



R. ANDY PRIEST

DEGREE

Major:
Geography (B.A)

Minor:
Political Science

Certificate:
*National Security & Strategic
Analysis*

What got you interested in Geography?

In my first year at UNM I took an introductory World Regional Geography course where an extra credit opportunity was assigned to listen to a guest lecture from Dr. Jeff Malpas on the poetics of place and philosophy of being. The lecture was great, but after the lecture the department held a reception at a local brewery and I got to know the faculty outside of the classroom. I remember being impressed by the granularity in the study of place and the rigor that geographers put into understanding problems. From that moment onward; I was hooked on Geography.

What is Geography to you? (How do you define geography, or does it have a special meaning to you?)

For me, geography is the study of spatial phenomenon in land, people, place, and experience in the interaction of one another. I believe that at the core is geography is the discovery of truth, the search for the meaning that is beyond a collection of facts and beliefs.

How have you personally integrated/experienced geography as an interdisciplinary field? (If your minor or second major is unrelated to geography do you still feel that geography could be integrated into your other field of study?)

Geography by nature is an interdisciplinary field. My theoretical work in Geography focuses on geosocial philosophy, and historical-cultural geographies. The goal of my theory-based research is to deepen the understanding of how stories, power, and place create cultural regions. I also study applied geography with a focus on political and legal issues in borderlands, and rural North American regions. Particularly I focus on human-environmental issues of law enforcement, human security, and economic development at nation-state borders, deindustrializing regions, former settler colonial landscapes, and rangelands.

What is your plan for after you graduate? Where would you like to see yourself in 5-10 years? (Do you plan on continue your education? Or are you ready to move into the workforce? How're you currently going about this?)

After I graduate, I hope to begin a graduate program and ultimately obtain a Ph.D. in Geography. I am currently in the process of applying to graduate schools. As a non-traditional student I had a successful career in the workforce but decided to return to school to obtain the education that would allow me to have more meaning in my work.

In 5-10 years, I hope to be living and writing somewhere in the American West having published or in the process of getting my first book published. I do not know if I will stay in academia full-time, but I hope to still be involved in research and dialogue about geography.