

# Ryan L. Burns

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## Education

- 2009-present Ph.D., Geography  
University of Washington  
Committee: Sarah Elwood, Mark Ellis, Vicky Lawson, Jin-Kyu Jung (Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, UW-Bothell)  
Dissertation title: *The Inequality of the Geospatial Web: How Emerging Geographic Technologies Influence Humanitarian Practices*
- 2010-present Certificate in Public Scholarship, Simpson Center for the Humanities, UW
- 2013 Oxford Internet Institute Summer Doctoral Programme  
i-School, University of Toronto, Canada
- 2011 Bergen Summer Research School  
University of Bergen, Norway
- 2009 M.S., Geographic Information Science  
San Diego State University  
Committee: André Skupin, Stuart Aitken, Eniko Csomay (Linguistics)  
Thesis title: *Spatializing Places, People, and Utterances – A Case Study Involving San Diego Neighborhoods*
- 2006 B.A., Geography, Magna Cum Laude  
Eastern Kentucky University

## Affiliations

- HASTAC Scholar, *Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory (HASTAC)*
- Member, *Standby Task Force (digital humanitarian organization)*
- Member, *Gamma Theta Upsilon (international geographic honorary society)*
- Member, *International Association of Emergency Managers*
- Member, *Association of American Geographers (AAG)*

## Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

- 2013 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: “Humanitarian Research and Innovation Grant” (\$4000)
- 2013 UW Graduate School Gerlach Award (\$3,000)
- 2011-2012 Simpson Center for the Humanities Graduate Interest Group Funding (\$1,000)
- 2011 Simpson Center for the Humanities Travel Funds (\$750)
- 2011 Howard Martin Research Grant (\$556)

2011	UW Graduate School Fund for Excellence and Innovation (\$500)
2011	UW Graduate & Professional Student Senate Travel Fund (\$250)
2009	International Cartographic Association (ICA) Travel Scholarship (\$1,800)
2009	UW Geography Top Scholar Award (1 year of funding: \$9,000)
2009	Cartography & Geographic Information Society (CaGIS) Master's Award (\$500)
2007	SDSU McFarland Award (\$6,600)
2007	SDSU Map Design Competition winner (\$50)
2005	School for International Training – “Culture, Language, and Development in Vietnam” research scholarship (\$5,000)

## Publications

### *Peer Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters*

In press	<u>Burns, Ryan</u> . “Rethinking Big Data in Digital Humanitarianism: Practices, Epistemologies, and Social Relations.” <i>GeoJournal</i> .
In press	<u>Burns, Ryan</u> , J. Thatcher. “Guest Editorial: What’s So Big about Big Data? Finding the Spaces and Perils of Big Data.” <i>GeoJournal</i> .
2014	<u>Burns, Ryan</u> . Moments of Closure in the Knowledge Politics of Digital Humanitarianism. <i>Geoforum</i> 53 (2): 51-62.
2013	Shanley, Lea, <u>R. Burns</u> , Z. Bastian, E. Robson. Tweeting Up a Storm: The Promise and Perils of Crisis Mapping. <i>Photogrammetric Engineering &amp; Remote Sensing</i> 79 (10): 865-879.
2013	<u>Burns, Ryan</u> , A. Skupin. Towards Qualitative Geovisual Analytics: A Case Study Involving Places, People, and Mediated Experience. <i>Cartographica</i> 48(3): 157-176.

### *Edited Journal Issues (with Peer Review)*

In press	<u>Burns, Ryan</u> , D. Meek. “The Politics of Knowledge Production in the Geoweb.” Special Issue of <i>ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies</i> .
In press	<u>Burns, Ryan</u> , J. Thatcher. “What’s So Big about Big Data? Finding the Spaces and Perils of Big Data.” Special Issue of <i>GeoJournal</i> .

### *Conference Proceedings and White Papers*

2013	<u>Burns, Ryan</u> , L. Shanley. Connecting Grassroots to Government for Disaster Management: Workshop Summary. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. <a href="http://www.scribd.com/doc/165813847/Connecting-Grassroots-to-Government-for-Disaster-Management-Workshop-Summary">http://www.scribd.com/doc/165813847/Connecting-Grassroots-to-Government-for-Disaster-Management-Workshop-Summary</a> (last accessed 3/7/2014).
2012	<u>Burns, Ryan</u> . Connecting Grassroots to Government for Disaster Management. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. <a href="http://bit.ly/OC4kmD">http://bit.ly/OC4kmD</a> (last accessed 9/18/2012).

