

DR. JENNIFER MAPES

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Geography	University of Southern California	2009
M.S.	Geography	The Pennsylvania State University	2005
B.A.	Geography	State University of New York, Geneseo	2000
	International Relations		

APPOINTMENTS

Current

2021- Assistant Professor (TT), Department of Geography, Kent State University

Previous

2018-2021 Associate Professor (NTT), Department of Geography, Kent State University
 2012-2018 Assistant Professor (NTT), Department of Geography, Kent State University
 2010-2012 Lecturer, Center for Earth and Environmental Science, SUNY Plattsburgh
 2009-2010 Lecturer, Department of Geography, University of Southern California

PUBLICATIONS¹

Monograph

J. Mapes. June 2025. *The New American Small Town: Lessons for Sustainable Urban Futures*. West Virginia University Press.

Peer reviewed journals

Mapes, J. and N. Spence** Under Review. Counter-mapping as action research: Lessons learned from the microgeography of universal public restrooms. *Cartographic Perspectives*.

Mapes, J. 2025. A critical assessment of the role of mapping in Ohio Safe Routes to School travel plans. *Applied Geography*. 180: 103670. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2025.103670>

Mapes, J. and S. Koopman. 2025. "It was time for me to go home": sense of place and belonging in Kent, Ohio (May 1-4, 1970). *Geohumanities*, 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2373566X.2025.2478086>

Mapes, J. 2024. Using big data to study small places: Small- town voting patterns in the 2020 U.S. presidential election. *Growth and Change*, e12730. <https://doi.org/10.1111/grow.12730>

Mapes, J. and S. Koopman. 2020. Sharing Stories of Tragedy: Mapping Narratives of the Kent State Shooting. *Cartographic Perspectives*. 96: 75-80.

¹ * undergraduate student co-author

**graduate student co-author

- Kenyon, E., S. Koopman, A. Christoff** and **J. Mapes**. 2020. Black Lives Matter and Kent State, May 4th, 1970: Inquiry into Protest and Perspective. 8(2): ***Oregon Journal of the Social Studies***. 46-56.
- Mapes, J.**, D. Kaplan, K. Turner, C. Willer**. 2017. Building 'College Town': Economic redevelopment and the construction of community. ***Local Economy***. 32(7): 601-616.
- Nicolaides, B. and **J. Mapes**. 2016. Stay-at-Home Moms in Los Angeles County, 1950–2000. ***California History***, 93(3): 2-8.
- Kaplan, D. and **J. Mapes**. 2016. "Where are the Women? Accounting for discrepancies in female doctorates in U.S. geography." ***The Professional Geographer***, 68(3): 427-435.
- Kaplan, D. and **J. Mapes**. 2015. "Panoptic Geographies: An examination of all U.S. geographic dissertations." ***Geographical Review***, 105 (1): 20-40.
- Curtis, J., A. Curtis, **J. Mapes**, A. Szell**, and A. Cinderich**. 2013. "Using Google Street View for systematic observation of the built environment: analysis of spatio-temporal instability of imagery dates." ***International Journal of Health Geographics***. 12(1): 1-10.
- Mapes, J.** and J. Wolch. 2011. "'Living green': The promise and pitfalls of new sustainable communities." ***Journal of Urban Design***, 16(1): 105-126.
- Wolch, J., J. Newell, M. Seymour, H. Bradbury, K. Reynolds, **J. Mapes**. 2010. "The forgotten and the future: Reclaiming back alleys for a sustainable city." ***Environment and Planning A***, 42(12): 2874 – 2896.

Book chapters

- Mapes, J.** "Organizing a Community Geography Research Project in a Writing-Intensive Capstone Course." In *Community Geography: Engaged Scholarship for a More Just World*. University of Georgia Press (under contract; forthcoming 2026).
- Mapes, J.** 2017. The New Main Street: Planning, politics, & change in downtown Kent, Ohio . In ***Urban Transformations: Geographies of Renewal and Creative Change***. N. Wise and J. Clark, eds. Routledge, 62-78.
- Mapes, J.** 2011. "Landscapes of nostalgia: Place marketing and the cultural economy in the American small town." In ***Cultural Political Economy of Small Cities***, A. Lorentzen and B. van Heur, eds. Routledge (Regions and Cities), 194-209.

