

GARRETT DASH NELSON

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2016– **Dartmouth College**
Postdoctoral Fellow, Society of Fellows and Department of Geography
Courses taught: “Exploring Nature and Culture in New England,” “Critical Mapping and the Geohumanities”

EDUCATION

2011–16 **University of Wisconsin–Madison**
PhD in Geography, Minor in Culture, History, and Environment.
Committee: William Cronon (chair), Anna Andrzejewski, Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen, Matthew Turner, Keith Woodward.
Dissertation: “A Place Altogether: Community Planning and the Search for Unit Landscapes, 1816–1956,” examines competing ideas about what size territorial areas are best suited for comprehensive planning in terms of community cohesion, economic interdependence, ecological adaptability, and political autonomy. Case studies on the township, metropolis, region, and globe explain why the desire for “unit landscapes” was so alluring but so rarely realized in practice.
(Winner of the Society of American City & Regional Planning History 2017 John Reps Prize)
Exam fields: History of Landscape and the Built Environment
People-Environment Geography
Theories of Space, Society, and Time
Theory and Practice of the Design Professions
Intellectual History of American Social Reform, 1800–1940

2010–11 **University of Nottingham** *(United Kingdom)*
MA with Distinction in Landscape and Culture, Department of Geography. Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar.
Thesis: “Olmsted in England,” a history of Frederick Law Olmsted’s 1850 European trip scrutinizing the early development of his ideas about landscape and politics.

2005–09 **Harvard College**
AB *summa cum laude* in Social Studies with secondary field in Visual and Environmental Studies. Phi Beta Kappa.
Thesis: “Towards the New Ruralism,” a cultural history of rurality as a variable of social progress in American history.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 Alasdair Rae and **Garrett Dash Nelson**, “From ‘Big Data’ to Big Regions: The Geography of the American Commute,” in LA Schintler and Z Chen, eds., *Big Data for Regional Science* (London: Routledge).
- 2017 **Garrett Dash Nelson**, “Mosaic or Tapestry: Two Metaphors for the Structure of Geography,” *Progress in Human Geography* (returned for revisions, September 2017)
- 2017 Rebecca Summer and **Garrett Dash Nelson**, “Making Stories Significant: Possibilities and Challenges at the Intersection of Digital Methods and Historic Preservation,” *Area* (special issue on “Digital Outputs,” accepted and forthcoming) doi:10.1111/area.12395
- 2017 **Garrett Dash Nelson**, “Book Review: Benjamin Looker, *A Nation of Neighborhoods*.” *Journal of Historical Geography* 56: 148–149 doi:10.1016/j.jhg.2016.12.007
- 2016 **Garrett Dash Nelson** and Alasdair Rae, “A New Regional Geography of the United States: From Commutes to Megaregions,” *PLoS One* 11(11):e0166083 doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0166083
Featured in over 20 major publications, including the *Washington Post*, *National Geographic*, *CityLab*, and *Wired*. Featured in the *PLoS One 10th Anniversary Datasets* collection.
- 2016 **Garrett Dash Nelson**, “Book Review: John Stilgoe, *What is Landscape?*” *Historical Geography* 44.
- 2016 **Garrett Dash Nelson**, “Book Review: Steven Conn, *Americans Against the City*.” *Journal of Historical Geography* 53: 120–121. doi:10.1016/j.jhg.2015.10.018
- 2016 **Garrett Dash Nelson**, “Making the Single City: The Constitutive Landscape and the Struggle for Greater Boston, 1891–1911.” *Landscape Research* 42(3): 243–255, special issue on “Landscape Histories of Urbanization” doi:10.1080/01426397.2016.1267130
- 2015 **Garrett Dash Nelson**, “Walking and Talking Through *Walks and Talks*: Traveling with Frederick Law Olmsted in England, 1850 and 2011.” *Journal of Historical Geography* 48: 47–57. doi:10.1016/j.jhg.2015.02.004
Named one of three “highly commended” articles in 2015 by the journal’s editorial board.
- 2014 **Garrett Dash Nelson**, “Book Review: Jo Guldi, *Roads to Power*.” *Historical Geography* 42: 405–406.

