



Anna Beck

Geography PhD Student Cartographer

GOAL

I am excited to use my experience interviewing, teaching, and producing visual stories to facilitate capturing and sharing communities' concerns & narratives about environmental (in)justice in WI.

HIGHLIGHTS

Extensive experience working in communities to understand their experiences and concerns through field-work.

A passion for the power of maps and other visual expressions to effect social and environmental change.

FUN FACTS

I live on a farm in the Drifless region.
I co-founded and taught at a homeschool cooperative incorporating an environmental based curriculum in Joshua Tree, CA.
I worked for the Beacon Institute in New York to understand the drivers of pollution in local rivers.

EXPERIENCE

Cartographer • U.W. Madison Cartography Lab • 2020- present

Since 2020 I collaborate with William Cronon in producing upwards of 90 maps for his book on American environmental history--mapping everything from bison decline to physiographic regions to segregation and inequality. In the Cart Lab I work on maps for a diverse range of clients.

PhD student • U.W. Madison Geography • 2016- present • GPA 4.0

I explore how health hotspot mapping and infectious disease prediction technologies work to reproduce health inequalities.

I work with a group of researchers in Uganda conducting interviews to better understand the environmental and health concerns of the people living there.

I continue to explore effective teaching methods that privilege collaboration, dialogue, and visual teaching materials as a way to explore global inequalities and the drivers and effects of structural and environmental racism.

EDUCATION

MA • Religious Studies • University of California, Riverside • 2014

I focused on an ethnographic project working with spiritual communities to understand their health care practices and traditions. (GPA 3.8)

BA • Anthropology and Environmental Studies •

Sarah Lawrence College • 2008 • GPA 3.7

SKILLS

Cartography

I am proficient with ArcGIS, Indiemapper, and Mapbox.

I have extensive experience with finding and developing spatial datasets.

I am proficient with the production of both static and interactive maps.

I enjoy scrollytelling, or story telling through long-form infographics utilising maps.

I use Adobe Illustrator to make maps look professional and beautiful.

Data Visualization and Photography

I am proficient in Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop to create graphics and visual data representations.

I am skilled in using digital and film cameras as well as handheld video cameras.

Qualitative Methods

I have ample experience with interviews, crafting surveys and interview questions, embedding myself in communities to learn more, and synthesizing these results.

Coding

I have working knowledge of HTML, Javascript, and Leaflet for the production of digital and interactive maps.