

John “Jack” Swab

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Research & Teaching Interests

I am an interdisciplinary geographer broadly interested in the nexus of human geography and GIS/cartography. Specifically, I examine how urban and economic topics intersect with the map, technological evolution in cartography, and the information management of geospatial data. I also have interests in the intellectual history of geography, map studies, and their impacts on current scholarship. Budding areas of interest include digital political ecology and queer spatial histories.

Education

University of Kentucky

Master of Arts, Geography (Anticipated May 2020)

Thesis: *A Critical History of the Sanborn Map Company* [working title]

Master of Science, Library Science (Anticipated August 2020)

2018 The University of Oklahoma

2017 The Pennsylvania State University

Bachelor of Science, Geography (Magna Cum Laude)

Bachelor of Arts, History (Cum Laude)

Minors: Geographic Information Science, International Studies, & Environmental Inquiry

Graduate of the Schreyer Honors College and the Paterno Fellows Program

2016 St Catherine’s College, University of Oxford, United Kingdom (January-June)

2013 International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, Edgewood High School, Maryland

Awards

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| 2019 | Ralph Brown Graduate Paper Award, Historical Geography Specialty Group AAG |
| 2017 | EMSAGE (Earth and Mineral Sciences Academy for Global Education) Award |
| 2016 | Jeff Gockley Memorial Award, Penn State Department of Geography |
| 2015 | Penn State University Libraries Information Literacy Award |
| 2013 | College of Earth and Mineral Sciences Phi Kappa Phi Freshman Poster Award |
| 2013-17 | Academic Excellence Scholarship, Schreyer Honors College |

- 2013-17 Matthew J. Wilson Honors Scholarship, College of Earth and Mineral Sciences
- 2014 John & Elizabeth Holmes Teas Scholarship, College of Earth and Mineral Sciences
- 2012 Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America

Member of Phi Beta Kappa, Gamma Theta Upsilon, and Phi Alpha Theta Honors Societies

Completed Appointments

- 2018 Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, National Park Service, Boston, MA
- 2017-18 Lab Manager, Experimental Geography Studio, University of Oklahoma
- 2015-17 Maps/GIS Library Assistant, Penn State University Libraries
- 2015 Visiting Researcher, Stanford University Spatial History Project
- 2014 Visiting Student, Johns Hopkins University Department of Geography &
Environmental Engineering
- 2014 Research Assistant, Penn State Department of Geography

RESEARCH

Publications

- Swab, John** and Wilson, Matthew. 2019. Gwendolyn S. Curtis, curator of Kentucky's Largest Map Collection. *Journal of Maps and Geography Libraries*, 14:2-3, 105-108.
- Swab, John.** 2019. "Mapping a Nation: Daniel Carter Beard's Time as a Surveyor for the Sanborn Map Company." *Abstracts of the ICA*, 1.
- Swab, John.** 2019. Review of "The Feminist Bookstore Movement: Lesbian Antiracism and Feminist Accountability" by Kristen Hogan. *Antipode*, p. 1-6.
[https://radicalantipode.files.wordpress.com/2019/05/14.-john-swab_ak.pdf]
- Swab, John** and Babcock, Todd. 2018. Surveying Northeastern Pennsylvania: Contextualizing the Flower-Walker Collection at the Tioga Point Museum. *Journal of Maps and Geography Libraries*, 14:1, 9-20.
- Swab, John.** 2018. Review of "Patents and Cartographic Inventions: A New Perspective for Map History" by Mark Monmonier. *Cartographic Perspectives*, 90, 110-112.
- Swab, John.** 2017. *Building Suburban Life: Roland Park, Baltimore and the Regulation of Space*. [Schreyer Honors College Thesis]

In Progress Publications

[In progress] **Swab, John** and Giesecking, Jack. "Finding the Guide to Our People: Queering Early Gay Maps"

[In review] **Swab, John**. 2019. Review of "Cartography: The Ideal and Its History" by Matthew Edney. *Cartographic Perspectives*.

