

# Gavin Rolls

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## EDUCATION

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### University College London

September 2023 - September 2024

*MSc. Urban Spatial Science*

*Mark: Distinction*

- Student in the Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis
- **Thesis:** Predicting Micro-Scale Employment Geographies with Points of Interest (Thesis Mark: Distinction)
- **Notable Coursework:** Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Science, Spatial Applications with Big Data, Urban Modelling and Simulation, Quantitative Methods for Spatial Data Science, Urban Systems Theory

### Georgia Institute of Technology

August 2019 - May 2023

*B.S. Computer Science*

*GPA: 3.91 (First Class Honours) / Major GPA: 4.0*

- Graduated Highest Honours with Concentrations in Human Computer Interaction and Information Internetworks
- **Awards:** Stamps President's Scholar – Georgia Tech's premier full-ride merit scholarship. 40 selected from 20,000 applicants. Selected based on the pillars of scholarship, leadership, progress, and service
- **Notable Coursework:** Database Systems, Computer Architecture, Computer Networking, Computer Org. & Programming, Design & Analysis of Algorithms, Statistics & Applications, Applied Combinatorics, Info Visualisation

## SKILLS

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### Spatial Science:

- Spatial analysis with Python (SciPy, NumPy, Matplotlib, Pandas, GeoPandas, scikit-learn, AutoML, osmnx), R (tidyverse, sp, sf, ggplot2, terra, spatstat), (Spatial) SQL, QGIS, Google Earth Engine, Javascript (D3.js)
- Spatial Big Data management with Snowflake, PostgreSQL/PostGIS
- Geovisualisation experience with Python, R, GIS, JavaScript

### General Computing:

- Python, R, Java, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Typescript, Angular, SQL, Snowflake, Cypress, React Native, C, C++, MATLAB

### Development & Presentation Tools:

- Development tools including GitHub, Git, IntelliJ, Jupyter, Jenkins, Atlassian Suite, Agile Development Frameworks
- Presentation tools including Quarto, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

### Speaking & Presentation:

- Extensive experience in extemporaneous speaking and debate – Member of Outstanding Distinction of the U.S. National Speech & Debate Association, Former 1st ranked Lincoln-Douglas debater in Colorado, U.S.
- Led Agile development team of 6 as Scrum Master
- Assistant lecturer for Georgia Tech & Kobe University (INTA 3232 - Smart & Sustainable Megaregion)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### Geolytix

April 2025 - Present

*Data Analyst*

*London, England*

- Data Analyst in the retail location planning consultancy space
- Focus on spatial data analysis, urban economic geography, consumer behaviour and demography

### Georgia Tech Japan Program in Sustainable Development

May 2023

*Assistant Lecturer and Module Leader*

*Kobe, Japan*

- Delivered lectures on geospatial analysis and remote sensing for urban boundary delineation in *INTA 3232 – Smart & Sustainable Megaregion*. Taught 25 students from multiple U.S. universities at Kobe University
- Created lecture material to teach the fundamentals of geospatial analysis in QGIS and Earth Engine with a focus on the VIIRS sensor platform and non-remotely sensed raster datasets, and conducted GIS exercises to apply taught skills

### Sustainable Megaregions Research Project

February 2021 - May 2023

*Undergraduate Research Assistant*

*Atlanta, Georgia*

- Delineated boundaries of established and emerging megaregions using VIIRS and DMSP datasets in Google Earth Engine
- Designed and coded a data-first megaregions delineation tool with Earth Engine. Used the approach to perform a global search
- Analyzed and aggregated 400+ papers as part of a comprehensive literature review of megaregion literature

### MessageGears

May 2022 - August 2022

*Software Engineering Intern*

*Atlanta, Georgia*

- Worked as a full stack developer on MessageGears' email marketing web app
- Created and implemented novel user interface elements using TypeScript and Angular and Improved application interface with SQL backend using REST API calls
- Wrote unit tests, view tests, and Cypress tests to improve testing coverage across the testing stack

## PROJECTS

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### Simulating the London Underground

February 2024 - April 2024

*Sole creator*

- Wrote a paper modelling the London Underground which used a modified version of Dijkstra's shortest path algorithm and origin/destination data from Transport for London to estimate commuter flows on each link and identify the most important stations on the system. Paper (with GitHub link) Hosted at <https://gavinrolls.com/londonunderground.html>

### Crowd-sourcing Career Development

February 2022 - March 2022

*Co-creator*

- Wrote a qualitative, human-subjects research paper investigating participants from the Reddit community [r/CSCareerQuestions](https://www.reddit.com/r/CSCareerQuestions)
- Investigated how design choices have shaped the community and the different participant archetypes it attracts and how community membership evolves through the legitimate peripheral participation (LPP) framework

### Visualising Mass Shootings in the U.S.

November 2021

*Co-creator*

- Created an interactive graphic of injuries and casualties from mass shootings in the U.S. using D3.js. Hosted at <https://gavinrolls.com/MassShootings/shootings.html>

### Chess Engine

May 2021 - July 2021

*Sole creator*

- Created a chess engine and game visualization with Java. Selected moves with an alpha-beta pruning minimax search algorithm

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Co-Author** - Gaddipati et al. (2025) Challenges in using satellite data for non-remote sensing specialists, an exploratory case study. *Data & Policy* 7:28, <https://doi.org/10.1017/dap.2025.7>

**Co-Author** - Woodall et al. (2023) The Megaregion – Forms, Functions, and Potential? A Literature Review and Proposal for Advancing Research. *International Journal of Urban Sciences* 28:1, pp. 82-104. <https://doi.org/10.1080/12265934.2023.2189156>

## EXTRACURRICULARS

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**Georgia Tech Tour Guide** January 2021 - May 2023

*Lead Guide*

*Atlanta, Georgia*

- Assisted prospective students and families in their college process by providing campus tours as an ambassador to the Institute
- Fall 2022 Tour Guide of the semester – selected to model tour procedure to new guides

**Georgia Tech Transport & Infrastructure Committee** August 2020 - May 2023

*Member*

*Atlanta, Georgia*

- Advanced student interests in transportation by lobbying for improved bus service and cycling accessibility on campus

**Stamp's Scholars - Special Topics** August 2021 - December 2021

*Teaching Leader*

*Atlanta, Georgia*

- Assistant instructor for GT 1801, an orientation course for first year Stamps President's Scholars at Georgia Tech

**Personal Sport** 2015 - Present

*Amateur Ultra-Distance Cyclist, Runner, Triathlete*

- Passionate amateur endurance athlete - completed self supported ultra-marathons and ultra-cycling events
- Participated in the 2022 Ironman Triathlon World Championships (3.8km swim, 180km bike, 42.2km run), U.S. Collegiate Triathlon National Championships, and UK Collegiate Duathlon National Championships
- Cycled 4,500km from Naples, IT to Edinburgh, UK (excluding English Channel) to cross Europe by bicycle