

JANUARY 2022

FALL 2021

GEOGRAPHY

**THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY
AT CLARK UNIVERSITY**



WHERE'S YOUR WORLD? | FALL 2021

GEOG

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Graduate School of Geography
Jefferson Academic Center 220
Clark University | 950 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01610

Phone: 508-793-7336

Fax: 508-793-8881

Email: Geography@clarku.edu

[Visit Us Online](#)

GSG CONTACTS

James McCarthy
Director

Mark Davidson
Associate Director

Brenda Nikas-Hayes
Department Administrator &
Assistant to the Director

Yaa Poku
Administrator of Degree Programs

Aidan Giasson
Office Coordinator &
Assistant to the Department
Administrator

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Cover Photo by Shiqi Tao and Qi Zhang



WELCOME

A NOTE FROM GSG DIRECTOR JAMES MCCARTHY

Dear Geography Friends,

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter since the spring of 2020! Although I started as Director of the GSG in June of 2020, this is my first newsletter column, since a combination of staff turnover and vacancies and the demands of the pandemic compelled us to put the newsletter on hiatus for a while. I am very pleased to report that we now have a full complement of excellent new staff in the department, and that Clark and the GSG remain vibrant and dynamic institutions despite the many challenges of the pandemic.

The first order of business, then, is to **introduce and welcome our new staff members**. Brenda Nikas-Hayes rejoined us in the summer of 2020 as Department Administrator and Assistant to the Director. While Brenda is hardly new to the GSG, this is a new role for her, and we have all benefitted enormously from the experience, knowledge, and commitment she brings to the position. More recently, Yaa Poku and Aidan Giasson joined the department over the summer of 2021. Yaa is our new Administrator of Degree Programs, and Aidan is our Office Coordinator and Assistant to the Department Administrator. Both are recent graduates of Clark themselves: Yaa graduated in 2017 with a degree in biochemistry and molecular biology, and Aidan graduated in 2021 from Geography (and indeed worked in the department while an undergraduate). We welcome them and especially appreciate their ability to connect with current Clark students, which is already bearing fruit in new majors.

We have had **other arrivals, departures, and transitions** as well. We are delighted to welcome Abby Frazier, a new tenure-track Assistant Professor in Earth System Science with expertise in climatology and climate change science, communication, and policy. Abby holds a Ph.D and M.A. in geography from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and a B.A. in geography and a

B.S. in mathematics from the University of Vermont. She bravely joined the GSG this fall after an entirely remote interview from Hawai'i, as well as after five post-Ph.D. years there in research positions. We are also delighted to introduce Joe Getzoff, a Visiting Assistant Professor now in his second year in the department. Joe completed his Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Minnesota in 2020 and is teaching a range of courses in his areas of expertise, which include environment and development, political geography, and critical environmental history, with regional emphases on the Middle East and United States. We were very sorry to lose Assistant Professor Youjin Chung to a job at U.C. Berkeley in 2020, but we wish her the best. Tony Bebbington began a multi-year leave of absence in 2021 to become the International Program Director for Natural Resources and Climate Change at the Ford Foundation, taking his work on the governance of extractive industries and the interests of rural and indigenous communities to a new context.

More broadly, many of you may wonder **how the GSG fared through the pandemic**. The short answer is, we persevered and continued to do the excellent work that characterizes Clark Geography. After seeing how everyone in the department, faculty and students alike, pulled together to maintain high-quality teaching and mentoring, high-level research activity including grants and publications, and the essential service work that keeps the institution not just continuing but improving, all under unprecedented circumstances, I have both renewed faith in people's ability to substantially change and adapt when we must, and an even greater respect for all of my colleagues in the GSG. I think, for example, of John Rogan's continuing work to restore Worcester's Hadwen Arboretum, which provided graduate and undergraduate students, including in the HERO program, a critical opportunity to learn and work safely outdoors through the long months of the pandemic. We graduated two full cohorts of students from all of our degree programs, in 2020 and 2021, and they won an impressive list of honors and awards.

At the same time, there were of course serious impacts as well: people did the work above while also caring for children,

parents, and other vulnerable family members, leaving everyone stretched thin. Institutional support and accommodations were uneven, with many responses aimed at faculty, undergraduates, or domestic students not necessarily taking account of the particular circumstances of graduate or international students. Faculty and doctoral students with field-dependent research lost entire seasons or even years of data collection. Many doctoral students had to return from, postpone, or find alternatives to fieldwork, requiring them to revisit their research designs. Options for off-campus and post-Ph.D. employment dwindled as many schools cut budgets and froze hiring. We worked with our students to address all of these challenges, including allocating additional support to students already in the program. That meant, however, that we could only admit Ph.D. cohorts of half the usual size this year and last. CUGS remains a strong and supportive community, but we have work ahead to ensure that our doctoral program maintains critical mass and momentum. Finally, we have had two years without an Atwood Lecture, since that really needs to be an in-person event and the pandemic rendered that unworkable.