- 2009 Burns, Ryan, A. Skupin. Mapping Places, People, and Utterances to Visualize the Experience of Place. In Proceedings of the 24th International Cartographic Conference, Santiago, Chile (CD-ROM). <http://bit.ly/POhGuu> (last accessed 9/12/2012).

#### *Published Maps*

- 2011 [Collection of 3 maps] In Ramamurthy, P., "Rearticulating Caste: The Global Cottonseed Commodity Chain and the Paradox of Smallholder Capitalism in South India," *Environment and Planning A* 43: 1035-1056.
- 2011 [Collection of 5 maps/screenshots from the *Mapping Youth Journeys* project website] In K. Mitchell, S. Elwood, "Creating Engaged Students and Civic Actors through Mapping Local History," *Journal of Geography* 111(4): 148-157.
- 2010 [Collection of 6 maps about poverty in the Pacific Northwest] In V. Lawson, L. Jarosz and A. Bonds, "Dumping Grounds and Unseen Grounds: Placing Race, Ethnicity and Poverty in the American Northwest," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 100(3): 655-677.
- 2007 Map of Ecuador, Including the Extension of Páramo Grasslands and the Location of the Aglomerados, S.A. (ACOSA) Plantation. In K. Farley, "Grasslands to Tree Plantations: Forest Transition in the Andes of Ecuador," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 97(4): 760.

## **Conference Presentations**

#### *Papers presented*

- 2015 (expected) "Let the private sector take care of this': Toward a Political Economy of Digital Humanitarianism". Annual meeting of the AAG. Chicago, IL.
- 2014 (expected) "Crisis Mapping as Social Process: Research and Policy Implications of New Digital Technologies". Keynote presentation at Crisis Mapping Seminar, Heidelberg University, Germany.
- 2014 "The Digital Humanitarian Moment: New Practices, Knowledge Politics, and Philanthro-capitalism." University of Washington Department of Geography Colloquium. Seattle, WA.
- 2014 "Rethinking Knowledge Politics through Digital Humanitarianism." Annual meeting of the AAG. Tampa, FL.
- 2012 "Digital Public Scholarship: Mapping Youth Journeys." College of Arts & Sciences Dean's Showcase. *HuskyFest 2012*. Seattle, WA.
- 2012 "Beyond Inclusion and Empowerment: Inequality in the Geoweb." Annual meeting of the AAG. New York, NY.
- 2011 "Software-sorted Geographies of the Urban Global South." Annual meeting of the AAG. Seattle WA.
- 2010 Mitchell, K. & R. Burns [equal contribution] "Mapping Engagement: Using Basic Geovisualization Technologies to Help Children Become Better Geographers and Better Citizens." Plenary session, Fall meeting of the Association of Washington Geographers.

- 2010 “Exploring Geovisualization’: Reflections, Ideas, and Questions.” Annual meeting of the AAG. Washington, D.C.
- 2009 “Visualization of Attribute Spaces Involving Places, People and Utterances.” International Cartographic Conference. Santiago, Chile.
- 2009 “Spatializing Places, People, and Utterances- A Case Study Involving San Diego Neighborhoods.” Annual meeting of the AAG. Las Vegas, NV.
- 2008 “Landscapes of Participatory Dialogue: Participation and Geovisualization in AgoraXchange.” Annual Meeting of the AAG. Boston, MA.
- 2008 Verutes, G., R. Burns “Visualizing Linguistic Variation within University Classroom Discourse.” Annual Meeting of the AAG. Boston, MA.
- 2007 “...things seen are temporal, things unseen are eternal.” Association of Pacific Coast Geographers. Long Beach, CA. Co-presenters: Christopher Moreno, Sean Crotty, Steven Jareb, Mike Beland, Jenny Duncan, Karen Stahl.
- 2006 “Globalization and the Cultural Significance of Bookstores in Viet Nam.” Undergraduate Presentation Showcase, Eastern Kentucky University. Poster presentation.
- 2005 “Is Small-town Kentucky Ready to Grow? Community Readiness for Growth and Development Along the I-75 Corridor.” Posters-at-the-Capitol, Frankfort, KY. Poster presentation. Co-presented with Ricardo Hernandez.

