

# ZHAOXU SUI

Updated January 2026

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## EDUCATION

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**The Pennsylvania State University** 2024 - Present  
**Doctoral Student**

Advisor: Dr. Anthony C. Robinson

Research Interests: Territorial Representations on Maps, Toponymy, Maps and Atlases Collection

Lab Affiliations: GeoGraphics Lab

**University of Oregon** 2022 -2024  
**Master of Science, Geography**  
Advisor: Dr. Carolyn S. Fish

Lab Affiliations: Cartofish Lab, S3C Lab, Infographics Lab

**University of Minnesota** 2019 - 2021  
**Bachelor of Science, Geography**  
Minors: *GIS, Population Studies, Interdisciplinary Design*  
GPA: 3.99/4.0, Graduated with High Distinction, Dean's List 2019-2021  
Capstone Project: Flooding Risk Assessment in Jinan, China, in ArcGIS Story Map

## RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

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**Graduate Research Assistant** 2025 - Present  
Supervisor: Dr. Anthony C. Robinson  
Department of Geography, The Pennsylvania State University  
Project: Measuring Human Behavior and Ecological Dimensions of Pathogen Transmission for Outbreak Control and Prevention. *National Institutes of Health*. R01TW012434.

**Graduate Research Assistant** 2023  
Supervisor: Dr. Carolyn S. Fish  
Department of Geography, University of Oregon  
Project: Why Conduct Cartographic Research: A Comparison of Cartographic Research Contributions in Four International Cartographic Association (ICA) Affiliated Journals.

**Undergraduate Research Assistant** 2021  
Supervisor: Jeff Matson  
Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), University of Minnesota  
Project: Web Mapping Creative Enterprises in the city of Minneapolis

**Undergraduate Research Assistant** 2020 – 2021  
Institute on the Environment, University of Minnesota  
Project: Sweetie Pie – Urban Gardening on Northside Community, Minneapolis

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Sui, Z.** and Robinson, A. C. (In Review). Digitally-Mediated Territorial Imaginations: A Deep Learning Approach to Characterize Online Images of Contested Territories and Place Names. *Digital Geography and Society*.
- Sui, Z.** and Fish, C. (In Review). Deconstructing Borders, Territories, and Toponyms: Cartographic Designs in the Political Disputed Territory of Sakhalin. *Cartographic Perspectives*.
- Sui, Z.** and Lessani, M. N. (Accepted). Towards Cartographic Design Pluralism: Centering Non-Latin Typographic Practices in Digital Mapping. *GeoHumanities. Outer Cartographies Forum*.
- Sui, Z.** (2025). Visualizing States Across Cartographic Designs. *Abstracts of the ICA*.  
<https://doi.org/10.5194/ica-abs-10-277-2025>
- Sui, Z.**, & Lessani, M. N. (2025). Design Principles of Kashida Justification: A Unique Technique in Arabic and Persian Mapping. *Cartographic Perspectives*, (107).  
<https://doi.org/10.14714/CP107.2055>
- Sui, Z.** (2025). Review of The Rise and Fall of the National Atlas in the Twentieth Century. *Cartographic Perspectives*, (107). <https://doi.org/10.14714/CP107.2013>
- Fish, C., Roth, R., Guidero, E., Raposo, P., **Sui, Z.** (2025). Why Conduct Cartographic Research: A Comparison of Cartographic Research Contributions in Four International Cartographic Association (ICA) Affiliated Journals. *International Journal of Cartography*: 10th Anniversary Issue. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23729333.2025.2475411>

- Sui, Z.**, & Fish, C. S. (2023). Endonyms or Exonyms: How map purpose, data source, and map language impact place naming on maps. *Abstracts of the ICA*, 6, 1–2.  
<https://doi.org/10.5194/ica-abs-6-249-2023>

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATIONS

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### Conference Session Organization / Chair

- Sui, Z.** (2025). Research and Design. *North American Cartography Information Society Annual Conference, Louisville, KY*, October 16, 2025.

- Houtman, L. and **Sui, Z.** (2024). Putting the Human back in Cartography: Designs and Practices. *American Association of Geographers 2024 Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI*, April 18, 2024.

### Conference Oral Presentations

- Sui, Z.** (2025). Is AI good at reading maps? Envisioning AI-assisted content analysis. *North American Cartography Information Society Annual Conference, Louisville, KY*, October 16, 2025.

**Sui, Z.** (2025). Characterizing the State across Cartographic Designs. *International Cartographic Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*, August 20, 2025.