Finally, this year marks the 100th anniversary of the Graduate School of Geography at Clark. Considering the challenges currently facing our society and world on the one hand – accelerating climate change, a global pandemic, dramatic inequality, and mounting threats to democracy amidst a growing recognition of system racism, among myriad others – and the work being done by Clark Geography faculty, students, and alumni on the other, it is abundantly clear how much geography and the GSG have to contribute to understanding and addressing these challenges. We will celebrate the GSG's contributions over the past century and consider its future in an **in-person event next fall**. The pandemic made an in-person event this year impossible, and such an event deserves a live gathering. We have begun making plans – **stay tuned for updates!**

—James McCarthy, Director

FACULTY NEWS



GSG Faculty Retreat 2021, Arts Worcester Gallery, 44 Portland St. Worcester

CLARK POLAR SCIENCE RESEARCH LAB

Dr. Karen Frey, accompanied by PhD students Clare Gaffey and Anna Zhu and recent MS GIScience graduate Sophie Spiliotopoulos, conducted a successful Arctic field season onboard the Canadian Coast Guard Sir Wilfrid Laurier icebreaker in July 2021 following a disrupted year for the research program due to COVID in 2020. Many adaptations to the fieldwork plan were made to ensure the health and safety of crew and science team. Added

within the Bering and Chukchi Seas. This year, Clare and Anna sampled chromophoric dissolved organic matter (CDOM), which is the portion of dissolved organic matter that absorbs light. This characteristic allows researchers to detect CDOM and analyze properties of samples, such as its marine or terrestrial origin. CDOM can have a major impact on biological activity by diminishing light intensity as it penetrates the water column, reducing the potential for photosynthesis by phytoplankton. Sophie sampled for zooplankton which are microorganisms in the water column that are an essential link in the marine food chain. They were joined by several other scientists from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Institute of Ocean Sciences, and the University of Victoria.

PROFESSOR ABBY FRAZIER CONDUCTING GRANT-SUPPORTED RESEARCH IN PACIFIC ISLANDS

Abby Frazier was nominated to lead the Hawaii and Pacific Islands regional chapter of the Fifth National Climate Assessment, a congressionally-mandated report through the US Global Change Research Program that is scheduled for release in late 2023.

Abby is a co-lead of a new NSF grant for \$1.33 million to install a new network of over 80 climate stations across the State of Hawaii. This new Hawaii Mesonet (or mesoscale network) will be a densely located set of observation stations which will help us better understand and forecast the complex weather and climate of the Hawaiian Islands.

Abby is also a co-lead of the new five-year, \$6.36 million research grant that will launch the next phase of the Pacific Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (Pacific RISA) program, which is designed to provide information for Pacific Island communities on building resilience to the effects of



Manoa Lyon Arboretum
Photo Credit: Abby Frazier



Halenet Kalapawili Treeline Inversion
Photo taken by John Delay

climate change. This program is funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and will address the following themes: Building Equitable and Just Climate Solutions for Pacific Island Resilience to Compound Disasters and Extreme Events. Abby will be collaborating closely with University of Hawaii, East-West Center, and Arizona State University.



Prof. Yuko Aoyama having class outdoors on the Green, reflective of the Clark Future Initiatives

Photo Credit: Clark News



(L-R) Prof. Karen Frey, Clare Gaffey, Sophie Spiliotopoulos, Anna Zhu

measures included obtaining permission to cross the Canadian border, which was closed to U.S. citizens at the time, COVID vaccinations, frequent COVID testing, and a two-week quarantine in British Columbia at the peak of an unprecedented heat wave. On the ship, special care was taken to maintain a safe and healthy environment, such as frequently disinfecting surfaces and maintaining social distancing through staggered scheduled mealtimes and other means. Despite the challenges associated with the pandemic, the data collected will contribute to a multi-year monitoring effort of biophysical responses in the face of ongoing climate change.