OTHER RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

- 2017 “What Would States Look Like If They Made Sense?” *Edge Effects* (February 23, 2017).
- 2016 “The Density of Deception” *The Atlantic CityLab* (October 21, 2016). <http://www.citylab.com/tech/2016/10/the-deception-of-density/502646>
- 2016 “Can Environmental Thinking Help Solve Gerrymandering?” *Edge Effects* (January 21, 2016).
- 2015 “Do Beautiful Parks Strengthen Democracy?” *Smithsonian and Zócalo Public Square*, “What it Means to Be an American” series. <http://www.whatitmeanstobeamerican.org/ideas/do-beautiful-parks-strengthen-democracy/>
- 2015 “From Yavin’s Moon to the Pit of Carkoon: How Space and Place Change How We Watch *Star Wars*.” *Edge Effects* (December 17, 2015).
- 2015 “How Boston Dreamed of Its Future, a Century Ago.” *Boston Sunday Globe* (Ideas section, January 4, 2015).

- 2015 “Nature Led the Way:’ The Legacy of City Planner John Nolen.” Book interview with R. Bruce Stephenson. *Edge Effects* (August 4, 2015).
- 2015 “Planning With the People: Jess Gilbert on the ‘Intended’ New Deal.” Book interview with Jess Gilbert. *Edge Effects* (April 2, 2015).
- 2014 “Review Essay: Taking the Long View.” *Edge Effects* (November 20, 2015).

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2017 **John Reps Prize for Best Dissertation in Planning History.** Society for American City and Regional Planning History.
- 2017 **Sir Peter Hall Award for Wider Engagement.** Royal Town Planning Institute. Joint award with Alasdair Rae for our megaregions research.
- 2011–16 **University Fellowship.** University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- 2015 **Summer Writing Fellowship.** Mellon Foundation.
- 2014–15 **Humanities Exchange (HEX).** Center for the Humanities, University of Wisconsin–Madison. Joint award with Rebecca Summer. This public outreach grant enables graduate students to develop public humanities projects in collaboration with community organizations.
- 2015 **Postgraduate Travel Bursary.** Historical Geography Research Group, RGS–IBG.
- 2014 **Vilas Research Travel Grant.** Graduate School, University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- 2014 **Research & Travel Grant.** Center for Culture, History, and Environment (CHE). *Also received in 2013.*
- 2014 **Trewartha Conference Travel Grant.** Department of Geography. *Also received in 2013.*
- 2014 **Trewartha Research Travel Grant.** Department of Geography.
- 2013 **Clarence W. Olmstead Citizenship Award.** Department of Geography.
- 2011 **Robert S. Birch Student Travel Award.** Society for American City & Regional Planning History.
- 2011 **Vilas Welcome Award.** Graduate School, University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- 2010–11 **Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar.** US–UK Fulbright Commission. This funded my study at the University of Nottingham and emphasized the importance of international scholarly exchange as part of the 2010 cohort of graduate students and faculty.
- 2011 **Occasional Lecture Fund.** British Fulbright Scholars Association.
- 2009–10 **George Peabody Gardner Traveling Fellowship.** Harvard College. This grant awarded to one Harvard senior to pursue an independent project in an understudied country. I spent nine months in Albania working on a landscape history of the changes in planning and spatial organization from communism to capitalism.
- 2008 **Phi Beta Kappa.** Harvard College, Alpha and Iota of Massachusetts.
- 2008 **Harvard College Research Program.** Summer research grant.
- 2006 **Detur Prize.** Harvard College.

MEDIA APPEARANCES AND INVITED TALKS

- 2017 **American Association of Architects Baltimore Lecture Series: Migration.** Invited lecture.
- 2017 **San Joaquin Conference of Governments Regional Planning Conference.** Invited keynote.

2014 **“Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing America.”** I appeared on screen as a talking head in this documentary produced by PBS-WNED and Florentine Films–Hott Productions.