**Sui, Z.** (2025). Characterizing State Narratives in Cartographic Designs. *American Association of Geographers (AAG) 2023 Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI*, March 24-28, 2025, & *No Boundaries Symposium, Penn State, State College, PA*, May 2025.

**Sui, Z.** (2024). Mapping the Transition: The Evolution and Resilience of Specialist Map Retailers around the world. *1st AsiaCarto Conference, Hong Kong, China*, December 11-13, 2024.

Kelso, N., Patterson, T., Plewe, B., **Sui, Z.** (2024). Rebuilding Natural Earth: An Updated Public Preview of Version 6. *North American Cartography Information Society Annual Conference, Tacoma, WA*, October 16-19, 2024.

**Sui, Z.** (2024). Making a 3D relief globe. *North American Cartography Information Society (NACIS) Annual Conference, Tacoma, WA*, October 16-19, 2024.

**Sui, Z.** (2024). Deconstructing borders, fill-colors, and toponyms: cartography designs in the political disputed territory of Sakhalin. *American Association of Geographers (AAG) 2024 Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI*, April 18, 2024.

**Sui, Z.** (2023). Secure Political Claim: How Japanese Regulate Map Labeling on Southern Sakhalin Island (Karafuto). *North American Cartography Information Society Annual Conference (NACIS), Pittsburgh, PA*, October 11-14, 2023.

**Sui, Z.** (2023). Endonyms or Exonyms: How map purpose, data source, and map language impact place naming on maps. *International Cartographic Conference, Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa*, August 14, 2023 & *American Association of Geographers (AAG) 2023 Annual Meeting, Denver, CO*, March 27, 2023.

**Sui, Z.** (2023) AI use in atlas projects. *Map AI Workshop, International Cartographic Conference (ICC), Stellenbosch, Western Cape, South Africa*, August 12, 2023.

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

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\$32,000	University Graduate Fellowship, Penn State	2024-2026
\$2,000	NACIS Student Travel Grants (Total)	2021-2025
\$2,000	U.S. National Committee (USNC) to the ICC Travel Funding	2025
€400	International Cartographic Association (ICA) Scholarship for ICC 2025	2025
\$75	No Boundaries Symposium Best Presentation Award 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	2025
	AsiaCarto Conference Best Presentation Award	2024

\$1000	Carto. and Geographic Info. Society (CaGIS) Student Scholarship Award	2024
\$1000	University of Oregon Rippey Grant Research Awards	2024
\$5,000	Anne C. Wilson Graduate Fellowship, EMS College, Penn State	2024
\$300	AAG Cartography Specialty Group Masters Student Research Grant	2024
\$250	AsiaCarto Conference Travel Grant with Registration Waiver	2024
\$2,344	U.S. National Committee (USNC) to the ICC Travel Funding	2023
\$875	Mather Fellowship, Department of Geography, University of Oregon	2023
\$500	International Cartographic Association (ICA) Scholarship for ICC 2023	2023
\$25,000	University of Minnesota Global Excellence Scholarship	2019-2021
\$7,500	University of Minnesota Ecolab Sustainability Scholarship	2020
	Global 10th Place Gold Medal Recipient, 15th International Geography Olympiad	2018

## AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICES

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**The Graduate Students in the Department of Geography (GSDOG), Penn State**

Graduate Representativev, Treasurer 2025 – Present

**North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS)**

Student Board Member 2025 – Present  
Director, Mentor Program 2025 – Present

**Belonging, Dignity and Justice (BDJ) Committee, Department of Geography, Penn State**

Student Representative 2025 – Present

**American Association of Geographers (AAG)**

Student Chair, Cartography Specialty Group 2023 – 2024

**Associated Graduate Students in Geography (AGSG), University of Oregon**

Colloquium Chair, Representative at Large 2023 – 2024  
Social Chair, Treasurer 2022 – 2023

**Cartographic and Geographic Information Society (CaGIS)**

Member 2024 – Present

## **WORK & TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Employee – Student Cartographer** 2024 – Present

*GeoGraphics Lab, Penn State*

- Commissioned Project: A series of maps on Christian Communities in Ming & Qing China
- Commissioned Project: A Reference map of Pennsylvania
- Commissioned Project: Memorial Map of David Myer and the Wildlands Conservancy
- Commissioned Project: PSU Online Geospatial Education Alumni Map
- Commissioned Project: Longitudinal School Attendance Boundary Survey Web Map
- Commissioned Project: Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Birding Map
- Commissioned Project: Map of French Villages in Mississippi Valley, 17-18<sup>th</sup> century
- Participated Event: Thermal Printing Section of GIS Day Event
- Mentorship: Julia Byrnes (Undergraduate / Geography)

### **Student Mapping Assistant** 2024

*Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon*

- Project Invisible No More! with Dr. Lynn Stephen
- Mapping Mesoamerican language speakers' presence in Oregon, Mexico, and Guatemala.