Since 2013, the Distributed Biological Observatory (DBO) project funded by NSF to Dr. Frey has been collecting physical, biogeochemical, and biological samples at highly productive "hotspots" throughout the Pacific Arctic Region

FACULTY NEWS

THE GSG WELCOMES NEW VISITING AND TENURE-TRACK FACULTY MEMBERS AND INSTRUCTORS: DR. ABBY FRAZIER, DR. JOSEPH GETZOFF, AND DR. SHADI MALEKI

The Graduate School of Geography is very excited to welcome and acknowledge the new faculty in the department, one who joined us last academic year amidst the pandemic, Dr. Joseph Getzoff, and two who joined us this fall, Dr. Abby Frazier and Dr. Shadi Maleki!

JOSEPH GETZOFF, PH.D, VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



Joseph Getzoff is a cultural geographer whose research explores the intersections of human-environment interactions, comparative settler colonial contexts, and the global histories of development. Joe received a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct field research in Israel (2015-2017) for his dissertation which interrogates the economic and environmental projects connected to state-led development in the arid Negev/Naqab desert. His work explores historical and contemporary economic and developmentalist narratives—such as found in the slogans, “make the desert bloom” and the “start-up nation”—that propel not only Israeli claims to land, but Israeli claims to progress and modernity. His work also focuses on

how developmental projects present a number of material and ideological challenges for Bedouin-Palestinian citizens of the Negev/Naqab, who have historical claims to the region. Before joining Clark, Joe taught as an adjunct professor at neighboring Worcester State University (2019-2020). He recently received his doctorate from the University of Minnesota’s Department of Geography, Environment and Society (2020). Professor Getzoff will teach **Geog 017: Environment and Society**, **Geog 018: Environment and Development in the Global South**, and two **Special Topics Courses: Environmental Politics of the Middle East and Critical Environmental Histories of the U.S.: Race Indigeneity, and Nature**.

ABBY FRAZIER, PH.D, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



Abby Frazier is a climatologist who studies the spatiotemporal dynamics and impacts of climate change and climate variability. Her research uses geospatial analysis to integrate diverse datasets, including models and observations, to understand the multidisciplinary impacts of climate on freshwater resources and ecosystems over regional and global scales, with a focus on Pacific Islands. She is interested in climate extremes, particularly the impacts of drought and the El Niño-Southern Oscillation on local hydrology

and wildfire regimes. Before joining Clark University, Dr. Frazier was a Research Fellow at the East-West Center in Honolulu, HI (2018-2021), and a post-doctoral Research Geographer at the USDA Forest Service Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry (2016-2018). She earned her Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in geography from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and has a B.A. in geography and a B.S. in mathematics from the University of Vermont.

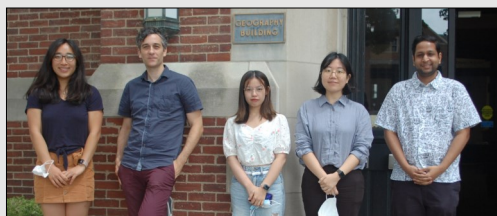
Professor Frazier will teach the **Special Topics Course: Hydroclimatology** in the Fall 2021 semester. For the Spring 2022 semester, Prof. Frazier will teach **Geog 104: Earth System Science** and **Geog 302: Climate Dynamics Seminar**.

SHADI MALEKI, PH.D, VISITING INSTRUCTOR



Shadi Maleki is a Geographer who specializes in GIS and Urban Geography. Her research interests include the application of geospatial analysis to evaluate the differences and similarities between local and expert knowledge in neighborhood planning. She earned an M.S. in Sustainability and Ph.D. in GIS from Texas State University and an M.A. in International Relations from Università degli Studi di Perugia in Italy. Prof. Maleki is teaching **GEOG 190: Intro to GIS** in the Fall 2021 semester. She will be teaching **GEOG 190: Intro to GIS** and **GEOG 110 Intro to Quantitative Methods** in the Spring 2022 Semester.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS



(L-R) Anna, Jacob, Vanchy, Eunyong, Spandan

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST-YEAR (2021) DOCTORAL COHORT!!

VANCHY WEIZHI LI

M.S. Environmental Science and Management, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)

B.S. GIS, Fujian Normal University
Research Interests: GIS and Remote sensing, Environmental change on health, and land cover/land use on biodiversity.

JACOB MITCHELL

M.L.A (Landscape Architecture), University of Toronto

B.E.S (Environmental Studies), York University

Research Interests: Urban infrastructure and climate change adaptation.

Urban forestry. Caribbean and Gulf Coast urbanism. Landscape visualization, cartography, and environmental rhetoric.

SPANDAN PANDEY

MSc Climate Change and Sustainability Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences
BTech Information Technology, West Bengal University of Technology

Research Interests: Political ecology of climate change, vulnerability and adaptation, urban spaces, climate ethics, and environmental governance.

