

Zachary C. Yildiz-Raslan

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Massachusetts Development Finance Agency

Jul. 2022 – Present

GIS Specialist

Responsible for design, administration, maintenance, and updating of Devens GIS and CAD, as well as other various agency projects. Primary functions include maintaining municipal files such as address, parcel, and utility data as well as GPS data collection. Develop high-quality cartographic visualizations, assist other departments with related tasks and interface with local, state, and federal agencies. Collaborate with other agency divisions and departments such as Information Technology, Community Development, Marketing, various Assessor offices, Devens Fire Department, Devens Department of Public Works and Recreation, the Massachusetts State Police, and others.

ClioGraphica

Nov. 2015 – Present

Sole-Proprietor

Offer GIS and geospatial consulting services for non-profits organizations, client businesses, and municipalities. Specializing in map maintenance, municipal dataset workflow management, and GIS training. Assist decision makers formulate strategic growth plans through geospatial analysis and GIS implementation. Notable collaborations include Stamford Historical Society, MOU with Connecticut Audubon Society (2016-2017), and MOU with Stamford Public Education Foundation (2016-2017).

Wyzant, Inc.

Oct. 2014 – Present

GIS and Digital Humanities Tutor

Tutor graduate and undergraduate students on GIS methods and technologies, system and database administration, geospatial analytics, and presentation. Provide students with background on their questions and pathways to successfully completing their assignments. Meet with students in person and online for sessions.

Xcel Energy

Dec. 2019 – Jul. 2022

GIS Technician 1

Specialized in electric vehicle infrastructure mapping, Advanced Distribution Management System (ADMS), and electric On-Hold work order processing. Contributed to internal reference materials for EV mapping protocols and coordinated with Distribution Transportation Team and field crews for mapping requirements. Developed proficiency with utility operations software to review and process business records in conjunction with GIS error rectification.

KLJ Engineering

Oct. 2018 – Jun. 2019

GIS Analyst

LLD drafting with GIS and CAD software within Telecommunications Division. Trained and supported new GIS hires at Saint Paul, MN and Denver, CO offices. Implemented data driven pages, created and organized geodatabases, and contributed to cartographic design in the production of construction staking sheets for fiber optic cable network expansion.

Critical Health and Social Ecology Lab

Jan. 2018 – Oct. 2018

Geospatial Research Associate

Social Sciences GIS Analyst with Critical Health and Social Ecology Lab in Psychology Department of Wesleyan University. GIS analysis of psychological survey data to spatially analyze the distribution of responses to questions gauging participants' social well-being, community connection, and physical health. Developed and presented workshop, "Introduction to GIS: Workshop for Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Research", for our lab as well as Professor Shellae Versey's undergraduate psychology research class. Met with students one-on-one to discuss integrating GIS with their projects.

Raslan for Mayor: Ansonia, CT

Aug. 2017 – Nov. 2017

Geospatial Consultant and Campaign Manager

Coordinated events, community outreach, volunteers, and research. This included using the DNC VoteBuilder platform to organize lists of people to contact through phone banking and neighborhood canvassing. Provided maps and spatial analysis which contributed to the policy research and platform messages of our campaign such as: number of residential parcels within "walking-distance" to parks and schools, density of dwelling units, distribution of residential taxes paid by building square foot, population distribution, and proposals for bus stop locations which would be within walking-distance to over 90% of residential parcels in town.

Housatonic Valley Association

Sept. 2016 – Jan. 2017

GIS Manager

Managed GIS department which worked in coordination with internal departments (i.e. Watershed Planning Department and field crew) and external clients such as local municipalities, land trusts organizations, and individuals seeking GIS analysis or general mapping services. Common GIS projects included multi-variable site selection analysis, environmental/natural resources modeling, parcel editing, and geospatial database creation. Re-organized/centralized company GIS for greater efficiency among workgroup of GIS users at main office.

Connecticut Museum of Natural History

May 2014 – May 2015

Student Administrator

Organized and maintained museum client files regarding different sponsored events. Proofread and peer-reviewed museum publications.

Connecticut State Data Center & Map and Geographic Information Center (MAGIC)

Oct. 2013 – Jun. 2014

Census and Geospatial Data Assistant

Focused on researching historical maps and associated documentation, digitizing and georeferencing these maps to create workable primary source material for digital humanities students, creating metadata for georeferenced maps and datasets, and heads-up digitizing derivative data for historical analysis.

Strictly Accounting, CPA: Bill Pay U.S.A.

Jun. 2009 – Sept. 2011

Junior Accountant

Processed tax-returns, book-keeping for individuals and businesses, and office/file maintenance.

EDUCATION

Master's of Science

Clark University, School of Climate, Environment, and Society

Program: Geographic Information Science

Graduation: May 2028

Fiat Lux Scholar

Bachelor of Arts

University of Connecticut, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Program: History major, Geographic Information Science minor

Graduation: December 2015

University of Connecticut Honors Scholar Program: March, 2014 - December, 2015

Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society: Inducted May, 2014

Honors Thesis: Cliography, Historical Geospatial Analysis

High School Diploma

Westhill High School

Graduation: June 2011

Graduate of Academy of Finance

Member of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

Top 20% of high school students taking 2011 National Financial Capability Challenge

INTERNSHIPS, RESEARCH TEAMS, AND IND. STUDIES

Redniss and Mead: Land Use Consulting Firm

Sept. 2015 – Dec. 2015

GIS Internship in Planning Department

Worked in Land Use and Planning Department on variety of land use and real estate development projects throughout Fairfield County, CT. Utilized GIS to create property maps with accompanying documentation. Researched land records and legal regulations pertinent to client properties in effort to draft regulation variances or project proposal.

