online and hybrid modality course development
- Integration of Career Readiness into courses
- Software/Platform skills for administrative purposes: Adobe Creative Suite, ArcGIS online, Microsoft Office, UO BANNER system, CLSS, WordPress, Student Success Collaborative/ Navigate, IDR/COGNOS
- Course scheduling and data entry
- Additional software/ platform skills: Nvivo, ArcGIS
- Social Media: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
- Swahili (intermediate)
- Training in mediation, facilitation and negotiation from the Conflict Resolution Program at the University of Hawai’i
- Certification to interpret the Myers-Briggs Testing Instrument (2018)
- Certification to interpret the Strong’s Interest Inventory (2018)
- Integrated Career and Academic advising

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- National Association of Colleges and Employers
- All-Campus Academic Advising Association, University of Oregon
- Association of American Geographers
- Association of Pacific Coast Geographers