

# DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Geographers assert the importance of space, environment, context, location, place, and scale in relation to our most pressing concerns. We draw from interdisciplinary theories to consider how these concerns are mapped, represented, and understood in a changing world, and to offer theoretically informed and empirically based responses.



## Highlights

- ▶ One Geography faculty member was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for the 2016-2017 academic year.
- ▶ Three Geography faculty serve as directors of campus programs: Integrated Social Sciences; Law, Societies & Justice; and the UW Honors Program.
- ▶ In 2016, a Geography faculty member won the Brocher Foundation Fellowship.
- ▶ Five faculty hold UW Distinguished Teaching Awards.

## Education

The Geography Department combines advanced theoretical analysis and interpretation with research on real-world problems. Our students are deeply engaged in community service through internships, service learning, and senior projects, which center upon questions of environmental and social justice. Our undergraduate majors employ social and political theories; develop the ability to create and analyze maps and other forms of geovisualization; gather, analyze and interpret quantitative and qualitative data; and write clear and compelling research reports and papers.

Our annual undergraduate research symposium features undergraduate research projects conducted by individuals and research teams. Our undergraduate research journal, *Plenum*, publishes outstanding undergraduate research articles.

We have pioneered longitudinal assessments of student learning in the undergraduate major, including portfolio reviews, capstone course design and evaluation, and dependable strengths assessment. We continue to rework learning objectives and outcomes in our undergraduate curriculum.

Our graduate students engage in original field research and are regularly awarded prestigious grants and fellowships to fund their research and writing. They subsequently take up teaching and research positions in the academy as well as in the public and private sectors at the international, national, and regional levels.

## STUDENTS (Autumn 2016)

212	Undergraduate majors
9	Master of Arts students
38	MGIS students
33	PhD students

## DEGREES AWARDED (July 2015-June 2016)

105	Bachelor of Arts degrees
2	Master of Arts degrees
17	MGIS degrees
7	PhD degrees

## MAJOR STUDENT AWARDS (Since 2010)

2	Fulbright-Hayes Awards
16	National Science Foundation Awards
3	Chester Fritz Foundation Fellowships
6	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships
9	Mary Gates Undergraduate Research Awards
1	Spencer Foundation Award
1	Javits Foundation Award
1	Presidential Management Fellowship
1	David L. Boren Graduate Fellowship
1	American Association of University Women Fellowship
1	Joff Hanauer Fellowship
1	Ford Foundation Fellowship
1	Center for Engaged Scholarship Fellowship
1	Washington Sea Grant Science Communications Fellowship

## Faculty

Recent awards and honors:

- 1 UW-UWRA Distinguished Retiree Excellence in Community Service Award
  - 4 National Science Foundation Research Grants
  - 1 Spencer Foundation Research Award
  - 1 Distinguished Alumnus Award from Geography and Urban Planning at the University of Toronto
  - 1 MacArthur Foundation Research Grant
  - 2 Guggenheim Fellowships
- President, Association of American Geographers  
President, North American Regional Science Council  
President, University Consortium for Geographic Information Science

## Research

Geography faculty are interested in the reciprocal interactions and relationships between people and the environment. Our research themes, methods, and conceptual frameworks cross rigid disciplinary boundaries and over the years we have forged numerous long-lasting connections to other departments and units on campus. These include strong ties with the School of Public Health; Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies; the Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology; the Law, Societies, and Justice Program; the Jackson School of International Studies; and the Simpson Center for the Humanities.

Faculty scholarship reflects these interdisciplinary affiliations, with prominent research projects covering a wide range of inquiry. Recent research projects include mapping the geographies of carbon emissions and consumption, examining processes of urbanization and migration in China, understanding the locational choices of UW immigrants, comparing middle class poverty politics across the Americas, examining the spatial regulation of gay people's bodies and spaces in pre-AIDS Seattle, investigating the militarization of environmental conservation in Guatemala, mapping children's educational politics, and a multidisciplinary collaboration examining the processes of urbanization in American cities.

Numerous faculty research projects involve both undergraduate and graduate students in their design and implementation. We are a relatively small unit and enjoy close collegial relationships and a good faculty-student ratio.

## Outreach

Our faculty and students are involved in a wide cross-section of community-based projects, issues, and educational partnerships, with over 50 community partners in the public and private sectors.

Numerous faculty engage with youth and the K-12 education system as researchers or through the development of critical pedagogy workshops and learning modules. Others do outreach by discussing their work with community organizations and through public media. Acting as consultants and volunteers, faculty participate in social surveys and community mapping.

In May 2016, UW Geography hosted the Association of Washington Geographers (AWG) annual meeting, bringing geographers together from throughout the region for paper sessions, poster presentations, and field trips. Graduate students organized and hosted the 11th annual Critical Geographies Mini-Conference in October 2016, focusing on themes of care, control, dispossession, and identity. The meeting was attended by scholars from numerous geography programs throughout the United States and Canada, as well as the non-profit sector and other academic units at UW.

## FACULTY (Autumn 2016)

12	Professors
1	Associate Professor
3	Assistant Professors
6	Emeritus Professors

## AREAS OF RESEARCH

- Urban Geography
- Political, Economic and Cultural Geography
- Geographic Information Science
- Society and Technology Studies
- Political Economy/Ecology
- Critical Development Studies (China, the Americas)
- Health and Medical Geography
- Population and Migration Geography
- Feminist Geographies
- Labor Markets & Economic Restructuring
- China Studies
- Digital Geographies
- Globalization
- Geographies of Inequality
- Geographies of Food and Eating



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