EUNYEONG SONG

M.A Geography Education, Seoul National University

B.A. Social Studies Education (Geography Education), Jeju National University

Research Interests: Export Crops, Spices, Food Chains, Agricultural Commodities Change, International Food Trade, Agrarian Change, Regional Develop-

ment, Global Production Networks, Commodity Chains and Networks, Development Studies, East and Southeast Asia.

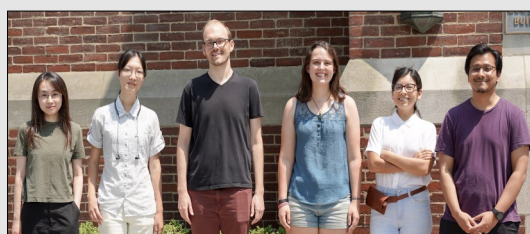
ANNA ZHU

M.S. Geography, The George Washington University

B.A. Geography, The George Washington University

B.S. Economics, The George Washington University

Research Interests: Arctic systems, climate change, cryosphere, and GIS/Remote Sensing.



(L-R) Shiqi, Aiyin, Patrick, Maddy, Gisselle, Arman

WELCOME TO OUR SECOND-YEAR (2020) DOCTORAL COHORT!!

ARMAN BAJRACHARYA

B.S. Ecology and Field Biology, St. Cloud State University

Research Interests: Studying the impacts of urbanization on the fragmentation of vegetative land.

PATRICK GEIGER

M.Sc. Geography, George Washington University

B.A. Geography and International Relations, George Washington University
Research Interests: Researching homelessness and public space.

MADELINE KROOT

B.A. Geography and Linguistics, Dartmouth College

Research Interests: Energy geographies with a particular focus on the political ecology of energy transmission projects in the US North-East, and their implications for just energy transitions.

SHIQI TAO

M.S. Geography, Michigan State University

B.S. Geography, Chengdu University of Technology, China

Research Interests: Forest change monitoring, as well as traits that affect forest responses to climate change.

GISSELLE VILA BENITES

M.A. Environmental Development, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru

B.A. Sociology, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru

Research Interests: The comparative governance of artisanal and small-scale mining in Colombia and Peru.

AIYIN ZHANG

M.S. Hong Kong Polytechnic University

B.S. Beijing Forestry University

Research Interests: The applications of multi-temporal remote sensing for the study of land-use change, forest disturbances, agriculture expansion and urbanization.



GSG doctoral students and faculty (with family) at the Mt. Monadnock Summit and Camp Massapoag. PC: Shiqi Tao and Qi Zhang

CUGS FIELD CAMP 2021—FIRST TRIP SINCE 2019—WAS A SUCCESS!!

This past summer, CUGS reignited the Annual Field Camp weekend trip to Camp Massapoag in Dunstable, MA and up the Mount Monadnock Summit in New Hampshire.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

PLUM ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS LONG TERM ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH CONTINUES AMID THE



GLOBAL PAN-DEMIC

The PIE-LTER team conducted

fieldwork to identify vegetation in the Plum Island Ecosystems in northeastern Massachusetts during September 2021. From left to right are visiting scholar Ramon Molinero, doctoral student Thomas Bilintoh, professor Gil Pontius, GIS masters student Claire Wang, Mass Audubon scientist Robert Buchsbaum, and doctoral student Aiyin Zhang. Photo credit is Anne Giblin.



ROOPA KRITHIVASAN JOINS DEFEND OUR HEALTH, FORMERLY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STRAT-

EGY CENTER IN PORTLAND, ME AS RESEARCH ANALYST

TAKEN FROM THE DEFEND OUR HEALTH WEBSITE

Roopa brings over 10 years of experience in social, ecological, and conservation research to Defend Our Health. She is currently completing her PhD in Geography at Clark university where she studies human-wildlife interactions, collective farming practices, and agricultural change in the Indian Himalayas. Prior to her PhD she worked as a social scientist at the World Wildlife Fund in Washington, DC, a climate change intern at the National Park Service, and a lemur behavior research assistant in Madagascar. Roopa has a M.Sc. In Environmental Science from the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University and a B.A. in Biology from the University

of Chicago. In her free time, she likes exploring the desert near her home in southern Nevada with her family, boondocking, and reading speculative fiction.

LEARNING SERIES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

In the Spring of 2020, two AAG members – [doctoral candidate] Brittany Lauren Wheeler (Clark University) and Dydia DeLyser (California State University, Fullerton) – volunteered for AAG's COVID-19 Rapid Response Task Force. They had the foresight to see these challenges approaching. Wheeler and DeLyser co-wrote a proposal for the Task Force that suggested a 'Methods Training program' to support graduate students in adapting their research to the new realities of pandemic life. Their idea turned into the Learning Series for Graduate Students, a virtual series accessible to graduate students with an AAG membership.

