

Joanna Kocsis

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Education

- PhD in Planning** 2022
University of Toronto: Dept. of Geography and Planning
“Young People in Old Havana: Challenges Facing Youth During the Economic and Social Restructuring of Post-Socialist Cuba”
- MSc International Rural Planning and Development** 2011
Guelph University: School of Environmental Design and Rural Development
Thesis: “Extreme Weather, Climate Change and the Livelihoods of Hillside Households in the Jesus de Otoro Valley, Honduras”
- Honours Bachelor of Arts with High Distinction** 2008
University of Toronto: Double Major in Latin American Studies and Political Science, Minor in Spanish

Research Experience (selected)

- Joven Habana: Challenges Facing Youth During the Economic and Social Restructuring of Post-Socialist Cuba (PhD Thesis)** 2016 - 2019
Principal Investigator
Funded by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) (£42,000), International Development Research Centre (IDRC) (£14,000) with institutional support from the Instituto Cubano de Investigaciones Culturales Juan Marinello (Cuban Ministry of Culture) and the Universidad de Ciencias de la Cultura Fisica y el Deporte Manuel Fajardo (Cuban University of Sport Sciences and Leisure).
- Developed an innovative arts-based research approach, the collective creation of performed fiction, to create opportunities for youth engagement around complex and sensitive planning issues from which their voices have previously been excluded in **Old Havana, Cuba**.
 - Directed and produced an award-winning short film written by the participants of my research to communicate the project’s key insights to a popular audience, as well as several popular theatre productions.
 - Published several research papers addressing:
 - The use of fiction and art to transgress the limits of participatory planning practice [*Planning Theory*].
 - The methodological implications for youth engagement of conceptualizing knowledge as social, created, performed and resistant [*Children’s Geographies*].
 - The impacts of the economic and social transition in post-Socialist Cuba, specifically the reorganization of Old Havana as a heritage tourism destination, on the identity and meaning making of racially and territorially stigmatized youth [*Urban Studies*].
- Funded by SSHRC (£65,000) and School of Cities, University of Toronto (£2500)* 2022-2024
- Expanded the empirical base of this line of inquiry by adding a new cohort of youth in **Old Havana, Cuba**, and developed longitudinal insights by engaging original cohort again after a pandemic-induced hiatus.
 - Extended the methodological innovation to include collectively animated stories composed, illustrated, and voiced by participants.

- Published a research paper addressing the empirical, ethical and logistical differences between using theatre, film, and animation to explore sensitive topics with youth [*Cultural Geographies in Practice*].

Funded by the Royal Geographic Society, UK (£7,000)

2023-2024

- Expanded the empirical base of this line of inquiry by adding a cohort of youth from **San Juan, Puerto Rico** in order to allow for the comparison of youth experiences in contrasting political and economic contexts.

Intergenerational Geotrama and the Impacts of Successive Economic Crisis on Cuban Youth Migration

2023-2024

Principal Investigator

Funded by Migrations Collective, Newcastle University (£1000)

- Explored the drivers behind new patterns of rhetoric and decision-making related to migration in **Havana, Cuba**, specifically an increased willingness of some parents to encourage their teenage and young adult children to undertake extremely risky illegal migration routes such as “la travesía”.
- Developed an intergenerational interview method in which parents and their teenage/young adult children discuss parents’ experiences of the Special Period (Cuba’s last major economic crisis), and how those experiences impact the expectations, fears, and imagined futures the parents have for their children, and the children have for themselves.

Young Canadians and Chronic Urban Violence:

2022-2024

Healing, resilience, and resistance from between the bridges

Principal Investigator

Funded by SSHRC Connections Grant and carried out in collaboration with Nova Scotia Community Colleges and Inspiring Communities (Not-For-Profit) (£32,620)

- This research-outreach project consists of a set of seven creative practice community events that create space for newcomer youth to make knowledge about their experiences of belonging using collective art creation and participatory community mapping, in response to a recent rise in youth overdoses, suicides and murders in the community of **Dartmouth North, Nova Scotia, Canada**.
- Creative outputs of this project include a public mural (a mosaic made of 575 individual tiles painted by community members) installed on the exterior wall of the Boys and Girls Club of Dartmouth North, and an interactive digital Story Map created with ArcGIS software using community members’ perceptions of the neighbourhood.

