

ZHAOXU SUI

Updated February 2026

Portfolio: <https://zhaoxusui.com>

Email: zxs5236@psu.edu

[2025](#) | [2024](#) | [2023](#) | [2022](#) | [2021](#)

EDUCATION

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

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

- Sui, Z.** (Submitted). Review of *Body Maps: Improvising Meridians and Nerves in Global Chinese Medicine*. *Cartographic Perspectives*.
- Sui, Z.** and Fish, C. (In Revision). 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.**, & Robinson, A. C. (2026). Digitally-mediated territorial imaginations: A deep learning approach to characterize online images of contested territories and place names. *Digital Geography and Society*, 100160. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.diggeo.2026.100160>
- 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

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

\$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 nd 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, 15th International Geography Olympiad	2018

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP, AND AFFILIATIONS

EMS Graduate Student Council, Penn State

Graduate Council Member 2025 – Present

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

Graduate Representative, 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

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

International Student and Scholar Services, University of Minnesota 2020 –2021
International Student Ambassador

Journal Review
Cartographic Perspectives (1)

Other Memberships 2024 – Present
Cartographic and Geographic Information Society (CaGIS)
Phi Beta Kappa Society, the University of Minnesota chapter 2021

WORK & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guest Lecturer on Designing Reference Maps 2026
Department of Geography, Penn State
Geography 467: Applied Cartography Design

Graduate Student Cartographer 2024 – Present
GeoGraphics Lab, Penn State
Commissioned Project: Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Waterways Map
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
Read the story of our client and donor Robert Myers [here](#).
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, 17-18th century
Participated Event: Thermal Printing Section of GIS Day Event
Mentorship: Julia Byrnes (Undergraduate / Geography)

Graduate 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.

Graduate 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

Graduate 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](#)

Undergraduate 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

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

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

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

SKILLS

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