

# Aja Sutton

September 2022

Department of Geography, 422 Smith Hall,  
University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA  
amsutton@uw.edu

## EDUCATION

- 2018 - Present **PhD Candidate, Geography**  
University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA  
‣ TADA-BSSR NIH T32 Fellowship in Data Science and Demography  
‣ CSDE Certificate in Demographics Methods (expected 2023)  
Dissertation: *The Political Ecology of COVID-19 in the United States*  
Chair: Jonathan Mayer
- 2012 - 2014 **MSc Palaeopathology**  
Durham University, United Kingdom
- 2011 - 2012 **MA History**  
Western University, Canada
- 2007 - 2011 **BA (Hons.) History, and Classical Studies**  
Queen's University, Canada

## EMPLOYMENT

- Autumn 2022 **Research Assistant**  
Population Health Initiative and REACH Evergreen Treatment Services, University of Washington, Seattle  
PI: A. Hagopian and Z. W. Almquist  
Description: A statistical and temporospatial analysis of the effects of encampment sweeps on individuals experiencing homelessness and the disruption of access to resources and services in King County, Washington, USA
- 2021 - Present **Graduate Student Researcher**  
University of Washington, Seattle  
STAB (Space-Time Analysis, Bayes) Lab, PI: J. Wakefield
- 2020 - Present **Graduate Student Researcher**  
University of Washington, Seattle  
The Social, Spatial and Dynamic Analysis Lab, PI: Z. W. Almquist
- 2018 - Present **Osteoarchaeologist**  
Environmental Science Associates, Northern California Cultural Resources Group, Sacramento, CA, USA  
Projects: Asian Art Museum Human Remains Project; San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Baker Beach Historic Cemetery
- 2014 - 2018 **Osteoarchaeologist**, Independent Consultant  
Greater Toronto Area, Canada

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Population health, demography, political ecology of health, geospatial methods, social & health inequity, COVID-19, (re)emerging infectious disease, antimicrobial resistance, climate migration

## BOOK CHAPTERS

Gause, E., **A. Sutton** and J. Mayer. (Forthcoming). The West African Ebola Epidemic 2014. In Jayson Funke, Waquar Ahmed, Ipsita Chatterjee, Steve McCauley (eds.) *Geography in the 21st Century*. ABC-CLIO.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN SUBMISSION

**Sutton, A.**, Z. W. Almquist, A. Hazel, M. Kline, P. Smaldino, C. Moya, and J. H. Jones. (Submitted for initial review). The political ecology of mask-wearing and presidential candidate preference in the United States: an analysis of COVID-19 social behavior.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

**Sutton, A.** and Z. W. Almquist. (Ante portas). Demographic and spatial distribution of respondent mask-wearing behaviors in the COVID-19 Trends and Symptoms Survey and correlation with the Behavioral Change COVID-19 survey.

**Sutton, A.**, Z. W. Almquist, and J. Wakefield. (In progress). Re-evaluating spatial specifications for multi-level regression and post-stratification for small area estimation using complex survey data [Working title].

## CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

2022 **Sutton, A.**, Z. W. Almquist, J. Wakefield, A. Hazel, M. Kline, P. Smaldino, C. Moya, and J. H. Jones. Re-evaluating spatial multi-level regression with poststratification for small area estimation [Conference Presentation]. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, USA, August 5-9.

2022 **Sutton, A.**, Z. W. Almquist, J. Wakefield, A. Hazel, M. Kline, P. Smaldino, C. Moya, and J. H. Jones. Adherence to mask-wearing and trust in government: a Bayesian hierarchical analysis of COVID-19 social behavior in the United States [Conference Presentation]. Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Atlanta, USA, April 6-8.

2021 **Sutton, A.** Mask-wearing and trust in government during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States: an analysis using logistic regression [Lightning Talk Presentation]. Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, Seattle, USA, December 10.