Opening the Doors to Innovation in Central America:

2012

Empowering the most marginalized

Principal Investigator

Funded by Innovation for Inclusive Development Program, IDRC Research Fellowship (£14,000)

- Conducted an arts-based participatory research study with marginalized farmers from rural communities in **Costa Rica** using PhotoVoice tools to explore feelings of psychological empowerment and their connections to participatory plant breeding activities and innovative behaviour. **Paper awarded 2nd Place Best Paper at Oxford University Academy of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, 2013**
- Performed high-level analysis of qualitative research results by connecting documented changes in behaviour to observable contributions of the target NGO’s activities and interactions between boundary partners and program staff. Developed a photographic exhibition of research results, exhibited at multiple farmer-researcher conferences and in international research events.

Extreme Weather, Climate Change and the Livelihoods of

2010 - 2011

Hillside Households in the Jesus de Otoro Valley, Honduras (MSc. Thesis)

Principal Investigator

Funded by SSHRC (£10,500), Canadian International Development Agency (£5600) in collaboration with FIPAH, Honduras

- Facilitated participatory analysis of research results to help local community members identify priority areas for capacity development programming contributing to overall community development. Developed capacity development workshops/educational materials tailored to target partners with high

rates of illiteracy resulting in enhanced abilities of community members to independently address their own needs.

- Established a standard form for infrastructure funding requests after review of existing funding processes in close cooperation with local Municipal and Government officials, and staff of local NGOs including Plan in Honduras, CARE and FIPAH.

Urban Climate Justice: Policymaking for Transformative Resilience

2019-2023

Funded by School of Cities, University of Toronto (£7,000; £35,000)

Research Lead

- Proactively engaged policymakers to include the perspectives of marginalized communities in planning for climate justice in Southeast Asian secondary cities (**Khon Kaen, Thailand, Ninh Binh, Vietnam, and Battambang, Cambodia**) simultaneously producing knowledge on, and strengthening, stakeholders' capacities to understand and use, climate change knowledge about everyday risks, for inclusive and just climate adaptation.
- Assessed the impact of the curriculum delivery and knowledge brokerage activities on policymakers' through pre and post in-person interviews and Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices questionnaires.
- Developed interactive performance/simulation- and games-based activities to engage Southeast Asian policymakers in shared learning workshops to address urban climate justice issues. Outputs include the open-source prototype for a 2-day workshop with an implementation guide for facilitators in Thai, Vietnamese, Khmer, and English and a paper presented at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning conference (Toronto, 2022), the Ordinary Cities conference of the International Sociology Association (Athens, 2022), soon to be submitted for peer-reviewed publication.

Funded by School of Cities (£3500) and University of Toronto (£14,000)

2023-2025

- Built on the aforementioned games-based training for policymakers, creating two new formats to suit the knowledge needs of policymakers in different national contexts. Specifically, the outputs of this project include a 3-day games-based retreat-style workshop called the Thailand Urban Climate Justice School, and a games-based 6-month professional certification course for policymakers through the Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Just Mitigation?: Applying a climate justice approach to the implementation of mitigation policies in growing cities in Southeast Asia

2022-2024

Principal Investigator

Funded by Climate Positive Energy Initiative, University of Toronto (£32,620)

- Designed participatory research study to compare two different models of GHG emissions reduction as implemented by municipal governments in **Cambodian** secondary cities, to better understand how they impact households whose livelihoods are reliant on informal waste processing. In **Battambang**, a collaborative and adaptive urban governance approach to waste management involves multi-stakeholder engagements and evidence-based decision-making, while in **Sihanoukville**, the solution to waste management has been to catalyse business growth in infrastructure by creating a more enabling environment for private sector investments.
- Developed and delivered graduate student training program on research design and ethics for students in the Royal University of Phnom Penh's newly founded Department of Sustainable Urban Planning and Development.

Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia Partnership

2014-2020

Funded by iPass Grant from SSHRC and IDRC (£1,750,000)

Learning and Evaluation Specialist

- Wrote and produced a series of short films documenting the key research insights of the Partnership.
- Co-authored a paper published by Environment and Urbanization, titled: "Rights, justice and climate resilience: Lessons from fieldwork in urban Southeast Asia".
- Created the "Bridging the Knowledge to Policy Gap: Urban climate resilience in Southeast Asia" curriculum to help researchers enhance the receptive capacity of policymakers to understand and apply urban climate resilience knowledge about the everyday risks faced by marginalized communities.

- Developed and delivered capacity development activities for members of the Partnership as well stakeholder engagement activities for external partners, including local community groups and municipal, national, and international policymakers, including an International Policy Forum at the University of Chulalongkorn, Bangkok.
- Supported Partnership members in the publication of research findings by providing conceptual and editing guidance. Managed Partnership legacy activities including social media and website design and administration, public event appearances and knowledge translation activities.
- Created an evaluation framework, theory of change and logic models for the Partnership and its members institutions. Collected and analyzed data about the Partnership’s activities and their impacts as part of ongoing monitoring and evaluation practice, to inform capacity development activities.
- Prepared funder reports for the SSHRC and the IDRC including annual reports, midterm reviews and project closure reports.

Real-Time Learning in Real Life:

2014

Developmental Evaluation Practices of Grantmakers in North America

Principal Investigator

Funded by Policy, Strategy and Evaluation Division, IDRC Professional Development Fellowship (£14,000)

- Designed and executed an independent research project exploring the institutional learning behaviours of a range of development donors including governmental agencies, philanthropic foundations, and NGOs in North America.
- Prepared a detailed research paper which was presented privately for multiple donor institutions and at the European Evaluation Society conference.

Teaching Experience (selected)

<i>Geographies of Globalization, Development & Inequality</i>	2021/2
Dept. of Geography, University of Toronto	
<i>Social Research Methods</i>	2022
Dept. of Geography, University of Toronto	
<i>Gender and The City</i>	2021
Dept. of Geography, University of Toronto Mississauga	
<i>Introduction to International Development</i>	2021
Critical Centre for Development Studies, University of Toronto Scarborough	
<i>Experiential Learning Urban Planning Field Course in Havana, Cuba (MSc. Planning)</i>	2019
Dept. of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto	

Creative Outputs (selected)

Creator: Interactive Performance and Game Based Curriculum for Policy Professionals “Bridging the Knowledge to Policy Gap: Urban climate resilience in Southeast Asia”

Director/Producer: Short Fiction Film “Joven Habana”

Writer/Producer: Documentary Shorts Series “Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia”

Director/Producer: Street Theatre “La Juventud Está Perdida” and “En Mi Patio”

Curator: PhotoVoice Exhibition “Opening the Doors to Innovation in Central America”

Academic Publications

- Kocsis, J.** (2023) “¡Eso no se dice!”: Exploring the value of communication distortions in participatory planning. *Planning Theory* <https://doi.org/10.1177/14730952221124824>
- Smeds, E., Verlinghieri, E., **Kocsis, J.**, Connolly, J., Polgár, A., Manaugh, K., Waygood, E., Castañeda, P., Wargent, M., (2023) ‘Seeing Like a Citizen’: Rethinking City Street Transformations through the Lens of Epistemic Justice, *Planning Theory & Practice*, DOI: [10.1080/14649357.2023.2273664](https://doi.org/10.1080/14649357.2023.2273664)
- McMillan, R., **Kocsis, J.** and Daniere, A. (2022) Rights, justice and climate resilience: Lessons from fieldwork in urban Southeast Asia. *Environment and Urbanization*. Vol. 34 Issue. 1. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09562478211035644>
- Kocsis, J.** (accepted) Places to be young: The dispossession of public space in Old Havana. *Urban Studies*
- Kocsis, J.** (accepted pending revisions) From “No” to “Know”: A heuristic for anti-oppressive knowledge production. *Children’s Geographies*.
- Kocsis, J.** (2024) Research, rigour, and rape: Facing the reality of gendered violence in academic fieldwork. *Gender, Place and Culture*
- Kocsis, J.** (2024) “‘Y compartimos...’: The Collective Creation of Performed Fiction in Practice” *Cultural Geographies in Practice*