Consulting Research

Swab, John. 2018. Big Ten Academic Alliance/Penn State Maps Library Bibliometric Analysis Pilot Project. [Commissioned pilot project on distribution of map holdings at Penn State]

Swab, John. 2014. *A Unified Water and Sewer Authority of Harford County: An Investigation into the Problem and Effectiveness of the Proposed Authority*. [Commissioned white paper for the Friends of Harford]

Artistic Endeavors & Exhibitions

2019 *geography semple19 AHHHHH!*. Semple Day and Department 75th Anniversary video. Lyric Theatre and Cultural Arts Center. Lexington, KY (with Erin Clancy, Ian Spangler, Olivia Meyer, Robby Hardesty, Mitch Snider, and Jess Linz)

2018 *(empty) lots*. May-June. Exhibition in the group show *Experimental Geography Studio*. Oklahoma City Contemporary Arts Center Showroom. Oklahoma City, OK

2018 *Crossroads Mall*. Photo submitted to the Cultural Geography Specialty Group Photo Contest. American Association of Geographers Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA

2017 *A Short History of Aerial Photography*. Donald W. Hamer Center for Maps & Geospatial Information, Penn State Libraries. University Park, PA

2015 *The Irreproducibility Machine*. Video. Production assistant to Nicholas Bauch. Stanford, CA.

Grants & Fellowships

2019	Caxton Club of Chicago Book Studies Grant	\$2,498.00
2019	North American Cartographic Information Society Student Travel Grant	\$500.00
2019	Cartography Specialty Group Master's Student Award	\$500.00
2019	University of Kentucky Barnhart-Withington Fellowship	\$1,500.00
2019	Terry G. Jordan-Bychkov Award, Historical Geography Specialty Group	\$200.00
2019	Urban Geography Specialty Group Graduate Student Fellowship	\$300.00

2019	International Cartographic Conference, Conference Organizers Grant	\$900.00
2019	U.S. National Commission to the Intl. Cart. Assn. Grant (2019)	\$2,000.00
2019	J.B. Harley Travel Grant, Intl. Conf. on the History of Cartography	\$750.00*
2018	University of Oklahoma Graduate Student Senate Travel Award	\$600.00
2018	University of Oklahoma Libraries Data Acquisition Grant	\$4,560.00
2015	Penn State Rodney Erickson Summer Discovery Grant	\$3,500.00
2015	Penn State College of the Liberal Arts Enrichment Fund	\$500.00
2015	Penn State Schreyer Honors College Internship Grant	\$750.00
		*Declined award

Invited Presentations

- 2017 *Indian Territory (pre-1890) Sanborn Maps of Oklahoma*. Invited Lecture for English 3113: Indigenous Cartography at the University of Oklahoma. Norman, OK

Conference Presentations

- [Apr 2020] *Inventing the Art & Science of Site Selection: William Applebaum and Mid-Century Geography*. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Denver, CO.
- [Feb 2020] *Hidden Costs: Towards a More Sustainable Digital Cartography*. Dimension of Political Ecology Conference. Lexington, KY
- 2019 *Hidden Costs: Towards a More Sustainable Digital Cartography*. NACIS Annual Conference. Tacoma, WA
- 2019 *Finding the Guide to My People: Queer Travel Guides and Maps from the 1960s to the 1990s*. Kentucky Gender and Women's Studies Conference. Lexington, KY
- 2019 *Mapping a Nation: Daniel Carter Beard's Travels as a Sanborn Surveyor*. International Cartographic Conference. Tokyo, Japan
- 2019 *The Model 501 Spatial Data Plotter: Making the Digital, Physical in the Mid-Twentieth Century*. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C.
- 2018 *A Road Not Taken: Computerized Raised Relief Mapping in the 1960s*. Southeast Division of the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Johnson City, TN
- 2018 *The Model 501 Spatial Data Plotter: Making the Digital, Physical in the Mid-Twentieth Century*. NACIS Annual Conference. Norfolk, VA

- 2018 *Mapping Risk in Oklahoma and Indian Territories: The Rivalry Between the Clarkson Rating Bureau and the Sanborn Map Company*. International Society for the History of the Map Conference. Portland, ME
- 2018 *Palimpsest of the Map: Towards a History of the Sanborn Map Company*. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA
- 2018 *Palimpsest of the Map: Towards a History of the Sanborn Map Company and the Short Story of Sanborn in the Post-War Era*. Experimental Geography Studio Tea Hour. Norman, OK
- 2017 *Gordon Matta-Clark's Fake Estates & Underground Worlds on Film*. Experimental Geography Studio Tea Hour. Norman, OK
- 2017 *Exploring Gordon Matta-Clark's Fake Estates Through a Geographic Lens: A GeoHumanities Approach*. Southwest Division of the American Association of Geographer Meeting. Huntsville, TX
- 2017 *Meta-Mapping: Documenting the Expansion of the Sanborn Map Co. Empire*. University of Oklahoma Research Bazaar. Norman, OK
- 2017 *Mapping People Using Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps*. Pennsylvania GIS Conference. State College, PA (presented equally with Connor Henderson, Heather Ross, and Albert Rozo)
- 2017 *Building Community in the Countryside: The Development of Suburban Governance, 1893-1910*. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Boston, MA
- Reduce to Ashes: Examining the Reemergence of the Business District in Early 20th Century Baltimore and San Francisco*
- Penn State Undergraduate History Conference. University Park, PA (2015)
 - Penn State GIS Day Lightning Presentations. University Park, PA (2015)
 - Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis. Stanford University, Stanford, CA (2015)
- Streetcars and Suburbs of Baltimore: A Digital Humanities Approach*
- American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL (2015)
 - Penn State No Boundaries Geography Conference. University Park, PA (2015)
- Streetcars: The Start of the Suburbs of Baltimore, Maryland*
- Penn State University Undergraduate Exhibition Poster Contest. University Park, PA (2014)
 - Penn State No Boundaries Geography Conference. University Park, PA (2014)

