# Leah Lazer

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## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. in Urban Studies**                                                   April 2025 – Present
University of Basel, *Basel, Switzerland*

**M.Sc. in Regional and Urban Planning Studies** (Merit honors)                   2016 – 2017
London School of Economics and Political Science, *London, UK*

> **Coursework**: Planning for Sustainable Cities, Techniques of Economic Spatial Analysis (Stata and GIS), Urban Economics, Politics of Housing, Social and Political Aspects of Urban Policy and Planning
> **Dissertation**: Transit-Oriented Development or Market-Oriented Development? The Case of Philadelphia's 30th Street Station

**B.A. in Food System Studies** (self-designed interdisciplinary major)            2010 – 2014
Tufts University, Boston, MA

> **GPA**: 3.68/4.0
> **Awards & Honors:** Graduated Magna Cum Laude (2014), Highest Honors on Senior Honors Thesis (2014), Honos Civicus Society for Active Citizenship (2014), Summer Scholar Research Grant (2013), MacJannet Merit Scholarship (2011), Dean's List for 6 of 7 eligible semesters (2010 – 2014)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**ICLEI**                                                                  August 2024 – Present
*Expert, Circular Economy,* Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
- Manage multi-institutional E.U. projects to analyze and disseminate policy approaches and best practices for urban resource efficiency
- Build capacity of European city governments to finance and implement circular economy initiatives

**C40 Cities**                                                    September 2024 – February 2025
*Consultant, Fossil Fuel Subisdy Reform,* Remote
- Author a policy brief and advocacy-oriented communications materials about the role of cities in fossil fuel subsidy reform, and its impacts on Global South cities and vulnerable communities

**World Resources Institute**                                    September 2017 – August 2024
*Research Associate, New Urban Mobility Alliance,* Washington DC, USA          June 2021 – August 2024
- Author and manage peer-reviewed publications about urban mobility, climate policy and energy
- Contribute expert review and agile interdisciplinary research support to WRI's international teams
- Created three large quantitative datasets and an interactive dashboard on school bus electrification
- Convened a 30-member working group to develop standards or micromobility emissions assessments, and facilitated consensus on best practices among private and public sector

*Research Analyst II, International Climate Program,* Washington DC, USA        August 2020 – June 2021
- Researched policies to equitably electrify ride-hailing, managed partnership with Uber and presented findings in an official session at COP26
- Authored "Equity and Just Transition" chapter in *State of Climate Action*, 2022's most read report
- Managed research and communications for the Just Transition and Equitable Climate Action Resource Center, including writing over 12 case studies of transition initiatives around the world

*Research Analyst, Coalition for Urban Transitions,* London, UK          September 2017 – August 2020
- Served as project manager, second author and transport lead for *Climate Emergency, Urban Opportunity* report that was endorsed by the UN Secretary-General at UN Climate Action Summit
- Coordinated a 12-person international team; compiled and analyzed comments from 100 reviewers

**Siemens**          September 2017 – August 2018

*Urban Development Researcher,* London, UK
- Developed a quantitative model to help cities plan for electric, shared and autonomous mobility
- Wrote reports on how emerging energy technologies can drive urban sustainability

**Hazon**          June 2014 – December 2015

*Program Manager,* Philadelphia, USA
- Planned flagship sustainable food conference to engage local community, directly managing over 30 volunteers and 50 partner organizations

## PUBLICATIONS

Lazer, L. (Forthcoming January 2025). Shifting Public Money Away From Fossil Fuels: How Cities Can Champion Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform. C40 Cities.

Freemark, Y., J. Gonzales-Hernandez, J. Morales-Burnett, C. Stacy, S. Castellanos and L. Lazer. (Forthcoming 2025). Toolbox for Navigating the Land-Use Impacts of the Automated Vehicle Ecosystem. *Urban Institute and New Urban Mobility Alliance.*
https://apps.trb.org/cmsfeed/TRBNetProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=5051

Lazer, L. et al. (August 2024). State of Equity in Electric School Bus Adoption. Electrifying US School Bus Fleets Equitably to Reduce Air Pollution Exposure in Underserved Communities. *World Resources Institute.*
https://www.wri.org/research/electrifying-us-school-bus-fleets-equitably-reduce-air-pollution-exposure-underserved