White paper

- Mapes, J.** and N. Spence. 2025. GIS use by Ohio County Governments.
<https://communitygeography.kent.edu/index.php/supporting-gis-in-local-government/>

Maps, exhibits, online articles, and reviews

- 2025 "Who Lived here? Kent's South End 1920-1950." 3D interactive map exhibit. Kent Free Library. August-December.
- 2025 "Kent Yards," "Erie Railroad Yard," and "Twin Coach" in B. Dzeda, C. Sanders and P. Fafrak. 2025. *Steel Rails, Small Town: The Railroad History of Kent, Ohio*. Kent Historical Society.

- 2024 [“Analysis: Precinct-level election results reflect the county’s political differences.”](https://theportager.com/analysis-precinct-level-election-results-reflect-the-countys-political-differences/) Maps and election analysis in *The Portager*. Dec. 6. Available at: <https://theportager.com/analysis-precinct-level-election-results-reflect-the-countys-political-differences/>
- Annual Downtown Kent wayfinding map. City of Kent.
- Annual Chocolate Walk map. Main Street Kent.
- Annual Wizardly World of Kent map. Main Street Kent.
- Annual Putt around downtown map. Main Street Kent.
- 2024 Six maps in *The New Suburbia: How Diversity Remade Suburban Life after 1945*, Becky Nicolaides, Oxford University Press.
- 2024 The Flats, map, distributed as a poster through Trumbull County Historical Society
- 2024 [“A true neighborhood”](#) * N. Abdoo*, M. Chapman*, L. Forrest*, B. Foutty*, DJ Gullatte*, **J. Mapes**, E. May*, R. Prizzi*, M. Radachy*, D. Sherry*, and J. Swanberg*.
- 2023 [Precinct-level results for Portage County Ohio](#), Issues 1,2, 29, 30, 31. *The Portager*.
- 2023 [Atlas of Opportunity](#) for Warren Ohio with Kent State Design Innovation Grand Challenge class.
- 2023 Bioblitz Observations. CENRS.
- 2023 Gallery exhibit, “Draining the Swamp: An Environmental History of Wetlands on the Kent Campus.” DI Hub, Kent. With L. Kinsman-Costello and S. Rainey**
- 2023 Downtown Kent Dining Map
- 2022 *Share your rainbow*. Storywalk map. Main Street Kent.
- 2021 [Community: \[the\] Heart & Soul \[of democracy\]](#). Growing Democracy (blog).
- 2021 [How do you know? Mapes on Maps](#). How do you know? Apple Podcasts.
- 2021 COVID-19 Vaccine Access in Summit County. Published in [“Summit County Public Health Takes Targeted Approach to Vaccinate Minority Communities.”](#) WKSU.
- 2021 Museum Exhibit: [Mapping May 4](#). With S. Koopman. May 4 Visitor Center.
- 2021 Ravenna parking map. Published in [“Too many parking lots, too little imagination.”](#) 2021. *The Portager*.
- 2021 Portage County Crashes. 2021. Published in [“Streetsboro junction ranked most dangerous intersection in Akron metropolitan area.”](#) *The Portager*.
- 2020 Around the Block Neighborhood Map. 2020. *Maplines*. British Cartographic Society.
- 2020 Around the Block Neighborhood Map. 2020. *Landscape Architecture Magazine*. 110 (11): 90-91.
- 2020 [COVID-19 cases in Portage and Summit counties](#). *The Portager*.
- 2020 Downtown Kent banners: Mapping May 4. 2020. With S. Koopman. Kent, OH.
- 2020 Museum Exhibit: Mapping May 4. 2020. With S. Koopman. Kent State Historical Society.
- 2019 Web application: [MappingMay4.kent.edu](#) with S. Koopman. **(10,111 users from 88 countries)**
- 2017 Five maps published in *Navigating Ethnicity: Segregation, Placemaking & Difference* (D. Kaplan; Rowman & Littlefield). 2017.
- 2016 Art exhibit: “Visualizing Gender in Geography Ph.D. Production.” Beauty of Data. Kent State University MuseLab. 2016.
- 2016 Book review: “Small, Gritty & Green: The Promise of America’s Smaller Industrial Cities in a Low-Carbon World.” (C. Tumber) *Pennsylvania Geographer*. 2016.