PUBLIC & INTERACTIVE PROJECTS

- 2016 **Megaregions of the US.** <http://discovery.dartmouth.edu/megaregions>
Visualization of data from *PLoS One* study; included in *Places and Spaces: Mapping Science “Macrosopes”* traveling exhibit.
- 2016 **DefiningUV.** <http://matinic.us/defining-uv>
Participatory map on regional delineation of the New Hampshire–Vermont “Upper Valley.”
- 2016 **PaleoPlaces.** <http://garrettdashnelson.github.io/paleo-places>
Collaboration with Eric Nost and Elliot Vaughan. We built an interactive tool that visualizes landscapes generated from paleoecological data; part of the 2016 Cart Lab Design Challenge.
- 2014–15 **Goodman to Garver.** <http://www.goodmantogarver.com>
With Rebecca Summer; funded by Humanities Exchange (HEX) grant. We built a digital storytelling map based on open-source archival software and worked with local history groups to collect stories about the changing landscapes of a Madison neighborhood undergoing redevelopment.
- 2015 **Madison Architectural History Viewer.** <http://garrettdashnelson.github.io/madison-architectural-history>
This interactive tool, which I programmed in Leaflet and D3, makes it possible to visualize the growth of residential areas in Madison and the historical prevalence of different building types.
- 2015 **Propinquity Voting Tool.** <http://garrettdashnelson.github.io/propinquity-voting/web>
This interactive map and data analysis tool, which I programmed in Leaflet and D3, is part of an ongoing project which explores how environmental governance might look if political standing is weighted according to distance from an area of impact instead of being aggregated within jurisdictional areas.

TEACHING

- (2018) **Geog 53: Critical Mapping and the Geohumanities.** New course at Dartmouth College
Syllabus available: <http://dartgo.org/geog53>
- 2017 **Geog 45: Exploring Nature & Culture in New England.** Dartmouth College
Syllabus available: <http://dartgo.org/geog45>
- 2017 **Spaces of Belonging, Spaces of Inclusion: Mapping Community and Fracture at Dartmouth.**
tMini-seminar taught under an Arthur Vining Davis Foundation grant to promote Dartmouth’s House Communities initiative.
- 2014 **“Thinking Historically with GIS” guest lecture.** Geography 377: Introduction to GIS.
- 2013 **Teaching Assistant.** Geography & Environmental Studies 339: “Environmental Conservation,” with Matthew Turner and Lisa Naughton. I taught four discussions sections and contributed to the “Tambopata: Who owns paradise?” conservation role-playing exercise.
- 2012 **Teaching Assistant.** History, Geography, & Environmental Studies 460: “American

Environmental History,” with William Cronon. I delivered a guest lecture, “Public parks and pleasure grounds,” and taught four discussion sections, including the special section for the residential learning community Chadbourne Residential College.

OTHER ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2013–15 **Project Assistant.** Center for Culture, History, and Environment (CHE).
I served as the primary staff position for the activities of this interdisciplinary research center in the environmental humanities. In addition to administrative and member-management responsibilities, I co-organized and led week-long field workshops on “Landscapes of Extraction” and “Sacred Space, Place, and Time,” and an international conference on “The Anthropocene: A Cabinet of Curiosities.” I designed and coded the Center’s new website, and played a founding role in establishing its online journal, *Edge Effects*.
- 2014–15 **Research Assistant.** Management and curation of digital archival sources, Prof. Gregg Mitman.
- 2013 **Research Assistant.** Illustration research for Yi-Fu Tuan’s manuscript *Romantic Geography*.

