



Human geographers study how people interact with places. With my focus on nature and geography, I examine the relationships between humans and the environment. I'm particularly interested in the construction of nature in cities and the role of people and organizations in stewardship of the urban environment.

Dr. Lindsay Campbell
Social Scientist
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<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>



Dr. Lindsay Campbell



Important Scientist Characteristics

Strong analytic and writing skills are important to qualitative research. I love reading books, conducting interviews, and analyzing texts. Making sense of data requires effective writing and communication skills.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:

One question I've asked about environmental stewardship with my colleague Erika Svendsen is, who takes care of New York City? We built a database of thousands of community groups and nonprofit organizations and surveyed them to understand who they are, how they care for nature in the city, and with whom they work.

Technology or equipment used in research: I use digital voice recorders to record in-person interviews, which transcribers type up. I analyze these interviews through qualitative coding using a software called NVivo. With network questions, we've analyzed them using the software UCINET and made graphs and visualizations (like the one in my picture) with the software NETDRAW.

Most Exciting Discovery

- Demonstrating that there are
- thousands of groups that care
- about the urban environment
- was a big achievement. Urban
- environmental stewardship is
- alive and well. We have much
- more to learn about why these
- groups form, how they evolve,
- and what their impacts are.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

- My interest in social science
- is tied to my deep love
- of cities. Working for the
- USDA Forest Service in New
- York City led to my career
- as a research scientist. This
- career enables me to explore
- questions relating to how civic
- engagement and sustaining
- the urban environment
- interact with each other.

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