INTRODUCING OUR MS-GIS ADP COHORTS (2020-21 AND 2021-22)

2020-2021 COHORT

Rachel Corcoran Adams (Geog '20)

Juliette Gale (Geog '20)

Ahna Knudsen (GES '20)

Rowan Moody (Geog '20)

Claire Morehouse (Econ '20)

Ariana Nicholson (Student Designed '20)

Kyle Pecsok (Geog '20)

Shannon Reault (ES '20)

Sophie Spiliotopoulos (Geog '20)

Jessica Strzempko (ES '20)

Caroline Williams (ES '20)

2021-2022 COHORT

Valeria Chavez (PSci/Geog '21)

Jules Dowling (Geog '21)

Kasyan Green (Geog '21)

Garren Kalter (Geog '21)

Ethan Manley (ES '21)

Sadie Murray (Geog '21)

Galen Oettel (ESS '21)

Benjamin Ryan (Geog '21)

Aandishah Samara (GES '21)

Curan VanDerWielen (PSci/Geog '21)

CLARK STUDENT IS ALL BUSINESS WHEN IT COMES TO BUSES

FROM CLARK NEWS, BY AVIVA LUTTRELL



Research project reimagines Worcester's public transportation.

Garren Kalter '21, M.S. '22, has a plan to transform public transit in Worcester.

The urban geography and economics double major developed a comprehensive operations analysis for his honors thesis that outlines ways to improve Worcester Regional Transit Authority bus service while reducing operating costs.

Kalter notes that a trip by bus currently takes about 277% longer than a trip by car. The WRTA only offers full service on weekdays, with the most frequent buses arriving at 30-minute intervals. By reconfiguring the WRTA network, reducing redundancies, and implementing several one-time improvements, Kalter found that each bus line could provide higher quality service — with a path toward 10-minute frequencies, 18-hour-a-day service, and full service each day of the week.

Kalter plans to present his final report to the Worcester City Council this fall.



Photos L-R: Kas Green, Galen Oettel, Jules Dowling, Garren Kalter.

PC: Yaa Poku



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

HERO 2020-2021 AND 2021-2022 COHORTS

2020-2021 COHORT

VALERIA CHAVEZ (PSCI/GEOG '21)
ANNA MASSINGER (ES '22)
ALVARO ESPARZA (GEOG '21)
GALEN OETTEL (ES '21)
WILL SANDERS (GEOG/SPAN '21)

2021-2022 COHORT

APPLE GOULD-SCHULTZ (ES '23)
DAVID HENRIQUES (ES '22)
SARAH HUGHES (ES '23)
CALEIGH MCLAREN (ES '22)
MADELINE REGENYE (ES '22)

WHEN THE GOING GETS HOT, CLARK'S HERO FELLOWS GET GOING

SNIPPET
FROM
CLARK
NEWS, BY
AVIVA LUT-
TRELL



(L-R):
Apple,
Caleigh,
Madeline,
David, and
Sarah

Student researchers propose strategies to cool off Worcester's neighborhoods

Students in Clark University's Human-Environment Regional Observatory (HERO) Program spent their summer break studying air quality and temperature in Worcester's hottest neighborhood — navigating a so-called "heat island" in Green Island.

Over eight weeks, the group, comprising five undergraduates and two doctoral students, monitored air temperature, surface temperature, and ozone concentration in the Green Island neighborhood to determine which streets should be prioritized for tree planting and other green solutions. The very low green canopy has turned Green Island, adjacent to Worcester's Canal District about a mile from Clark, into the city's hottest neighborhood, according to Geography Professor John Rogan, who oversees the HERO Program along with Professor Deborah Martin. "The students found a high concentration of ozone on the streets near I-290 during heat-wave days, compared to streets that are further away from I-290," Rogan said. "The fellows also found that streets are eight to 10 degrees hotter than the standard reported temperature for the city."

As part of this year's project, the HERO fellows also used historic maps from Clark's Burnham Map Library to determine the neighborhood's vulnerability to flooding and to indicate where wetland water catchment areas were located before the development of downtown Worcester. They presented their findings to the city to help meet sustainability and resilience goals laid out in the Green Worcester Plan. The HERO fellows worked closely with city officials throughout the summer, including Conservation Planner Stefanie Covino, M.S./ES&P '15, Senior Planner Michelle Smith '11, M.A./CDP '12, Sustainability Project Manager Luba Zhaurova, and City Energy and Asset Management Division Manager John Odell.

