

Heather A. Swienton

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Portfolio: www.GISwienton.com

EDUCATION

PhD in Geography, GPA 4.0 **Anticipated May 2025**

Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

Dissertation Committee: Alberto Giordano, Ronald Hagelman, Injeong Jo, ...

MS in Geography, GPA 4.0 **Dec. 2021**

Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

Thesis Committee: Alberto Giordano, Ronald Hagelman, Injeong Jo

Thesis Title: Children's Cartography: What is a Map According to Children?

BS in Geographic Information Sciences and Technology, GPA 3.68 **Dec. 2018**

Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

Concentration: Earth Systems Analysis

Minor: Geology

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant for 'Maps and Mapmaking' **Jan. 2022 - Present**

Department of Geography, Texas State University

- Responsible for leading undergraduate maps and mapmaking labs (GEO 3411)
- Prepare, manage, and effectively communicate lab materials both in person and virtually
- Teach and strengthen students' skills and confidence in mapping software and design

Graduate Teaching Assistant for 'Historical Geology' **Aug. 2019 - Dec. 2021**

Department of Geography, Texas State University

- Responsible for leading undergraduate historical geology labs (GEOL 1420)
- Strengthen, organize, and convey lab teaching materials both in person and virtually
- Predict and identify student misconceptions to guide deeper understanding of lab material

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Master's Research **Sep. 2019 - Dec. 2021**

Texas State University

- Conduct qualitative and quantitative research examining cartographic design and composition of children's maps
- Work with the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment to explore and strengthen schoolchildren's understanding of cartography

Post-graduate Researcher **Jan. - July 2019**

Texas A&M University

- Continue and expand upon research from CyberHealthGIS REU with focus on GIS analysis
- Conduct geoscience research with a focus on paper writing for departmental projects pertaining to data visualization, analysis of 'GeoJobs' in today's industry, etc.

CyberHealthGIS Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)

May - Aug. 2017

Texas A&M University

- Engage in multidisciplinary, hands-on research in public health, geography and GIS as 1 of 11 students chosen from across the country
- Develop strong quantitative research skills using statistical testing and GIS analysis of tornado outbreak patterns of morbidity and mortality across Texas
- Successfully present related research (as both poster and paper) at local and international conferences, as well as publish in the *Professional Geographer*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ConocoPhillips, Land GIS Intern

May - Aug. 2018

Houston, TX

- Improve data management and cartography skills through utilizing ArcMap to design enterprise-wide webmaps
- Expand core knowledge of oil and gas lease and land skills with a spatial analysis perspective
- Collaborate with and communicate across multiple departments to ensure shared vision of projects

Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Exhibits Intern

June - July 2016

Dallas, TX

- Aid Exhibits Team with maintaining and repairing all museum exhibits
- Support multiple museum departments by identifying and resolving exhibit issues
- Evaluate museum design and functionality to enhance visitor enjoyment and learning

PUBLICATIONS

[abstract] **Swienton, H.**, Giordano, A., Hagelman, R., and Maleki, S. (2021). Children's cartography: what is a map according to children?, *Abstr. Int. Cartogr. Assoc.*, 3, 283. <https://doi.org/10.5194/ica-abs-3-283-2021>, 2021.

[paper] **Swienton, H.** Thompson, C., Billman, M., Bowlick, F., Goldberg, D., Klein, A., Horney, J., and Hammond, T. (2021). Direct Injuries and Fatalities of Texas Tornado Outbreaks from 1973 to 2007. *The Professional Geographer*. DOI: 10.1080/00330124.2021.1871767

[abstract] **Swienton, H.**, Goldberg, D., Hammond, T., Klein, A., & Horney, J. (2019). Effect of Tornado Outbreaks on Morbidity and Mortality in Texas. *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*, 34(S1), S50-S50. doi:10.1017/S1049023X19001171