- 2015- Annual wayfinding maps of downtown Kent created for 15 downtown kiosks. Main Street Kent and Kent Historical Society.
- 2014 Five maps published in *Urban Geography*. (D. Kaplan and S. Holloway) Hoboken, N.J.: Wiley. 2014.
- 2014 Book review: "Atlas of the Great Plains." (S. J. Lavin, F. M. Shelley and J. C. Archer) *Material Culture*, 78-80. 2014.
- 2013 Three maps published in *A Regional Geography of the United States and Canada*. (C. Mayda) Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. 2013.
- 2013 Book review: "On the Map: A mind-expanding exploration of the way the world looks." (S. Garfield) *Cartography and Geographic Information Science*, 361-362. 2013.
- 2012 [Rugar Woods Trails](#). 2012. Map. Center for Earth & Environmental Science, State University of New York at Plattsburgh.
- 2010 "National Geographic Society," 2010. *Encyclopedia of Geography*. B. Warf, ed., SAGE Publications, Thousand Oaks, Calif.
- 2009 [Vision 2030 Final Report](#). With S. Kramer. Orton Family Foundation/Routt County, Colorado.
- 2009 [Community Indicators Report](#) With S. Kramer, S. Ford, J. Fulks and A. Danner. Yampa Valley Partners.
- 2008 Historic buildings of downtown Los Angeles. Interactive Map. City of Los Angeles, Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council.
- 2008 Three maps in *On Zion's Mount: Mormons, Indians, and the American Landscape*. (J. Farmer) Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- 2007 Digital tool review: "Mapping for the masses: Google mapping tools" *Visual Studies*. 23 (1): 78-84.
- 2006 Book review: "The Struggle for a Livable City: The Next Los Angeles." (Robert Gottlieb, Mark Vallianatos, Regina M. Freer, and Peter Dreier). *Journal of Cultural Geography*, 23(3): 122-123.
- 2006 Book review: "Lots of Parking: Land Use in a Car Culture," (J. Jakle & K. Sculle) *Material Culture: Journal of the Pioneer America Society*, 38(2): 100-102. 2006.
- 2004 Book review: "Suburban Sprawl: Culture, Theory, and Politics," (M. Lindstrom & H. Bartling, eds.) *Regional Studies* 38(6): 728-729. 2004.

COMMUNITY RESEARCH PROJECTS

South End History & Identity 2023-present

Partners: Holden Elementary School, Rooted, Kent Free Library, Kent Historical Society

Overview: Connects mapping/history with STEM projects building a 3D map that uses circuitry to show basic demographics from different years, illustrating immigration and migration patterns in this neighborhood. Map produced through U.S. Census data and mapping workshops with education professor Elizabeth Kenyon and digital librarian Virginia Dressler as part of the third-grade history unit.

Output: Maps of South End race/ethnicity (Spring 2024), maps for a historical society-produced book of railroad area (Summer 2024), Mapping workshops & 3D map (Summer 2025)

GIS use by Ohio local governments 2024-present

Partner: Ohio County Government GIS Professionals

Overview: In its early stages, this project is aimed at creating a supportive GIS infrastructure for small municipalities. Part I was to identify how local governments are using GIS. This was completed in 2024-2025 through a survey of county GIS personnel, a content analysis of county websites, and a database of

state-mandated municipal maps (many of which were not made using GIS). Part II will work with local governments to create an infrastructure of online data and in-person workshops to support the use of GIS in local decision-making.

Output: White paper (Summer 2025), grant application (Spring 2024), journal article using lead pipe map data (in progress)

Universal Restroom Mapping 2024-2025

Partners: Division of People, Culture, & Belonging; LGBTQ+ Center; Spectrum

Overview: Ohio SB 104 restricts who can use gendered restrooms, making universal restrooms essential for trans, non-binary, and non-gender-confirming students, faculty and staff. In collaboration with my graduate assistant, Noelle Spence, we field-checked the accuracy of the official campus map of universal restrooms. We identified numerous mistakes and shared them with the university. We also created a zine/map to distribute around campus as well as a back-up interactive map to provide to those looking for up-to-date locations of universal restrooms.

