

Caitlin Hafferty

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PERSONAL EXPERTISE

I am a human and environmental geographer interested in addressing interlinked social, environmental, and economic challenges through interdisciplinary and participatory research. My current research broadly explores the governance and equity dimensions of nature recovery and nature-based solutions, with a focus on public and stakeholder engagement in environmental decision-making processes. I work as part of interdisciplinary teams and bring social science expertise to policy and practice-related research. My research approach has a strong focus on impactful and collaborative research, engaging with a range of partners and stakeholders to produce outputs with tangible benefits for society.

CURRENT AND PREVIOUS POSITIONS

- 2023-present **Postdoctoral Researcher in Environmental Social Science** (full-time), Environmental Change Institute, School of Geography and Planning, University of Oxford.
- Currently working with the Nature-based Solutions Initiative as part of the Agile Initiative, on a project that explores scaling-up nature-based solutions in the UK.
 - Future research will continue to explore the governance and equity of nature restoration efforts as part of the Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery.
- 2018-2022 **Research Assistant** (part-time), Countryside and Community Research Institute, University of Gloucestershire.
- Feb-April 2021 **Research Intern**, Natural England, Social Science Team (*collaborated with NE staff and stakeholders to develop evidence-led outputs for best practice engagement*).
- Aug-Nov 2019 **Research Intern** (UKRI Policy Internship), Welsh Government (*worked with the National Survey for Wales team to produce policy outputs, published 7 single-author reports*).

EDUCATION

- 2018-2023 **PhD Environmental Planning** (ESRC 1+3 studentship, Wales Doctoral Training Partnership), Countryside and Community Research Institute, University of Gloucestershire (viva passed with minor corrections – 4th April 2023).
- Investigated practitioners' perspectives of the challenges and opportunities for public and stakeholder engagement in the digital age, focusing on planning and environmental decision-making in the UK.
- 2017-18 **MSc Social Science Research Methods** (distinction), School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University (*advanced training in qualitative and quantitative research methods*).
- 2016-17 **MSc Sustainability, Environmental Policy and Planning**, School of Geography and Planning, Cardiff University (*focused on critical sustainability theory and practice*).
- 2013-16 **BSc Geography (human)**, School of Geography and Planning, Cardiff University.

RESEARCH SKILLS

- Design and data collection of qualitative research methods including interviews, focus groups, and literature reviews, including novel, creative, and mixed-methods approaches (e.g., walking interviews).
- Expertise in digital research methods, including conducting qualitative fieldwork online.
- Qualitative data analysis with competence using QSR NVivo (including experience of text mining).
- Design, data collection, and analysis of quantitative research methods including survey questionnaires (Jisc Online Surveys), with competence using SPSS, Stata, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
- Strong communicator with a passion for participatory and inclusive research, disseminating findings, working collaboratively across academic disciplines, and working with non-academic stakeholders.

RECENT RESEARCH CONTRACTS

- **Natural England:** Collecting organisational evidence to support the embedding of an evidence-led, best practice engagement culture in Natural England (2021-22) (**Co-Investigator**): £23,010.
- **National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise (NICRE):** Exploring the socio-economic dynamics and innovation capacities of rural food, farming, and forestry SMEs (2021-22) (**Co-Investigator**): £15,000.
- **Natural England:** The role of English Agri-environment Schemes in managing geological Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (2021).
- **Innovate UK:** Farm-Performance Enhancement Platform & Knowledge Exchange during COVID-19(2021).
- **Defra:** Evaluation of Environmental Land Management (ELMS) Test & Trials (2020).
- **Defra:** Assessing the impact of Agri-environment Schemes on geological SSSIs (2019).

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Feb 2021	Expert Contributor: Defra Science Advisory Council (SAC), Social Science Expert Group (SSEG) Review of Public Engagement (<i>one of 24 invited UK experts</i>).
2020-present	Peer-reviewer: for academic and non-academic publications including an edited book on natural resource social sciences, and Phase 1 ELMS Test & Trials report (Southwest).
2019-present	Early Career Officer: Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) Participatory Geographies Research Group (PYGYRG). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chaired two paper sessions at the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2022.• Co-organised 2021 conference 'Contemporary Issues in Participatory Geographies'.
April 2021	Peer-reviewer and session chair: GIS Research UK conference (GISRUK), Cardiff.
Sept 2020	Expert contributor: UK Parliament POST report on 'Life Beyond COVID'.
2019-20	Chair and member of the Council (Board of Trustees): RGS-IBG Postgraduate Forum.
2018-19	Annual Conference Officer: RGS-IBG Postgraduate Forum.