[abstract] **Swienton, H.**, Goldberg, D., Hammond, T., Klein, A., & Horney, J. (2018). Morbidity and Mortality of Texas Tornado Outbreaks. *IPRED Abstract eBook* (p.185). <http://www.ipred.co.il/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/IPRED-V-eBook.pdf>

PRESENTATIONS

- “Children’s Cartography: What is a Map According to Children?”** **Dec. 2021**
International Cartographic Association (ICA), 30th International Cartographic Conference (ICC)
Paper presentation – Florence, Italy/virtual
- “Direct Injuries and Fatalities of Texas Tornado Outbreaks from 1973 to 2007”** **Nov. 2020**
American Association of Geographers, Southwest Regional Meeting (SWAAG)
Graduate Student Paper Award Competition – virtual paper presentation
- “Morbidity and Mortality of Texas Tornado Outbreaks”** **April 2020**
American Association of Geographers (AAG)
Poster presentation – virtual
- “Effect of Tornado Outbreaks on Morbidity and Mortality in Texas”** **May 2019**
World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine Congress (WADEM)
Paper presentation – Brisbane, Australia
- “Morbidity and Mortality of Texas Tornado Outbreaks”** **Jan. 2018**
5th International Preparedness and Response to Emergencies & Disasters (IPRED)
Paper presentation – Tel Aviv, Israel
- “Finding a Science/STEM Internship”** **Oct. & Nov. 2017**
Texas A&M University Career Center
Panelist presenter – College Station TX
- “Morbidity and Mortality of Texas Tornado Outbreaks”** **Aug. 2017**
Texas A&M University Undergraduate Research Summer Poster Session
Poster presentation – College Station, TX

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Early Career Scholar Funding for ICC 2021** **Dec. 2021**
Awarded funding as an early career scholar to participate in the 30th International Cartographic Conference (ICC 2021) from the U.S. National Committee (USNC) to the International Cartographic Association (ICA) through a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant
- First Place Poster**, Texas A&M ‘GIS Day’ Poster Competition **Nov. 2017**
Awarded by GIS Day Event Staff and participants for ‘Morbidity and Mortality of Texas Tornado Outbreaks’ research poster

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

PhD Vice President, Grad Forum

Fall 2022 - Spring 2024

Texas State University

- Establish continuity and stability in the Grad Forum for two-year service period
- Support co-presidents in running and planning meetings
- Facilitate communication amongst graduate students

Master's Student Representative, Grad Forum

Spring 2020

Texas State University

- Attend monthly departmental faculty meetings
- Report to faculty on behalf of the graduate students
- Act as liaison communicating between students and faculty

Committee Member, Texas GESSRS

2019, 2020 + 2022 Academic Years

Texas State University

- Assist in organizing and planning the annual student-led one-day conference, the Texas Geography and Environmental Studies Student Research Symposium
- Create flyers for and inspire the involvement of geography students of the Texas State Geography department and other local universities

Marketing Chair, Student Geosciences' Council

Fall 2016 - Spring 2018

Texas A&M University

- Motivate and delegate work amongst committee team members to facilitate design of organization's apparel and flyers

Historian, Geography Society

Fall 2016 - Spring 2018

Texas A&M University

- Facilitate communication between students and professionals in the industry
- Design department-wide emails communicating society progress and events

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Geographers (AAG), Cartography Specialty Group, student member
World Association for disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM), student member
International Preparedness & Response to Emergencies & Disasters (IPRED), student member

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Mapping: ArcGIS Suite, Adobe Creative Cloud (InDesign, Illustrator), Inkscape

Statistical: SaTScan, JMP

Textual Analysis: AntCont, Voyant

Miscellaneous: Microsoft Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

CONTACT LINKS

Portfolio: www.GISwienton.com

Research Gate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Heather_Swienton2

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4467-5339>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/heatherswienton/>

Texas State Geography Department Profile:

<https://www.geog.txstate.edu/people/gradassistants.html>