Major Grants (selected)

(CAD)

Migration Collective (2023)	£1000	\$2000
Royal Geographic Society (2023)	£7000	\$10,000
School of Cities Grants (2023)	£5250	\$7500
SSHRC Connections Grant (2023)	£32,620	\$46,600
Climate Positive Energy Grant (2022)	£32,620	\$46,600
School of Cities Urban Challenges Grant (2021)	£35,000	\$50,000
Ontario Graduate Scholarship (2020)	£10,500	\$15,000
Research Fellow, School of Cities, University of Toronto (2019)	£3,500	\$5,000
IDRC Doctoral Research Award (2016)	£14,000	\$20,000
SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship (2015)	£42,000	\$60,000
IDRC Professional Development Award (2014)	£10,500	\$15,000
IDRC Research Award (2012)	£10,500	\$15,000
SSHRC Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship (2010)	£10,500	\$15,000

Awards and Honors (selected)

Caribbean Studies Senior Doctoral Fellowship	2021
Best Short Film, Miami International Cuban Film Festival “Joven Habana”	2019
Second Place, Best Paper Competition AIE, University of Oxford	2013
Schneller and Summers Award, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph University	2010
Students for Development Award, Canadian International Development Agency	2010
Rural Planning and Development Field Award	2009
Dean’s Scholarship, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph University	2009
College Scholar Award, Trinity College, University of Toronto	2008
Chancellor’s Scholarship, Trinity College, University of Toronto	2007

Conferences (selected)

