



Anna Beck

Geography Dissertator

Cartographer

GOAL

I am excited to use my experience researching, collaborating, and producing interrogative maps as a way to provide systematic responses to complex spatial phenomena at global and community levels.

HIGHLIGHTS

Extensive experience working in communities with diverse stakeholders to understand their experiences and concerns through fieldwork. A passion for the power of maps and other visual expressions to effect social, political, & environmental change.

FUN FACTS

I founded and ran a successful small business focused on zero-waste home goods. 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

Dissertator/Researcher • U.W. Madison Geography • 2022-present

- In my human geography-cartography dissertation, I use spatial and statistical data sets to understand health inequalities through multiple drivers of health including access to medical facilities, proximity to toxic sites, and environmental change like increased flooding. To effectively improve current cartographic practices, I conduct interviews and focus groups with public health professionals.
- As the cartographer and research assistant for a study of climate smart agriculture in Zambia I aided in research (50 community level interviews) and developed maps interrogating relevant climatic change that impacts crop production (22-23).

Cartographer • U.W. Madison Cartography Lab • 2020-2022

I collaborated with William Cronon in producing upwards of 100 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 for print and digital publication.

PhD student/Researcher • U.W. Madison Geography • 2016-present

- I explore how health hotspot mapping effects health inequalities through the use of statistical and spatial data sets.
- I worked with a diverse group of researchers in Uganda conducting interviews to respond to the environmental and health concerns of the people living there.
- I explore effective teaching methods that privilege collaboration, dialogue, and visual teaching materials as a way to more effectively lead and communicate.

EDUCATION

PhD Candidate • U.W. Madison Geography • 2016-present

- Subject Matter Expert: Cartography, GIS, Disease Prediction and Securitization, OneHealth, Critical Health

MA • University of California-Riverside • Religious Studies • 2012-2014

BA • Anthropology & Environmental Studies • Sarah Lawrence College • 2008

SKILLS

Cartography/GIS

I have 5 years of experience with ArcGIS products. I have extensive experience with finding and developing spatial datasets. I use GIS techniques to interrogate social and environmental problems. I am proficient with the production of both static and interactive maps.

Data Visualization

I have 5+ years working with Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop to create professional maps, graphics and visual data representations.

Qualitative Methods

I have >8 years experience designing qualitative research procedures and conducting interviews, focus groups, and surveys in diverse research settings.

Coding

I produce digital and interactive maps using HTML, Javascript, and Leaflet.