SELECT TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

- Guest lecture: 'Digital Planning and Development' module, Postgraduate Taught Master's Course, School of Geography and Planning, Cardiff University.
- Dissertation supervision: MSc/MPhil in Biodiversity, Conservation and Management, School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford.
- PhD internship supervision: embedding best practice stakeholder engagement in landscape recovery (in collaboration with Nattergal, Countryside and Community Research Institute, and Nattergal).
- Lecture and workshop on 'Participatory governance of nature-based solutions' as part of Nature-based Solutions to Global Challenges Foundation Course, University of Oxford (March 2023).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

Select conference papers and sessions:

- Public participation and digital innovation: responsibility, inclusivity, and precaution in environmental decision-making. *RGS-IBG Annual International Conference*. Newcastle, September 2022.
- Web-based geospatial tools for stakeholder participation: challenges and opportunities for planning and environmental governance. *6th International Conference on Urban E-Planning*, Lisbon, April 2022.
- Geo-information tools for stakeholder engagement in environmental decision-making: best practice recommendations from a UK case study. *29th Annual GIS Research UK Conference*, Cardiff, 2021.
- Digital public and stakeholder engagement: what works, what doesn't work, and future innovation. *RGS-IBG Digital Geographies Research Group Virtual Symposium*, 2020.
- QUALMAP: Qualitative Geospatial Methods for Active Participation. *14th Conference on Spatial Information Theory*, Regensburg, Germany, 2019.

Select invited talks:

- 'Navigating conferences and networking'. *RGS-IBG Postgraduate Midterm Conference*, May 2022.
- 'Automated transcription for qualitative research'. *University of Gloucestershire*, June 2021.
- 'Engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic'. *The UK Consult Podcast*, June 2021.
- 'Virtual data collection during COVID-19'. *Liquid Lab, Loughborough University*, November 2020.
- 'Digital tools for stakeholder engagement'. *Commonplace 'lunch and learn' session*, October 2020.

HONOURS AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Letter of commendation for work as Chair of the RGS-IBG Postgraduate Forum (2020).
- 'Best Early Career Researcher Paper' at the 29th Annual GIS Research UK Conference, Cardiff (2021).
- Fellow, Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) (2018-present).

PUBLICATIONS

Papers:

Hafferty, C., Berry, B., and Orford, S., Digital tools for stakeholder engagement: challenges and opportunities for participatory planning and environmental decision-making. *Manuscript in progress*.

Hafferty, C., Institutionalising stakeholder participation: practitioners' perspectives on best practice in environment and planning contexts. *Manuscript in progress*.

Ingram, J., Maye, D., Bailye, C., Barnes, A., Bear, C., Bell, M. ... **Hafferty, C.**, ... and Wilson, L. (2022) 'What are the priority research questions for digital agriculture?', *Land Use Policy*, 114: 105962, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2021.105962>

Babelon, I., Charlton, J., Watson, R., **Hafferty, C.** (forthcoming). *Phygitally Smarter? A Critically Pragmatic Agenda for Smarter Engagement in British Planning and Beyond*. *Manuscript accepted for publication*.

Book chapters:

Hafferty, C., Babelon, I., Berry, B., Brockett, B., Hoggett, J. (2024). 'Digital tools for participatory environmental decision-making: challenges, opportunities, and future directions'. In: Sherren, K., Thondhlana, G., and Jackson-Smith, D. (eds). *Opening Windows: Emerging Perspectives, Practices and Opportunities in Natural Resource Social Sciences*. University Press of Colorado & Utah State University Press. *Manuscript accepted for publication*.

Hafferty, C., Babelon, I., Pánek, J. (forthcoming). 'Towards digital or hybrid futures? Exploring the role of context in shaping participation in planning and environmental decision-making'. *Manuscript in progress*.

Reports:

Hafferty, C. (2022) Embedding an evidence-led, best practice culture of engagement: learning from the evidence. *Natural England Research Report NEERO21*.

Chiswell, H., **Hafferty, C.**, Kubinakova, K., and Goodenough, A. (2022). Evidence-led, best practice engagement in Natural England, Countryside and Community Research Institute, University of Gloucestershire. *Internal publication*.

Chivers, C., **Hafferty, C.**, Reed, M., Raseta, S. (2022). Exploring the socio-economic innovation capacities of rural food, farming, and forestry small-medium enterprises. NICRE Research Report No.1: July.

Kindred, D., Ingram, J., **Hafferty, C.**, et al. (2021). Farm Performance Enhancement Platform: Appraisal of the impacts of COVID-19 on Knowledge Exchange in Agriculture: Summary. UKRI.

Short, C., **Hafferty, C.**, Hobbs, S., et al. (2021). *The role of English agri-environment schemes in managing geological SSSIs: Environmental Stewardship Monitoring & Evaluation Framework*. Natural England.

Hafferty, C., 2020. Hafferty, C., 2020. What factors are linked to people agreeing that their local area has a sense of community? Research report: 25/2020. Welsh Government. **(one of 7 published reports)**.