Virtual Hartford Research Team

Oct. 2013 – May 2015

GIS Specialist

Functioned as a GIS specialist for Virtual Hartford, a team of graduate and undergraduate students who were constructing an educational website dedicated to historical Hartford, CT. My primary focus centered on Allison Horrock's research of the use and development of city park space in Hartford, CT in the early 1900s as a method to create order in the city as it experienced population boom. I used GIS software, digitized historical maps, and historical Census data to create a series of maps representing the population, demographic, and park space distribution of Hartford, CT in 1910 and 1920. These maps provided Horrocks with cartographic representations of historic Hartford population distribution and their geospatial relationships to park spaces.

Office of Connecticut State Archeologist

Sept. 2014 – Dec. 2014

Research Assistant

Independent study based on collaboration with the Map and Geographic Information Center and Connecticut State Data Center to develop an online interface to house and display data of the office of the Connecticut State Archaeologist. I was able to map archeological data using Google Fusion Tables platform. I also developed a sample webpage using HTML markup language to showcase the interactive Google Fusion Tables maps.

Geomorphology and Earth Processes Research Team

Jun. 2014 – Dec. 2014

Research Assistant

Independent study in the department of Geography and Center for Integrative Geosciences led by Professor William Ouimet. This team used GIS and LiDAR-based analysis to study 18th-20th century timber harvesting and charcoal production in southern New England. Using LiDAR data to create Slope and Hillshade DEMs, I was able to map over 24,000 charcoal hearths in northwestern Connecticut throughout that semester. The mapping I contributed to this team was used as control data to train the system they were creating to automate the identification and mapping of these charcoal hearths going forward.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES AND UNIVERSITY PRESENTATIONS

UConn Frontiers Poster Exhibition

Apr. 2015

Presenter

Presented poster on my IDEA Grant funded project at UConn exhibition of undergraduate research and achievement. Focused on methods of Historical GIS and their application to Allison Horrock's Virtual Hartford case study.

Northeastern Geological Society of America (GSA) Conference

Spring 2015

Co-Author

Presented by Professor William Ouimet and Kate Johnson; how GIS and Remote Sensing based research methods reveal the impacts of historical land use patterns on Southern New England Landscapes.

UConn Center for Career Development Panel Discussion

Feb. 2015

Presenter

Presented my interdepartmental on-campus internship experience and the potential benefit of exploring research projects through internships. Focused on the significance of student self-advocacy. Discussed my personal collaboration with University of Connecticut's Center for Career Development to promote and facilitate undergraduate on-campus internships, with a focus on interdepartmental collaborations and self-created opportunities that enhance deep and authentic learning experiences.

Northeast Arc Users Group (NEArc) Fall Educators Conference

Fall 2014

Co-Author

Presented by Michael Howser – Director of Connecticut State Data Center at UConn. Discussed our on-campus internship initiative and the benefits of interdepartmental collaboration such as deep and authentic learning.

Northeast Arc Users Group (NEArc) Spring Spatial Technologies Conference

May 2014

Co-Author/Presenter

Presented with Michael Howser, "Historians to Geographers: Using Maps to Illustrate Hartford's Cultural Heritage". This presentation explored ideas and concepts that connect history with spatial location using maps, archives, and content. Utilizing collections from the Hartford History Center, Connecticut Historical Society, and the UConn Libraries MAGIC, this project connects archival content to maps to enable student and prospective researchers to reinterpret the history of Hartford, CT based on primary sources.

Association for the Study of Connecticut History (ASCH) Conference

Apr. 2014

Co-Author/Presenter

Presented with the Virtual Hartford research team, “Virtual Hartford: Interactive Microhistories and the Digital Humanities”. Discussed historical GIS methods, focusing on Allison Horrock’s research on Hartford’s early park space development as a case study, and the viability of integrating GIS with humanities-oriented projects.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

Fiat Lux Scholarship

Clark University

Jan. 2026

Clark’s highest graduate scholarship, reserved for the most outstanding applicants. Recipients demonstrate extraordinary academic achievement, leadership, and the potential to make transformative contributions to their field. Awarded to the top 1-2% of admitted class.

William P. O’Hara Endowed Scholar

University of Connecticut

Oct. 2014, Oct. 2015

Awarded scholarship for demonstrating an interest in music and having a record of academic achievement.

O.U.R. Travel Award

University of Connecticut

Apr. 2014

Awarded grant funding travel to present research at the Association for the Study of Connecticut History (ASCH) Conference: Fairfield University.

IDEA Grant Recipient

University of Connecticut

Nov. 2013

Partner with Virtual Hartford to acquire and digitize historical maps of Hartford, CT. Develop historical GIS methods to create derivative datasets and maps that detail the change in Hartford’s physical landscape and population distributions after significant historic events.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION AND COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

Certified Geographic Information Systems Professional (GISP)

Dec. 2023

Issued by Geographic Information System Certification Institute (GISCI). GISP Registry
Credential ID: 161719.

Computer Languages

Rudimentary proficiency: SQL, Python, HTML, CSS