- Kocsis, J., & McMillan, R.** (Oct, 2023) Planning for Transformative Climate Resilience Paper presented at the Annual Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference, Chicago
- Kocsis, J.** (Oct, 2023) The Collective Creation of Performed Fiction Paper presented at the Annual Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference, Chicago
- Kocsis, J.** (2022, Nov) Places to be young: The dispossession of public space in Old Havana. Paper presented at the Annual Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference, Toronto.
- Kocsis, J.** (2022, Sept) Places to be young: The dispossession of public space in Old Havana. Paper presented at UK-Ireland Planning Conference, Manchester University, UK
- Kocsis, J.** (2022, Sept) From “No” to “Know”: A Heuristic for Participatory Planning with Youth. Paper presented at Royal Geographic Society Conference, Newcastle University, UK
- Kocsis, J.** (2022, August) Places to be young: The dispossession of public space in Old Havana. Ordinary Cities in Extraordinary Times Conference. Harokopio University. Athens, Greece.
- Kocsis, J.** McMillan, R. and Daniere, A. Climate Crises in Ordinary Cities: Policymaking for Transformative Resilience. Ordinary Cities in Extraordinary Times Conference. Athens, Greece.
- Kocsis, J.** (2022, June) The Collective Creation of Performed Fiction with Youth. Panel contribution at the Children, Youth, and Performance Conference. Virtual, York University, Toronto
- Kocsis, J.** (2021, April) From “No” to “Know”: A Heuristic for E/Affective Knowledge Production. Paper presented at the Annual American Association of Geographers Conference. Denver, USA
- Kocsis, J.** (2021, April) Research, Rigour and Rape: Facing the reality of gendered violence in fieldwork. Annual American Association of Geographers Conference. Virtual, Denver, USA
- McMillan, R., **Kocsis, J.** and Daniere, A. (2020, Nov) Rights, justice and climate resilience: Lessons from fieldwork in urban Southeast Asia. Paper presented at the Annual Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference. Virtual, Miami, USA
- Kocsis, J.** (2020, Nov) “¡Eso no se dice!”: Pushing discursive limits for the production and use of knowledge in planning. Paper presented at the Annual Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference. Virtual, Miami, USA
- Kocsis, J.** Anastasopoulos, V. (2019, June) **Expert Panel:** Detangling terms related to diversity and their implications for evaluative thinking and practice. Paper presented at the 40th Annual Canadian Evaluation Society Conference. Halifax, Canada
- Kocsis, J.** Belzer, A. (2019, June) **Expert Panel:** Reducing Barriers and Cultivating Opportunities for Participation: The Past and Future of Diversity in CES. Paper presented at the 40th Annual Canadian Evaluation Society Conference. Halifax, Canada
- Kocsis, J.** Tsuruda, S. Van Der Woerd, K. (2017, June) **Expert Panel:** P’s in a Pod: Reflections on Participation, Positionality, Privilege. 38th Annual Canadian Evaluation Society Conference. Vancouver, McLean, R. **Kocsis, J.** Sinha, C. Gargani, J. (2015, June) **Expert Panel:** The Use of Developmental Evaluation in Organizational Practice. 36th Annual Canadian Evaluation Society Conference. Montreal
- Kocsis, J.** (2014, October) Real-Time Learning in Real Life: Issues affecting the development and practice of real-time learning among grant makers in North America. European Evaluation Society Conference, Dublin, Ireland.
- Kocsis, J.** (2013, September). Opening the Doors to Innovation in Central America: Empowering the Most Marginalized to Address Their Development Challenges Through Participatory Research. Paper presented at the 11th GLOBELICS International Conference: METU, Ankara, Turkey.
- Kocsis, J.** (2013, August). Opening the Doors to Innovation in Central America: Empowering the Most Marginalized to Address Their Development Challenges Through Participatory Research. Paper presented at the 6th Annual Conference of the Academy of Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Inclusive and Sustainable Development. Oxford University ***AWARDED SECOND PLACE, BEST PAPER COMPETITION***

Invited Talks (Selected)

- *Art as Research: Opportunities for E/Affective Knowledge Production* 2022
Strathclyde University Business School, Glasgow, Scotland
- *Urban Climate Justice: Rights and Resilience in Southeast Asia* 2022
School of Cities Knowledge Café, University of Toronto
- *The Role of the Researcher as a Public Intellectual* 2022
Centre for Caribbean Studies, New College, University of Toronto
- *Young People in Old Havana: Being, Feeling and Knowing* 2022
Centre for Latin American Studies, Victoria University, Toronto
- *Challenges Facing Youth During Economic & Social Restructuring of Post-Socialist Cuba* 2022
New College Early Career Researchers Series, University of Toronto
- *Art, Oppression and Racial Capitalism* 2021
Development, Policy and Power Collaborative, University of Toronto Scarborough
- *Art as Research: Heuristics of E/Affective Knowledge Production* 2021
Wilfred Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada
- *Rights, justice & climate resilience: Lessons from fieldwork in urban Southeast Asia* 2021
Learning and Unlearning Sustainability Series, University of Toronto Mississauga
- *Making Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Material in the Canadian Evaluation Society* 2019
Plenary commentary at the 40th Canadian Evaluation Society Conference. Halifax
- *Introduction to Program Evaluation and Qualitative Research Methods* 2019
(Post Graduate Certificate) Universidad Manuel Fajardo La Habana, Cuba (Spanish)
- *Introduction to Program Evaluation* 2017
(Post Graduate Certificate) Universidad Manuel Fajardo La Habana, Cuba (Spanish)
- *Evaluation for Social Change Seminar* 2014/15
Dept. of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto

Professional Affiliations (selected)

Canadian Institute of Planners, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, American Association of Geographers, Royal Geographic Society, Canadian Evaluation Society, Ontario Library Board Association