*Panel Participation & Sessions Organized*

- 2015 (expected) Organizer. “Critical Data, Critical Technology: in Theory.” Annual meeting of the AAG. Chicago, IL. Organizer with Jim Thatcher and Craig Dalton.
- 2015 (expected) Organizer. “Critical Data, Critical Technology: in Praxis.” Annual meeting of the AAG. Chicago, IL. Organizer with Jim Thatcher and Craig Dalton.
- 2014 (expected) Participant. "Revisiting Critical GIS". Friday Harbor Laboratories, Friday Harbor, WA.
- 2014 Panelist. “Publishing, not Perishing: A Student's Guide to Academic Publishing.” Annual meeting of the AAG. Tampa, FL.
- 2014 Panelist. “alt.conference on Big Data: Lightning Panel.” Annual meeting of the AAG. Tampa, FL.
- 2013 Organizer. “Whither Small Data?: The Limits of ‘Big Data’ and the Value of ‘Small Data’ Studies.” Organizer with Jim Thatcher. Annual meeting of the AAG. Los Angeles, CA. Presenting panelists: Rob Kitchin, Jim Thatcher, Ralph Schroeder (Oxford Internet Institute, Oxford University), Taylor Shelton. Discussant: Andrés Monroy-Hernández (Microsoft Research).
- 2013 Organizer. “Critical Interventions into Gender & the Geoweb.” Organizer with Monica Stephens. Annual meeting of the AAG. Los Angeles, CA. Presenting panelists: Brent Hecht, Monica Stephens, Michele Masucci, Adrienne Wadewitz (Center of Digital Learning and Research, Occidental College).
- 2012 Organizer. “Connecting Grassroots to Government for Disaster Management: A Policy Roundtable.” Organizer with Lea Shanley, John Crowley, and Alyson Lyons. Washington,

DC. For list of panelists, see:

[http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/GrassrootstoGovernmentAgenda-9.9.12\\_0.pdf](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/GrassrootstoGovernmentAgenda-9.9.12_0.pdf)

- 2011-2012 Organizer. Series of 6 panels and roundtables on “Making the University Public”, a Graduate Interest Group through the Simpson Center for the Humanities, UW. Seattle, WA. Panels included: Susan Jeffords (Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW – Bothell), Kari Lerum (UW – Bothell), Tad Hirsch (Design, UW), Jentery Sayers (English, University of Victoria), John Vallier (UW Libraries), Richa Nagar (Department of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies, University of Minnesota).
- 2011 Organizer. “Critical Perspectives on Software & Space.” Organizer with Joe Eckert. Annual meeting of the AAG. Seattle, WA. Presenting panelists: Mark Graham, Matt Zook, Rob Kitchin, Wendy Chun (Modern Culture and Media, Brown University). Chair: Sarah Elwood. Discussant: Matt Wilson.

#### *Discussant*

- 2014 “Disaster Time: Critical Perspectives on Crisis Informatics and the Temporal Aspects of Disasters.” Annual meeting of the AAG. Tampa, FL. Organized by Barbara Poore and Sophia Liu. Presenters: Katrina Petersen (Communication, University of California – San Diego), Megan Finn (Microsoft Research, University of Washington), Sophia Liu (USGS).
- 2013 “Critical Interventions into Gender & the Geoweb.” Annual meeting of the AAG. Los Angeles, CA. Presenting panelists: Brent Hecht, Monica Stephens, Michele Masucci, Adrienne Wadewitz (Center of Digital Learning and Research, Occidental College).
- 2013 “Crowdsourcing Crisis in the GeoWeb: A Critical Look.” Annual meeting of the AAG. Los Angeles, CA. Organized by Barbara Poore and Sophia Liu. Presenters: Katrina Petersen (Communication, University of California – San Diego), Andrés Monroy-Hernández (Microsoft Research), Megan Finn (Microsoft Research), Cameran Ashraf (University of California – Los Angeles).

#### **Additional Research Activities**

- 2014 Research Assistant: Dr. Matt Dunbar, Center for Studies of Demography and Ecology
- 2009-2012 Research Assistant: Dr. Sarah Elwood, *Mapping Youth Journeys*
- 2009-2010 Assistant: Dr. Katharyne Mitchell, *Top This Parenting*
- 2008-2009 GIS Specialist: Helix Environmental Planning, Inc.
- 2007 GIS Analyst/Cartographer: Baja Directions (bathymetric cartography company)
- 2006-2007 SDSU Geography Graduate Assistant: Dr. Kathleen Farley
- 2006-2007 GIS Analyst: IGIS Technologies, Inc. (GIS services consulting company)
- 2005 Volunteer Assistant: Dr. Dan Weir, mapping a derelict cemetery for future renovation and restoration. My particular involvement was to map the gathered GPS coordinates.
- 2003-2006 Assistant: Dr. David Zurick, researching culture change in the Himalayas based on US-based travel agencies there.

2003-2006      Assistant: Dr. Bruce Davis, producing an online atlas of the South Pacific using ArcScan and ArcIMS.