The HERO team was led by geography doctoral students Nicholas Geron and Marc Healy, whose mentorship was instrumental in guiding data collection and analysis, according to Rogan. Undergraduate fellows in photo above.

LET'S ROLL SOME PUMPKINS! - GSG FALL EVENT 2021

On Thursday, October 28th, GSG Staff took to the Green to energize the students and get them interested in the Gradu-

ate School of Geography. Pumpkins great and small were rolled, apple cider and apple cider donuts were served, pumpkin trivia was played, pumpkin recipes were shared, and informational pamphlets about the majors and minors within the GSG were passed out. The fall event was a perfect starting point for the reintroduction of in-person events within the Graduate School of Geography. Photo Credit: Yaa Poku



GSG Staff and Faculty gathered with students rolling pumpkins

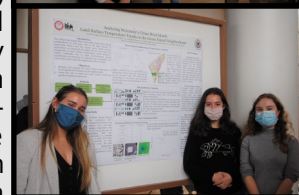
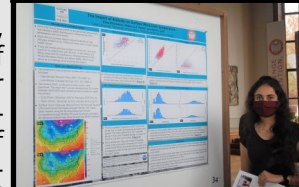
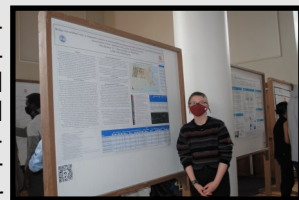
CUGA GENERAL INTEREST MEETING

The evening after the Fall Event was the General Interest Meeting for the Clark Undergraduate Geography Association AKA CUGA. CUGA had become somewhat dormant during the pandemic years and this was the perfect time to revive the group. A panel of undergrads, graduate students, and a faculty member was put together. The panelists comprised of Garren Kalter, MS-GIS ADP student, William Westgard-Cruice, doctoral student, Julia Chun, undergraduate senior, Andrew Niehaus, undergraduate junior, David Henriques, undergraduate senior, and Professor Robert Gilmore Pontius Jr. Julia Chun and David Henriques are the current copresidents of CUGA. Photo Credit: Yaa Poku



FALL FEST 2021

We were excited to see the GSG represented at Fall Fest 2021! LEEP Fellow, Abby Beilman, '23 presented their poster "Bridge Over Troubled Water: A Comparative Analysis of Environmental Issues Impacting Water in Middlesex County, MA and Their Relation to Socioeconomic Factors, Superfund Sites, and the Presence of Greenery" sponsored by Professor Karen Frey. Esha Bharadwaj '23 presented their poster on "The Impact of Altitude on Surface Wind Chill Temperature" sponsored by the National Science Foundation, Professor Florencia Sangermano, and Neil Laird, professor of geoscience at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. There were 2 posters presented by HERO (Human Environment Regional Observatory) Fellows: "Historical Mapping and Flood Mitigation in Green Island" by David Henriques '22 and Caleigh McLaren '22; and "Analyzing Worcester's Urban Heat Island: Land Surface Temperature Trends in the Green Island Neighborhood" by Veronica Apple Gould-Schultz '23, Sarah Hughes '23, and Madeline Regenye '22 in collaboration with Nicholas Geron and Marc Healy, graduate students; all sponsored by Professor John Rogan. Congrats to all poster presenters and panelists! Photo Credit: Yaa Poku



ALUMNI NEWS



UNM COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES NAMES CHRIS LIPPITT ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

TAKEN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO NEWSROOM WEBSITE

University of New Mexico Professor Chris Lippitt [Geography '05, M.S./GIS '06] was recently named the new associate dean for research in the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S). Prior to this appointment, which took effect Aug. 1, Lippitt was the founding faculty coordinator of the Interdisciplinary Science Cooperative (Co-op), chair of the Co-op's executive board, and director of the Center for Advancement of Spatial Informatics Research and Education (ASPIRE).

While at UNM, Lippitt has built a strong track record of service, collaboration, and engaging students and colleagues in research. He has been a member of the UNM department of geography and environmental studies since 2012 and believes strongly that the diversity of scholars at UNM and its expertise in providing flagship, R1, training to the emerging American Majority are the keys to UNM's success as a research leader nationally, and is committed to building on that success through a continued commitment to diversity.



HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO MELISHIA SANTIAGO PH.D '19

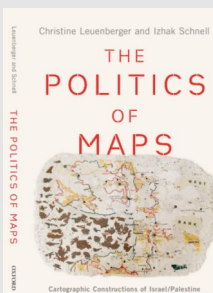
Who has just accepted the position of College of Natural Sciences Director of Student Success and Diversity at UMass Amherst. Dr. Santiago received her Ph.D. from the Clark Graduate School of Geography (Polar Science Research Lab) in 2019 and we couldn't

be prouder of her! Melishia will be an amazing director and UMass is so lucky to have landed her!

SAFAA KARAKI ALDWAIK (M.A. '07, M.A. '10, PH.D. '12)

The UN-Habitat and the Institute of Global Homelessness are launching the Global Homelessness Data Initiative (GHDI), the first global project to support homelessness enumeration. In support of the initiative, they launched the GHDI Advisory Committee that will provide technical and strategic advice to the design and implementation of the overall strategy for global homeless enumeration. Aldwaik has been selected as a member of this Global Advisory Committee. What they were particularly interested in is the strong infrastructure for the geo-data collection that Aldwaik is building in Ramallah, Palestine that could also collect geo-

data on homelessness as the infrastructure relies on information gathered from multiple sources (GIS, collectors' app for field workers and citizens, special surveys, special analysis, etc).



THE POLITICS OF MAPS BY CHRISTINE LEUENBERGER AND IZHAK SCHNELL '84

The Politics of Maps delves beneath the battlefield to unearth the cartographic strife behind the Israel/Palestine conflict. Blending science and technology studies, sociology, and geography with a host of archival material, in-depth interviews and ethnographies, this book explores how the geographical sciences came to be entangled with the politics, territorial claim-making, and nation-state building of Israel/Palestine.

CHRISTINE LEUENBERGER, PHD, is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Science & Technology Studies at Cornell University. Her work has been published in various academic journals, as well as in edited volumes and popular news outlets. She was a Fulbright Scholar, a Fulbright Specialist, and an American Association for the Advancement of Science, Science & Technology Policy Fellow. Dr. Leuenberger was a recipient of a National Science Foundation Scholar's award to investigate the history and sociology of mapping practices in Israel and the Palestinian Territories. She is also conducting research on issues of migration and borders, and is engaged in peace and educational initiatives in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa.

IZHAK SCHNELL, PHD '84, is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Geography and Human Environment at Tel Aviv University and former President of the Israeli Association of Geographers. His works focus on the analysis of social space under globalization and sociospatial integration and segregation of social groups in globalized realities, interpretations of the meanings of spaces and places including the representations of spaces and places like art and cartographic pieces and the monitoring of urban environments as risks for health and urban parks as restorative environments.



DEPARTMENT NEWS

INTRODUCING THE GSG STAFF: BRENDA, AIDAN, AND YAA

The GSG is excited to have 3 full-time staff on board! Please don't hesitate to stop by, or email, and say hi!



BRENDA NIKAS-HAYES, ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR AND DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR

Brenda Nikas-Hayes (she/her) returned to the GSG in June 2020 as the Dept. Admin. Assistant to the Director, after a stint in Non-Profit STEM programing for high school girls

in Worcester. Working remotely for a more than a year due to the ongoing pandemic, it was nice to finally begin a few days in the office this past fall and seeing familiar faces behind the masks. She is happy to be back "home" in the GSG.

AIDAN GIASSON GEOG '21 MPA '22, OFFICE COORDINATOR AND ASSISTANT TO THE DEPT. ADMIN

Aidan Giasson started her position as Office Coordinator and Asst. To Dept. Admin. In June 2021. was a work-study student in the GSG starting her sophomore year. During her time at Clark she majored in Geography, minored in Political Science, and had a concentration in Ethics and Public Policy. Aidan was also the co-directed of Dance Society for two years and a member of CPGs SAB.



YAA POKU BCMB '17, ADMINISTRATOR OF DEGREE PROGRAMS

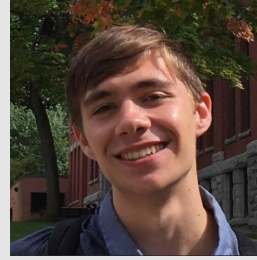
Yaa Poku is excited to be back at Clark in an administrative role. She had previously worked in the non-profit sector for over 10 years and is embracing

the change in her professional journey. During her time at Clark, Yaa majored in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. She was also the Co-Director of Hip-Hip Collabo her senior year after being treasurer her junior year. The most exciting part of being a part of the GSG is providing the support to the undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students!

WORK STUDY STUDENT WORKERS

This year, we are proud to announce that we have employed 4 Work Study students. Two student will be staffing the GIS Help Desk and the other 2 students will work as Office Assistants.