Output: Map corrections (Spring 2025), Zine shared in buildings across campus with map of restrooms (Spring 2025), journal article submitted to *Cartographic Perspectives* (Summer 2025).

Election Mapping 2021-present

Partners: *The Portager*, League of Women Voters of Kent

Overview: An outgrowth of my research using precinct-level data, this project illustrated differences in Kent (and Ohio) as part of a mapping workshop focused on redistricting. As soon as precinct-level data was released following the 2023 and 2024 elections, I created and shared maps (via *The Portager*) of the precinct-level results. In Summer 2024, I began working with the League of Women Voters of Kent to update and maintain GIS data for their Voter 411 website that connects voters to information on ballot initiatives.

Output: Journal article about small town voting patterns in *Growth and Change* (2024), Growing Democracy Mapping workshop (Fall 2021), Maps of election outcomes showing local voting patterns (Fall 2023 and Fall 2024), Voter 411 GIS updates (ongoing), article for *The Portager* in 2024, Online Ward/Redistricting Map shared with Charter Review Commission (2025)

Mapping May 4 2019-present

Partners: Kent Historical Society, May 4 Visitor Center

Overview: Georeferenced 231 oral histories to match audio clips with 300+ locations and created guided walking tours of the Kent campus and downtown, hosted in a web map that has reached more than 10,000 visitors from 88 countries. Project is co-authored with Sara Koopman, assistant professor in the School of Peace & Conflict Studies. Created a map of Kent campus and downtown in 1970 that is now used during collection of oral histories. Curated exhibits for the Historical Society and Visitor Center based on the website and May 4 research.

Output: Website and museum exhibits (ongoing). Exchange program (including conference, proceedings, newsletter article) with Gwangju University (Spring 2024). Published *Geohumanities* article about the geography of the oral histories (Spring 2025). Annual walking tours based on our research. Jerry Lewis Lecture (Spring 2025). Article about oral histories, websites, and tragedy tourism (in progress).

Work with Warren, OH 2023-2024

Partners: City of Warren, Trumbull County Historical Society

Overview: Geography Capstone (Spring 2023) research about redevelopment in Warren, taught through the Design Innovation Institute, with architecture professor Bill Willoughby, with direction provided by the City of Warren. Maps based on these data revised in Cartography class (Fall 2023): Warren Atlas created and shared. Additional research about the neighborhood impacts of urban renewal in Geography Capstone (2024) with direction provided by the Trumbull County Historical Society.

Output: Storymap and posters presented to city stakeholders (Spring 2023), Storymap shared via historical society website (Spring 2024), posters (Summer 2024), book chapter about the process of a community-driven class research project (in review), journal article (in progress)

Safe Routes to School/Travel Plan 2023-2025

Partners: City of Kent, Kent City Schools

Overview: Created maps for use by city and school stakeholders, conducted walk audits and participated in stakeholder meetings (Fall 2023, Spring 2024)

Output: Map workshop (Fall 2023), *Applied Geography* article about improving mapping of school travel zones (Spring 2025), journal article using survey data (in progress), presented to elementary gifted and talented class

Portage County Park Equity 2022

Partner: League of Women Voters of Kent

Overview: Worked with LWV subcommittee to create a map showing areas most in need to park access based on existing parks and location of vulnerable populations.

Output: Map presented at Summer 2022 meeting, conference presentation Fall 2022

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Past awards

Mapping Akron: A poetic exploration of home. PI: D. Hassler. Co-I's: **J. Mapes**, Wick Poetry Center staff. John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. \$135,000 December 1, 2021-November 30, 2023.

Mapping climate risk in trees on Kent State's campus. Samuel Large*. Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) award. Summer 2023.

Mapping Kent State's campus historical ecology with Blender. Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) award with Patrick Shaw.* Summer 2022.