### **Teaching Assistant** 2023 - 2024

*Department of Geography, University of Oregon*

- Geography 393 & 490: Data Driven Cartography
- Geography 481: GIS I

### **Guest Lecturer on ArcGIS Pro ModelBuilder** 2024

*Department of Geography, University of Oregon*

- Geography 481: GIS I

### **Guest Lecturer on Cartographic Toponomy** 2024

*Department of Geography, University of Oregon*

- Geography 393: Data Driven Cartography

### **Employee – Student Cartographer** 2022 – 2024

*Infographics Lab, University of Oregon*

- Commissioned Project: Periodic Table of Cartography
- Participated Project: Global Initiative of Ungulate Migrations (GIUM) Mapbox Base Map
- Participated Project: Global Initiative of Ungulate Migrations (GIUM) Mapbox Animation
- Participated Project: USGS Wild Migration Report Maps
- Participated Event: GIS Day Event
- [Infographics Lab 2022-23 Lab Anthology](#)

### **Student Mapping Assistant** 2021

*Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, University of Minnesota*

- Commissioned Project: Lost Creek Hiking Trail with Bluff Country Hiking Club, MN.

## CARTOGRAPHY AWARDS

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### **Arthur Robinson Print Map Award**

*Cartographic and Geographic Information Society (CaGIS)*

*Copies are preserved at the Library of Congress, Washington D.C.*

“[Earth Transit](#)” Honorable Mention 2024

“Travel Map of the World” Honorable Mention 2023

“Comprehensive Map of the World and Beyond” Honorable Mention 2021

### **Bill Loy Award for Excellence in Cartography**

*Infographics Lab, Department of Geography, University of Oregon*

“Reference Atlas of the World” Honorable Mention 2023

### **U-Spatial Mapping Prize**

*Department of Geography, University of Minnesota*

“Comprehensive Map of the World and Beyond” Most Ambitious Award 2021

## SELECTED CARTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS

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**Sui, Z.** (2025). Dynastic Masonry – Visualizing the Great Wall of China. *North American Cartography Information Society Annual Conference, Louisville, KY*, October 15-17, 2025.

**Sui, Z.** (2024). What if China Adopted the US National Park Service System? *North American Cartography Information Society Annual Conference, Tacoma, WA*, October 16-19, 2024.

**Sui, Z.** (2024). [Himalayan Mountainscapes](#). *British Cartographic Society Map Award Commended Entries*, October 16-19, 2024.

**Sui, Z.** (2024). [Earth Transit](#). German Newsmedia *ZeitMagazin*, February 2024.

**Sui, Z.** (2023). Travel Map of the World. *Online Map Gallery of International Cartographic Conference, Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa*, August 14, 2023.

**Sui, Z.** (2022). [The Sahara](#). *North American Cartography Information Society Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN*, October 19-22, 2022.

**Sui, Z.** (2021). Comprehensive Map of the World and Beyond. *North American Cartography Information Society Annual Conference, Oklahoma City, OK*, October 13-16, 2021.

## VOLUNTEERING & COLLABORATIONS

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**Student Mentor**, *GeoGraphics Lab, Penn State* 2025 - Present

<b>Graphic Designer</b> , <i>GISphere</i>	2023 – Present
<b>Data Contributor</b> , <i>Natural Earth Dataset</i>	2022 – Present
<b>Cartographer</b> , <i>Zanjarajuno Natural Reserve, Ecuador</i>	2024 - 2025
<b>Cartographer</b> , <i>Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon</i>	2024
<b>Graduate Workshop Organizer</b> , <i>Department of Geography, University of Oregon</i>	2023
<b>Graphic Designer</b> , <i>Huafeng Magazine Club, University of Oregon</i>	2022 –2024

## SKILLS

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<b>GIS</b>	ArcGIS Suite (Pro, Online, Desktop), Mapbox, QGIS
<b>PROGRAMMING</b>	Python(Geopandas, ArcPy), Javascript (d3)
<b>GRAPHIC DESIGN</b>	Blender, Adobe Suite (Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop), Procreate
<b>WEB DESIGN</b>	HTML, CSS, Dora, Wix, Wordpress, ArcGIS Web Apps
<b>LANGUAGES</b>	<b>Chinese:</b> Native, <b>English:</b> Proficient, <b>Japanese:</b> Elementary