WILLIAM TALBOT GEOG '22



Hello everyone, my name is Will Talbot (he/him), and I am a senior undergraduate at Clark majoring in geography (with a GIS track), minoring in philosophy, and planning on completing a concentration in Ethics and Public Policy. I am also planning on completing a 5th Year Accelerated Masters' Pro-

gram in Community Development and Planning (with an Environment and Development track) at Clark. I have completed GIS final projects on the 2016 Ranked Choice Voting Referendum in Maine, habitat for elephants in Southeast Asia, and (collaboratively) on solar facilities in Massachusetts and land change in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. I am involved in a lot of other clubs and activities on campus, including jazz workshop and combo, concert band, the Scarlet school newspaper, outing club, volleyball club, and intramural sports. I am passionate about using GIS tools in looking at current issues and helping envision socially responsible and environmentally sustainable solutions.

MALLORY TRAINOR IDSC '22



Hi everyone! My name is Mallory (she/her) and I am a senior at Clark. I'm majoring in International Development and Social Change and minoring in Geography. I've been studying GIS at Clark for a few years, and I am particularly interested in mapping issues related to community development and public health.

ASHER GREEN ECON '23

Asher (he/him) is a junior at Clark, majoring in Economics with a double minor in Entrepreneurship and Management. This will be Asher's second year working with the GSG as a work study; he began second semester freshman year. He is currently the treasurer for CASA, the Caribbean and African Student Association, and a connections mentor. Fun fact: Asher's zodiac sign is Scorpio.



SYDNEY GRUNEIRO '24



Sydney Gruneiro (she/her) is a Sophomore at Clark and is Undecided but interested in Women's and Gender Studies and Political Science. She is also on the Rowing team at Clark and is looking forward to the spring season! She enjoys working in the Geography department because she is learning more about the subject and can connect with faculty and staff.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY!

We are gearing up to celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the Graduate School of Geography at Clark University. The kick-off to this Centennial celebration would have began at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) in New York City in February 2022. The Clark AAG Party would have been held in New York as well but, with the decision of AAG to shift to a virtual conference this year, the party was cancelled. Although this is unfortunate news, we now look forward to hosting numerous events during the Spring '22 and Fall '22 semesters, so STAY TUNED.

HOW CAN YOU HELP US CELEBRATE?

This year, both Spring and Fall semesters, we will be working on including many opportunities for alumni to connect with current Clark students.

Prof. Deb Martin currently has 2 Directed Study students, David Agosto-Ginsburg and Rachel Coskey, in "100 Years of Clark Geography". David is interested in the relations of the GSG with the broader Worcester community over time and Rachel is interested in interviews with various alumni throughout the decades to create a snapshot of the GSG over different time periods. If you would like to be connected to David and/or Rachel, please reach out to Yaa Poku.

DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANY OF THESE FACES??



This fall, GSG staff were cleaning out a department closet and happened across a photo negative. With the help of Professor Stephen DiRado, professor of practice from the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, we were able to process the photograph. According to Prof. DiRado, the grit on the photograph suggests that it was meant for a newspaper article.

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH US HAS NEVER BEEN SO EASY!

We would love to have updated information on all of our alumni. You can update us any time using this link:

[Geography Alumni Update Survey](#)

If you would like to volunteer in any way, please reach out to Yaa Poku at ypoku@clarku.edu. This could be anything from guest speakers, field trip hosts, etc.

SPRING 2022 CALENDAR

Be sure to check out our website, Facebook page, and Instagram page to learn of upcoming events! Here are a few dates to mark on your calendars for Spring 2022:

- **Thursday, February 17**
Colloquium Speaker Series
Julia Zanin Shimbo, MapBiomass
12pm-1pm, Via Zoom
- **Thursday, March 17**
Colloquium Speaker Series
Joseph Getzoff, Graduate School of Geography, Clark University
12pm-1pm, Jefferson 218
- **Thursday, March 31**
Colloquium Speaker Series
Tenley Conway, University of Toronto—Mississauga, Department of Geography, Geomatics and Environment
12pm-1pm, Via Zoom
- **Monday, April 4 - Friday, April 8**
Practicing Geography Week, 2022
Events TBD
- **Thursday, April 14**
Colloquium Speaker Series - co-sponsored by Marsh Institute
J. Morgan Grove, USDA Forest Service
12:15pm-1:15pm, Jefferson 218



Director James McCarthy and Professor Abby Frazier rolling pumpkins at the GSG Fall Event. Photo Credit: Yaa Poku

Aidan tabling and ready to hand out donuts, cider, and trivia at the GSG Fall Event. Photo Credit: Yaa Poku





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