Lazer, L., Y. Shao and G. Taff. (2024). Dataset of U.S. School Bus Depots. *World Resources Institute.*
https://www.wri.org/research/dataset-us-school-bus-depots

Lazer, L. (2023). Electric School Bus Data Dashboard. *World Resources Institute.*
https://electricschoolbusinitiative.org/electric-school-bus-data-dashboard

Lazer, L. (2023). Assessing the Environmental Impact of Micromobility: A Guide for Cities. *New Urban Mobility Alliance.* https://www.numo.global/resources/micromobility-emissions-life-cycle-assessment-guide

Saha, D., G. Walls, D. Waskow, and L. Lazer. (2023). Just Transitions in the Oil and Gas Sector: Considerations for addressing impacts on workers and communities in middle-income countries. *World Resources Institute.* https://doi.org/10.46830/wriwp.21.00040.

Lazer, L., L. Freehafer, and J. Wang. (2023). Dataset of U.S. School Bus Fleets. *World Resources Institute.*

Lazer, L. and N. Godfrey. (2022) The Decoupled City. In M. Powell (Ed.) *The Climate City.* Wiley Publishing. https://www.wiley.com/en-us/The+Climate+City-p-9781119746317

Wang, K., M. Costanzavan den Belt, G. Heath, J. Walzberg, T. Curtis, J. Barrie, P. Schroder, L. Lazer, and J. C. Altamirano. (2022). Circular Economy as a Climate Strategy: Current Knowledge and Calls-to-Action. *PACE and World Resources Institute.* https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/knowledge/circular-economy-climate-strategy-current-knowledge-and-calls-action

Boehm, S., K. Lebling, K. Levin, H. Fekete, J. Jaeger, R. Waite, A. Nilsson, J. Thwaites, R. Wilson, A. Geiges, C. Schumer, M. Dennis, K. Ross, S. Castellanos, R. Shrestha, N. Singh, M. Weisse, L. Lazer, L. Jeffery, L. Freehafer, E. Gray, L. Zhou, M. Gidden, and M. Galvin. (2022.) State of Climate Action 2021: Systems Transformations Required to Limit

Global Warming to 1.5°C. *World Resources Institute.* https://doi.org/10.46830/wrirpt.21.00048.

Lazer, L. and L. Freehafer. (2022). Dataset Of Electric School Bus Adoption In The United States. *World Resources Institute.* https://datasets.wri.org/dataset/electric_school_bus_adoption

Lazer, L., S. Wachche, R. Sclar and S. Cassius. (2021). Electrifying Ride-Hailing in the United States, Europe, and Canada: How to Enable Ride-Hailing Drivers to Switch to Electric Vehicles. *World Resources Institute.* https://www.wri.org/research/electrifying-ride-hailing-united-states-europe-canada

World Resources Institute. (2021). Just Transition and Equitable Climate Action Resource Center. https://www.wri.org/just-transitions/snapshots

Finch, M., J. Jaeger, M. Hart, L. Lazer, J. M. Holt, J. C. Altamirano, R. King, Y. Dagnet, N. Janardhanan, E. Zusman, and S. Kojima. (2021). From COVID-19 Response to Sustainable Redesign: How Decarbonization, Circular Economy, and Decentralization Can Guide the Transition and Strengthen National Climate Objectives. *World Resources Institute and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies.* https://www.wri.org/research/covid-19-response-sustainable-redesign

Kothari, V. et al. (2021). Future Mobility Calculator: An electric mobility infrastructure tool. *Siemens and Coalition for Urban Transitions.* https://urbantransitions.global/en/publication/future-mobility-calculator-an-electric-mobility-infrastructure-tool/
Davis, M., S. Mehrotra, A. Kumar, A. Redondo, A. Kustar, B. Rennkamp, C. Gillespie, D. Liu, F. Stanley-Price, G. Zubicaray, H. A. Simarmata, J. Hanlon, L. Lazer, M. Pai, N. Godfrey (Programme Director), P. L. Elizondo, P. Batra, R. Wihanesta, R. King, S. Qiu, S. Vitello, T. Jiménez. (2021). Seizing the Urban Opportunity: How national governments can recover from COVID-19, secure shared prosperity, and tackle the climate crisis through cities. *Coalition for Urban Transitions.* https://urbantransitions.global/en/publication/seizing-the-urban-opportunity/