CONFERENCES AND RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

- (2017) **Society for American City and Regional Planning History.** *Cleveland, Ohio, USA.*
- 2017 **Association of American Geographers.** *Boston, Massachusetts, USA.*
Presenting “Neighborhood, township, province: Dreams of spatial togetherness in Progressive Era American thought.”
- 2016 **Massachusetts Historical Society Environmental History Seminar.** *Boston, Massachusetts, USA.*
Presented “Assembling the City, Arresting the City: Competing Geographies of Boston and its Region, 1890–1930.”
- 2016 **Urban History Association.** *Chicago, Illinois, USA.*
Organized “Cities Beyond City Limits” panel and presented “Assembling the City, Arresting the City: Competing Geographies of Boston and its Region, 1890–1930.”
- 2015 **Society for American City and Regional Planning History.** *Los Angeles, California, USA.*
Presented “Landscape, planning, and the intellectual case for Progressivism.”
- 2015 **Land and Water: A Long-term Perspective.** *Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, USA.*
Presented “Territorialization on the Left.”
- 2015 **International Conference of Historical Geographers.** *London, United Kingdom.*
Session organizer of “Distributed Landscapes: Histories of Centers and Edges in American Planning” with Peter Ekman. Presented “Abstracting the Township: Community Wholeness, Geographic Scale, and Regionalism in Interwar Planning,” and “Sugar, Grain ... Gone? A Participatory Landscape History Project on Madison’s East Side.”
- 2015 **Association of American Geographers.** *Chicago, Illinois, USA.*
Session organizer of “Landscape, Region, and Time: Geographic Construction in Historical And Social Context.” Presented “Making the Single City: The Constitutive Landscape in Boston, 1890–1915.”
- 2015 **Graduate Research Symposium.** *Department of Geography, Madison, WI, USA.*
Presented “Propinquity Voting: A Speculative Model for Borderless Environmental Representation.”

- 2015 **Center for Culture, History, and Environment Research Colloquium**
Presented “In Search of the ‘Unit Landscape’: Planning, Community, and Territory in American History.”
- 2014 **Newberry Library Scholl Center Urban History Group.** *Chicago, Illinois, USA.*
Presented “Stitching Together a Metropolis: The Constituting Landscape in Sylvester Baxter’s Boston.”
- 2014 **Relational Landscape Studies of Urbanization.** *Alnarp, Sweden.*
Presented “Stitching Together a Metropolis: The Constituting Landscape in Sylvester Baxter’s Boston.”
- 2014 **American Society for Environmental History.** *San Francisco, California, USA.*
Delegate to the “Digital Environmental History” pre-conference workshop.
- 2014 **Dimensions of Political Ecology.** *Lexington, Kentucky, USA.*
Presented “‘It Shows What Ought To Be’: Benton MacKaye and the ‘Geotechnics’ of the Planned State.”
- 2013 **Graduate Research symposium.** *Department of Geography, Madison, WI, USA.*
Presented “A Landscape History of the Future.”
- 2013 **Social Science History Association.** *Chicago, Illinois, USA.*
Presented “The Instructive Landscape: Social Reform and Environmental Thought in the Progressive Era.”
- 2012 **Graduate Research Symposium.** *Department of Geography, Madison, WI, USA.*
Presented “In the Mirror of Historical Geography: Mumford, Sauer, and the Prospects of *Man’s Role*.”
- 2011 **Society for American City and Regional Planning History.** *Baltimore, Maryland, USA.*
Presented “Civilization and Communicativeness: The Social Theory of Frederick Law Olmsted.”
- 2011 **Museum of English Rural Life Seminar Series.** *Reading, United Kingdom.*
Presented “Transatlantic Traffic in Rural Imaginations.”

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2015–16 **Graduate Student Treasurer.** Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- 2014–15 **Representative to the Faculty.** Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- 2012–13 **Representative to the Graduate Studies Committee.** Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- 2011–12 **Representative to the Speakers Committee.** Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin–Madison.

LANGUAGES, PROGRAMMING, CARTOGRAPHY, AND DESIGN

Languages. English (native), Albanian (intermediate), Spanish (beginner). Formerly studied Arabic and Latin.

Programming languages. HTML(5), PHP, CSS, JavaScript, Python, D3.js, *nix shell.

Geospatial software. QGIS, gdal, Arc suite, Leaflet, Spatialite

Design software. Adobe CC suite, Final Cut Pro

Other software. Microsoft Office suite, Apple Pages and Numbers, MySQL

For portfolio samples, please visit <http://people.matinic.us/garrett/#work>

AFFILIATIONS

Association of American Geographers (Specialty groups: Historical Geography, Cultural Geography, Landscape, Regional Development and Planning, Digital Geographies)

Historical Geography Research Group of the Royal Geographical Society with IBG

Society for American City and Regional Planning History

Urban History Association

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