## **T e a c h i n g**

### *Full Courses*

Spring 2014      GEOG 301: “Cultural Geography”  
Fall 2013          GEOG 102: “The Making of World Regions” (Online course)  
Summer 2012      GEOG 461: “Urban GIS”

### *Invited Lectures*

2014              Guest lecture in GEOG 360: “Introduction to GIS”  
2014              Guest lecture in GEOG 277: “Geographies of Cities”  
2012              Guest lecture in GEOG 469/569: “GIS Workshop”  
2012              Guest lecture in GEOG 461/561: “Urban GIS”  
2010              “Participatory Mapping” Imagining America Site Visit

### *Teaching Assistant*

2014              UW Geography Teaching Assistant: *Introduction to GIS*  
2012              UW Geography Teaching Assistant: *Urban GIS, GIS Workshop*  
2007-2008      SDSU Geography Teaching Assistant: *Introduction to GIS* (twice), *Map Investigation*, and *Animated Cartographic Design*

## **P r o f e s s i o n a l   S e r v i c e**

2013-2014      Secretary and Treasurer, *Geographic Information Systems and Science Specialty Group of the AAG*  
2012-2013      Leadership Collective Member, *Socialist & Critical Geography Specialty Group of the AAG*  
2012-2013      Research Assistant, *Commons Lab, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars*  
2008-2012      Webmaster, Socialist & Critical Geography Specialty Group of the AAG  
2011-2012      Primary Project Liaison, “Making the University Public” Graduate Interest Group  
2011-2012      Graduate Policy Committee Representative, Department of Geography, UW  
2010-2011      Co-president (with Chris Lizotte) of the Geography Dept Graduate Student Association  
2007-2008      SDSU Geography Colloquium Planning Committee  
2002-2006      ECU Honors Program scholar  
2002-2004      ECU Geography Club President once and Secretary twice

## Manuscript Reviews

*GeoJournal*

*Cartographica*

*Geography Compass* (x3)

*Plenum: A Journal of Geography* (x2)

*International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research*

*US National Report to the International Cartographic Association*

## Community and Public Scholarship

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|-----------|--|
| 2014      | Impact Evaluation Framework public portfolio, in partial fulfillment of graduate certificate in public scholarship.  |
| 2013      | Interview for the Digital Humanitarian Network, "Guidance for Collaborating with Formal Humanitarian Organizations." <a href="http://app.box.com/s/w25sqotkg4qc2f2ch1ii">http://app.box.com/s/w25sqotkg4qc2f2ch1ii</a> .   |
| 2012-2013 | Participation in various digital humanitarian activations (Samoa, Dominican Republic, Typhoon Bopha)   |
| 2012      | Interview for <i>Simpson Center for the Humanities News</i> , "Doctoral Student Ryan Burns Selected to Present on Digital Scholarship at UW HuskyFest 2012." <a href="http://bit.ly/HUCIQS">http://bit.ly/HUCIQS</a> .   |
| 2012      | Interview for <i>UW Today</i> , "UW Leads in Connecting Scholarship with Community." <a href="http://bit.ly/yQ77sX">http://bit.ly/yQ77sX</a> .   |
| 2011      | Attended Imagining America public scholarship conference. Coverage in "Certificate in Public Scholarship Fellows Represent UW at Imagining America Conference." <i>Simpson Center for the Humanities Center News</i> . <a href="http://bit.ly/IgG6bl">http://bit.ly/IgG6bl</a> . |
| 2010      | Volunteered in "Participatory Mapping" Imagining America conference site visit   |
| 2005      | Coverage of volunteer research work in "Researchers Hope to Map, Identify Graves in Abandoned Cemetery." <i>Diverse Issues in Higher Education</i> . <a href="http://bit.ly/Jx7d2h">http://bit.ly/Jx7d2h</a> .   |

## Technical Proficiencies

### Mapping and GIS

- ArcGIS
- QGIS
- Mapbox, Tilemill
- Mapserver, Geoserver
- OpenStreetMap
- Google Earth, MyMaps

### Programming and Scripting

- JavaScript (inc. JQuery, D3, OpenLayers)
- Python (inc. ArcGIS geoprocessing, Geo/Django)
- PHP
- ActionScript
- C++ (a little)

- Java (minimal)

### **Data and databases**

- Geo/JSON
- MySQL
- PostGres
- NoSQL (a little Hadoop and MongoDB)

### **Web Development**

- Django
- GitHub (inc. Pages)
- Wordpress
- HTML/CSS
- Sahana
- Ushahidi

### **R e f e r e n c e s**

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