- College of Earth and Mineral Sciences Undergraduate Poster Exhibition.
University Park, PA (2013)

Whose Hand is on the Tap? Examining the Political Structure of Water Providers in Harford County, Maryland

- Pennsylvania Geographical Society Meeting. State College, PA (2014)
- College of Earth and Mineral Sciences Undergraduate Poster Exhibition.
University Park, PA (2014)

Library Research Resources Created

Penn State Donald W. Hamer Center for Maps & Geospatial Information

- 2017 Atlas of Pennsylvania Historic Aerial Photography by Year for USDA (1937-71), NOAA (1944-2016), USGS (1941-2005)
- 2017 Index of USDA Aerial Photos Reels for Pennsylvania, 1955-Present
- 2017 Inventory of Historic Aerial Photos held by Pennsylvania Counties **led to the preservation of 600 historic aerial photos marked for destruction of Cambria County**
- 2016 Mapping State College, PA with Sanborn Maps (with Connor Henderson)

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant

University of Kentucky

- GEO 109: Digital Mapping (F 2018 Wilson, S 2019 Giesecking, F 2019 Lally)

Penn State

- EMSC 100S: First-Year Seminar in Geography (F 2014, Peuquet)
- GEOG 128: Geography of International Affairs & Sport (SU 2015, Cuomo, served as a mentor)

SERVICE

College

University of Kentucky, College of Arts & Sciences

2019-Present Treasurer, Dimensions of Political Ecology (DOPE) Conference & Political Ecology Working Group

- Currently overseeing a conference budget of over \$25,000
- Responsible for coordinating the acquisition of over \$10,000 in internal grants
- Responsible for implementing new external fundraising efforts
- Implemented Underrepresented Scholar Program and new tiered registration
- Audited conference budget model and undertook financial modeling for sustainability

2019 DOPE Volunteer, Technology Support & Speaker Logistics

Penn State, University Libraries

2016-2017 Member, Student Advisory Group

Penn State, College of Earth & Mineral Sciences

2014-2015 Co-organizer, College of Earth and Mineral Sciences Undergraduate Poster Competition

Departmental

University of Kentucky

2019-2020 Graduate Representative to the Graduate Committee

2018-2019 Graduate Representative to the Semple Day & Library Acquisition Committees

2018 Co-organizer departmental participation and funding for SEDAAG Conference

University of Oklahoma

2017-2018 Experimental Geography Studio Collective

Penn State

2016-2017 UnderDoG's (Geography Club) Treasurer

2015-2017 Undergraduate Representative, Geography Curriculum Committee

2015 Undergraduate Co-Organizer, Penn State no)boundaries Geography Conference

2014-2015 UnderDoG's Outreach Coordinator

Other

2012-2013 Student Member, Harford County Public Library Board of Trustees

Professional

Membership

American Association of Geographers

Specialty Groups: Cultural Geography, Digital Geographies, Historical Geography, Urban Geography, History of Geography, Economic Geography

North American Cartographic Information Society

Sessions Organized

[April 2020] Critically Assessing Business Geographies: Tools, Techniques, and Histories.
American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Denver, CO. **XX** April.
Sponsored by the Applied Geography, Business Geography, History of
Geography, and Economic Geography Specialty Groups.

[Feb 2020] Digital Political Ecologies. Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference. Lexington,
KY. **XX** February. Co-arranged with Julie Saperstein.

Sessions Chaired

2015 Chair for Historical GIS II: Using Geospatial Technologies to Map Journeys, Settlements
and Communities. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. 24
April. [Papers: John Swab, Courtney Kietzer]