Mapping May 4. PI: **J. Mapes**, Co-PI S. Koopman. Ohio Humanities. \$20,000. Oct. 2019- Oct. 2020

Georeferencing the May 4 Oral Histories. Co-PIs: **J. Mapes**, S. Koopman. Peace & Conflict Studies Seed Grant. \$8,000. May 2018-Oct. 2019

Community Geography Workshop Fellowship. 2019. National Science Foundation. Atlanta, GA.

"Lessons for leveraging the town-gown relationship in downtown revitalization." Co-PIs: **J. Mapes**, D. Kaplan, K. Turner. Kent State Division of University Relations. \$35,145.

Environmental Journalism Fellowship. 2001. National Tropical Botanical Gardens/Society of Environmental Journalists.

Applied, but not awarded

"CIVIC-PG Track B Connecting university resources and rural/small town government Geographic Information Systems (GIS) needs." National Science Foundation. \$70,934 (May 2024)

"Large Scale CoPe: Climate-Driven Coastline Hazards Action and Mitigation for People" Kent State PI: **J. Mapes**, Co-PI A. Jefferson. National Science Foundation. \$19,998,153 (\$543,664/Kent State). Jan. 1, 2023-Dec. 31, 2027. **Rating: highly competitive.** (Dec. 2021)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses taught at Kent State

- 2024-** **Mapping, Space, and Power.** Developed this new required course for geography and anthropology majors about how contemporary maps are created and used, with a focus on how these maps can be used to disempower and empower the people who are mapping or mapped. 15-25 students
- 2019-** **Seminar in Geography** Writing-intensive capstone for senior geography majors, 6-15 students, offered annually. Revised course to focus on a single research topic requested by the local community with individual reports written by students. Research work is divided between students and results shared, but written work is independent with extensive feedback and opportunities for revision.
- 2019-** **Urban Sustainability** Primarily aimed at Environmental Studies majors, but also available to Geography undergraduate and graduate students. 25-50 students, with hybrid offering during the pandemic. Heavy focus on project-based learning and applying theories of urban sustainability to specific locations.
- 2018-** **Cartography**
2017- **Cartographic Design** Created with OCDE for online delivery. Course required for MGIS degree. Offered every semester to 6-15 students. Students create a new map weekly for six weeks, receive extensive feedback, participate in peer review, and produce a final portfolio of work. Undergraduate version of the course was created for in-person instruction.
- 2017-** **Qualitative Methods** Graduate-only course. Redesigned to focus on defending and explaining research methodology and methods in a proposal, thesis or dissertation. Students read examples of dissertations using different qualitative research methods, complete CITI training and learn how to apply for IRB approval at Kent State and write up their own proposal methods section.
- 2018-** **Nature & Society** (core course coordinator) Created entirely new online course in Summer 2020. Led successful application for new core course status. Responsible for monitoring teach & assessment of graduate-led sections.
- 2012-** **Human Geography** (core course coordinator) Created entirely new online course in Fall 2012, with subsequent full revision in 2023. Responsible for monitoring teaching & assessment of graduate-led sections.
- 2023** **Grand Challenge Studio: Warren, OH Revitalizing Communities Project.** A one-time offering co-taught with Associate Professor of Architecture William Willoughby. Nine students, eight geography majors. Taught as a writing-intensive, fieldwork-intensive course in community revitalization. 12 students
- 2012-2017** **Geography of the United States and Canada** Created entirely new online course in Spring 2013 with Office of Continuing and Distance Education.
- 2014 Online Mapping for Community Outreach
 2013-2016 Economic Geography
 2013 Community Landscapes

2013-2015 Geography of the Global Economy
2013 Los Angeles Field Experience

Courses taught at previous institutions

Physical Geography (SUNY Plattsburgh, 2012)
Global Planning Principles (SUNY Plattsburgh, 2010)
Urban Geography and Planning (SUNY Plattsburgh, 2011)
Political Geography (SUNY Plattsburgh, 2011)
Geography of the U.S. in Global Perspective (SUNY Plattsburgh, 2010-12)
Geography of New York State (SUNY Plattsburgh, 2012)
Los Angeles and the American Dream (USC, 2009)
Culture and Place (USC, 2010)
Natural Hazards (USC, 2009)
Sustainable Cities (USC, 2010)

Teaching assistant

Sustainability, Science, and Society (USC, 2008)
Natural Hazards *GIS Lab* (USC, 2007)
Los Angeles and the American Dream (USC, 2006)
American Landscapes (Penn State, 2003)
Human Geography (Penn State, 2005)
Geography of the Developing World (Penn State, 2004)

MENTORSHIP

Advisor

Noelle Spence, M.S. Department of Geography, Kent State University, May 2025

Examining the role of local knowledge in documentation and perception of fine-scale land cover change.