New Urban Mobility Alliance. (2020). New Mobility Atlas. https://www.numo.global/new-mobility-atlas#2/22.9/19.5

Colenbrander, S., Lazer, L., Haddaoui, C., Godfrey, N., Lobo, A., Clarkson, H., Huxley, R., Parnell, S., Smith, B., Smith, S. and Altenburg, T. (2019). Climate Emergency, Urban Opportunity: How national governments can secure economic prosperity and avert climate catastrophe by transforming cities. *Coalition for Urban Transitions.* https://urbantransitions.global/en/publication/climate-emergency-urban-opportunity/

Thayne, J. Lazer, L., Barnes, S, and Rajvanshi, N. (2018). Powering the Future of Urban Mobility: How Shared eMobility Will Change Our Streets and Cities. *Siemens.* https://assets.new.siemens.com/siemens/assets/api/uuid:d3498f52-de30-4955-bb8e-f7bcccef80ea/powering-the-future-of-urban-mobility-final-092418-v2.pdf

Mountford, H., Corfee-Morlot, J., McGregor, M., Banaji, F., Bhattacharya, A., Brand, J., Colenbrander, S., Stern, N., et al. (2018). Unlocking the inclusive growth story of the 21st century: Accelerating climate action in urgent times. *Coalition for Urban Transitions.* https://newclimateeconomy.report/2018/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2018/09/NCE_2018_FULL-REPORT.pdf

Lazer, L. (2017). Transit-Oriented Development or Market-Oriented Development? The Case of Philadelphia's 30th Street Station District Plan. *Masters Dissertation for London School of Economics.* https://8bb9f17f-0249-4e68-8065-5de0f8437d54.filesusr.com/ugd/95af2f_c92260181eb54cc283d07e997b0c3894.pdf

Department of Geography and Environment, London School of Economics. (2017). IGNITE. https://8bb9f17f-0249-4e68-8065-5de0f8437d54.filesusr.com/ugd/95af2f_07c43ccf4d19458f844dae5164137de4.pdf

Lazer, L. (2014). Evaluating Policy and Planning Tools for Healthy Corner Stores. *Senior Thesis for Tufts University.*

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Area Editor for Area 6:** *Focus on Global Challenges & Dynamic Threats*, **Data & Policy journal (Cambridge University Press)**, *2025-Present*
- **Carbon13 - Domain Expert, Built Environmemt,** *2024-Present***:** Advise founders of climate tech start-ups on technical aspects of built environment-related ventures
- **Charge Coalition, Multimodal Working Group,** *2024***:** Member of multi-sectoral coalition supporting policies to electrify U.S. transportation, focused on federal programs for multimodal travel
- **Climate Reality Project,** *2020*: Selected for Leadership Corps Training on climate communications
- **US Dept. of Health and Human Services,** *2015-2018*: Reviewed applications to federal Community Economic Development grants focused on job creation through small and medium enterprises
- **Fair Food Philadelphia's Board of Directors,** *2014-2017:* Provided organizational oversight as board member of an NGO that promotes sustainable regional food systems
- **Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council**, *2014-2016*: Appointed to advise mayor on local food policy, including developing a land bank to transform vacant lots into community gardens

## LANGUAGE & COMPUTER SKILLS

**Language**: English (Native), Spanish (Advanced), Swedish (Advanced), French (Intermediate), German (Beginner)

**Computer:** Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), qGIS, ArcGIS, R, Stata, Zotero, PowerBI

## AWARDS

**Best Novel Data Method** award for "Dataset of U.S. School Bus Fleets" with Lydia Freehafer and Jessica Wang, "WRI's Got Talent" Research Awards, 2023

**Best Use of Data Visualization** award for "The State of Electric School Bus Adoption in the U.S." with Lydia Freehafer, "WRI's Got Talent" Research Awards, 2023

**Most Downloaded Publication** award for "State of Climate Action 2021: Systems Transformations Required to Limit Global Warming to 1.5°C", "WRI's Got Talent" Research Awards, 2022

## LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEERING

- **ArteSumapaz,** *October 2023*: Participated in a month-long artist residency in rural Colombia
- **Sponsor Circle,** *2022-2023***:** Founded and led a volunteer group that resettled an Afghan refugee family in Washington DC; raised $20,000 and coordinated 25 volunteers
- **350 DC,** *2018-2019***:** Volunteered as organizer and activist on climate and racial justice campaigns