2019 Strand, L., J. Mayer, M. Rosenthal, J. Russo, M. Sullivan, **A. Sutton**, S. D. Withers, and A. Basu. A remedy for despair? Short-term changes in economic conditions and opioid prescribing in Washington State [Poster Presentation]. International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, USA, May 21.

2017 **Sutton, A.**, and T. Ostrander. Outside Looking In: Seattle as a cultural frontier, pre-contact to present [Conference Presentation]. Theoretical Archaeological Group North America Conference, Toronto, Canada, May 19.

2017 **Sutton, A.**, and T. Ostrander. Make No Bones About It: practical tips for recognizing human vs. faunal remains [Conference Presentation]. Northwest Anthropological Conference, Spokane, Washington, USA, April 12-15.

2017 Ostrander, T., **A. Sutton**, and M. Bever. A Case Study Evidencing Pre-contact Reinterment of Inadvertently Discovered Human Remains. Northwest Anthropological Conference, Spokane, Washington, April 12-15.

2013 Gowland, R. and **A. Sutton**. 'I shall wear purple': Gender and the Life Course in Anglo-Saxon England [Conference Presentation]. Leeds International Medieval Congress, for Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds, United Kingdom, July 1-4.

## GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022 - 2023     **Gerlach Award**, Department of Geography, University of Washington, Seattle
- 2022             **Travel Award**, Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle
- 2020 - 2022     **Training in Advanced Data Analytics for Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institutes of Health (TADA-BSSR NIH) T32 Fellowship in Data Science and Demography**, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington, Seattle  
Faculty mentors: Z. W. Almquist and J. Wakefield
- 2010             **Classics Travel Grant**, Department of Classics, Queen's University, Canada

## SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT

- 2020 - 2021     **Diversity and Equity Committee Member**, Department of Geography, University of Washington, Seattle
- 2019             **Session Chair**, Geography Undergraduate Research Symposium, Department of Geography, University of Washington, Seattle
- 2013             **Human Osteology Laboratory Demonstrator**, Durham Archaeology Days, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom
- 2012 - 2013     **Vice-President (and Acting President)**, St. Chad's College Middle Common Room, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

## EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

- 2021 - Present   **Managing Editor**, Population Dynamics Lab, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington, Seattle
- 2019             **Graduate Editor**, Plenum: University of Washington Undergraduate Journal of Geography, Department of Geography, University of Washington, Seattle

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Teaching Assistant

- Spring 2020     **Geography 360: GIS and Mapping**, University of Washington, Seattle  
Computer laboratory instructor; teach intermediate GIS and mapping methods incl. geospatial analysis skills and effective geographic data processing and visualization using ESRI products; teach database management; evaluate assignments (technical skills and reporting) and provide constructive feedback
- Winter 2020     **Geography 461: Urban Geographic Information Science**, University of Washington, Seattle  
Computer laboratory instructor; teach advanced GIS and mapping methods, incl. geospatial and intermediate spatial statistical analysis methods using ESRI products; support development of student independent research projects relating to urban geography and urban populations; develop student learning resources; revise and update assignments; evaluate assignments (technical skills and reporting) and provide constructive feedback

- Autumn 2019, **Geography 245: Geodemographics**, University of Washington, Seattle  
Autumn 2018  
Computer laboratory instructor; teach introductory GIS and mapping methods, introduction to census data, quantitative data management and core demographic concepts; provide support for and evaluation of assignments using multiple platforms (Tableau, ESRI ArcMap, QGIS), and provide constructive feedback
- Spring 2019 **Geography 380: Geographical Patterns of Health and Disease**, University of Washington, Seattle  
Independently develop weekly discussion session programs complementary to the course materials using contemporary examples from recent news or research bulletins; provide special focus on bioethics in health practice and emergency health response decision-making; independently develop group and independent exercises and activities to reinforce key concepts and major course themes; provide research project development feedback and writing support; organize and manage end-of-class peer-sharing poster sessions for final research projects
- Winter 2019 **Geography 280: Geography of Health and Healthcare**, University of Washington, Seattle  
Independently develop weekly discussion session programs highlighting core aspects of weekly course materials; independently develop group exercises and activities to reinforce key concepts and major course themes including political ecology of health event “story mapping” and introduction to ethical public health response scenarios; provide research project development feedback and writing support
- 2011-2012 **History 2812: Plague, Pox and Flu: Disease in Global History**, Western University, Canada  
Manage and evaluate online discussion boards; provide research development and library resources advice; evaluate final essays and provide constructive feedback