Jessica Reese, M.S. Department of Geography, Kent State University, ongoing
Industrial Land Use Change within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Dylan Cobbledick, M.S. Department of Geography, Kent State University, August 2024
Use Compared to Intent: Cleveland's light rail stations from construction to present.

Christopher Willer, Ph.D. Department of Geography, Kent State University, August 2023
A 'Place' on Main Street: The Geography of Place Marketing, Branding, and Promotion in Downtown

Josie Myers, M.S., Department of Geography, Kent State University, August 2022
Perceptions of Walking for Transportation in Small Towns: A study of Hutchinson, Minnesota

Noel Bowers, McNair Scholar (B.A., Geography), Kent State University, December 2019
African-Americans' Perceptions and Use of Urban Parks

Christopher Willer, M.A. Department of Geography, Kent State University, December 2016
"It Takes a Village": Urban Change in the Elmwood Neighborhood, 1990-2016

Committee member

Tanjina Akter (M.S. expected 2026) Assessing Vulnerable Road User Risk at a Midblock Crossing on East Main Street in Kent, Ohio, 2024-2025

Uzma Jabeen (Ph.D. expected 2026) Association Between Social Vulnerability, Environmental Contamination, and Post-Disaster Recovery in Coastal Areas of the Chesapeake Bay Region

James Kaemmerer, (Ph.D. expected 2025) International Student Employment in the United States and the Geographies of Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

Michaela Gawrys (Ph.D. ongoing) Unilateral Secession & Bottom-up State Development
Citizen perspectives from Kosovo

Martha Joseph (Ph.D. ongoing) Chayanov's *Theory of Peasant Cooperatives* and Agroecological Transformation: The Role of Farmer Cooperatives in the Expansion of Organic Agriculture in the Puglia Region of Italy

Tiera Moore. (M.S. ongoing) Engagement to Mobilization: Non-Urban Blacks Gaining Political Capital.

Alexandria Hahn. M.S., August 2024. Perceptions of Neighborhood Park Accessibility in Cleveland, Ohio.

Rebecca Varner, Ph.D. Akron refugees and diasporic transnational peacebuilding, ongoing

Andrews Botang, Ph.D. Measuring Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Land Use Change in Kent, OH, ongoing

Anna Solburg, Ph.D. Community Perceptions of Habitat Change in Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda, August 2022

Michael Hawkins, Ph.D., Department of Geography, Kent State University, August 2022
'The club is my home': English football and its role in community and identity at the local level

Anthony Mirando, Ph.D. Department of Geography, Kent State University, 2021. Social Inequality in Sustainable Neighborhoods.

Michaela Gawrys, M.S. Department of Geography, Kent State University, 2021
The Impacts of Borders: How State borders affect our perceptions of others

Maira O'Neill, M.A. Department of Geography, Kent State University, 2019
Measuring Critical Asset Thresholds in Neighborhoods Exposed to an Economic Shock

Catherine Puleo, M.S., College of Architecture & Environmental Design, Kent State University, May 2018
Place Attachment in the Revitalization of Post-Industrial Downtown Canton: An analysis of social, political, and architectural theory

Nathaniel Lee, M.A. Department of Geography, Kent State University, May 2018
Environmental Impacts of Backcountry Camping in Low Regulatory Wilderness

Cadey Korson, Ph.D., Department of Geography, Kent State University, August 2015

The Role of Self-Determination in the Political Transformation of New Caledonia

Glenn Stubbs, M.A., Department of Geography, Kent State University, May 2015

Memorializing a Workplace Disaster: (Re)telling a history— (Re)defining a Community

Kyler Cowgill, M.A., Department of Geography, Kent State University, May 2014

Comparing the Home School and Charter School of Columbus-area Students

PRESENTATIONS

Invited lectures & workshops

- 2025 The New American Small Town: Lessons for Sustainable Urban Futures. Tap Talk, North Water Brewing, Kent, OH

- 2025 The New American Small Town: Lessons for Sustainable Urban Futures. Book Club Meeting. League of Women Voters Kent. Hudson, OH.