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2021 - Present **Graduate Student Researcher**  
University of Washington, Seattle, USA  
Laboratory: STAB (Space-Time Analysis, Bayes) Lab  
PI: J. Wakefield  
  
Ongoing **United Nations Under 5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) Estimation Project**  
Description and personal responsibilities: I generate estimates of under 5 years mortality for countries of particular interest for the United Nations as part of a specialist research team. Currently, I am responsible for generating estimates and reporting on the social, political and economic context for Haiti.
- Ongoing **Spatial methods for multilevel regression and poststratification**  
*Dissertation research project*  
Description and personal responsibilities: I test Bayesian spatial statistical methods for the improvement of multilevel regression and poststratification for the model-based adjustment of subnational non-representative survey data, and for applications in small area estimation. I am responsible for data management, coding, testing, research design and presentation of results with mentorship from J. Wakefield.
- 2020 - Present **Graduate Student Researcher**  
University of Washington, Seattle, USA  
Laboratory: The Social, Spatial and Dynamic Analysis Lab  
PI: Z. W. Almquist

Ongoing **The political ecology of mask-wearing and presidential candidate preference in the United States**

***Dissertation research project***

Description and personal responsibilities: Using data from The Delphi Group at Carnegie Mellon University U.S. COVID-19 Trends and Impact Survey and the Behaviors and Behavioral Change COVID-19 survey, I built a hierarchical model of sociopolitical and spatial characteristics in the United States to evaluate the effect of presidential candidate preference on mask-wearing during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. I apply a political ecology of health theoretical framework, emphasizing human lived experience landscapes and the effects of social and political policy and identity. I am responsible for project conceptualization and design, data acquisition, management, coding, testing, research design and presentation of results with mentorship from Z. W. Almquist.

2012 - 2014

**Graduate Student Researcher**

Durham University, Durham, Co. Durham, United Kingdom

Thesis advisor: R. Gowland

Thesis: *“As our strength diminishes”: Exploring early Anglo-Saxon concepts of old age in the bioarchaeological record from the fifth to seventh centuries CE*

Description and personal responsibilities: Using osteological cemetery population, palaeopathological and funerary context data from multiple sites, I developed a profile of gender identities, the life course and concepts of what it was to be “old” in the early medieval British population during the fifth to seventh centuries CE. I was responsible for conceptualizing and designing the project, as well as data collection, analysis and presentation with mentorship from R. Gowland.

2011 - 2012

**Graduate Student Researcher**

Western University, London, ON, Canada

Thesis advisor: S. McKellar

Thesis: *Monstrum ex Machina: Navigating the Social Meanings and Importance of Monsters and Freaks in the Late-Medieval and Modern Western World*

Description and personal responsibilities: Using primary source materials including interview transcripts, print ephemera and media, and contemporary descriptions and memoirs, I traced the development of the Western concept of the body and physical abnormality using a Disability Studies and post-colonial perspective, from the beginning of European cabinets of curiosity to the post-Second World War demise of the traveling carnival and “freak show”. I incorporated social theory from Irvine Goffman and Theodore Veblen to contribute to the academic conversation surrounding mediation of the observer and the observed. I was responsible for the conception, materials collection, theorization and production of ideas, and formal write-up with mentorship from S. McKellar.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Association of Geographers, Population Association of America, American Sociological Association