- 2025 ““It Was Time for Me to Go Home: Finding Shared Humanity in the May 4 Oral History Collection and Community Geography,” Jerry Lewis Lecture, Kent State University

- 2024 “Mapping oral histories of the Kent State University massacre to foster reconciliation.” May 18 Democratic Uprising International Conference. Gwangju, South Korea with S. Koopman.

- 2024 “Building a 3-D map of campus wetlands.” NACIS Watch Party (online).

- 2023 “Building a Community Geography Lab,” Council of Community Geography Centers Annual Convening for Strategic Planning. Charlotte, NC.

- 2023 Local research using U.S. Census records and Sanborn Maps. Holden Elementary School, Kent.

- 2023 “Draining the Swamp: An Environmental History of Wetlands on the Kent Campus.” Salisbury University.

- 2022 “Archival research and Mapping May 4.” Graduate Seminar in Public History. University of Massachusetts Boston.

- 2022 Mapping park equity in Portage County. League of Women Voters Kent.

- 2022- Mapping May 4 walking tour. May 4, 1970 Annual Commemoration.

- 2022 Mapping May 4 presentation and mapping workshop. May 4, 1970 Annual Commemoration.

- 2022 Mapping memories, opening dialogues. Digital Scholarship Showcase. Kent State University Libraries. (with S. Koopman)

- 2021 Mapping Workshop. Race, Place, and Political Boundaries. Growing Democracy. Kent State University.

- 2019 “Making Kent More Sustainable, Just, and Successful.” Kent Environmental Council Fall Forum.
- 2015 “Lessons for Sustainability from Small Towns.” Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative.
- 2015 Pecha Kucha presentation, College of Architecture and Environmental Design, Kent State.
- 2014 “Online Mapping Scavenger Hunt Exercise,” Great Ideas in Learning, Kent State Online Learning Symposium
- 2014 “Making a class map with Google Fusion Tables,” Professional Development Night, Advanced Placement Human Geography Reading, Cincinnati, OH
- 2013 “Living Laboratory: Studying Sustainable Urbanism in Our Own Backyard,” with V. Kelly Turner, City & Community Studies Initiative, Kent, OH
- 2012 “The Value of Vistas: Using geography to guide community decision-making,” Geography Department Colloquium, Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH
- 2011 “Landscapes of Nostalgia: The new American small town,” Department of Geography Coffee Hour, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA
- 2010 “Surveying alleys in Los Angeles,” Environmental Justice, SUNY Plattsburgh
- 2009 “Google mapping tools,” Map Design and Analysis, USC
- 2007 “From pueblo to metropolis: Mapping an ideology of growth in Los Angeles,” Resource Management Colloquium, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA
- 2007 “Archival research for geographers,” Geographical Analysis, USC

Conference presentations

- 2025 **A True Neighborhood: Documenting urban renewal in The Flats of Warren, Ohio.** American Association of Geographers (AAG) annual meeting.
- 2025 **Successes and Challenges in Community-Engaged Scholarship: A Response to the Past President’s Address.** American Association of Geographers (AAG) annual meeting. (Organizer and panelist)
- 2024 **Building a community-engaged mapping space at Kent State.** American Association of Geographers (AAG) annual meeting.
- 2024 **Practicing Community Geography** (three sessions). (Organizers: J. Mapes and J. Mokos. Chair: J. Mapes) AAG annual meeting.
- 2023 **Building a 3-D map of campus wetlands.** North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) annual meeting. (selected as one of only three conference presentations to be shown online as part of a society-wide “watch party.”)
- 2023 **Mapping together: Lessons from creating a community-driven park access map.** American Association of Geographers (AAG) annual meeting.
- 2023 **Practicing Community Geography: Process, 2: Examples, 3: Hybrid.** (Organizers: J. Mapes and J. Mokos. Chair: J. Mapes) AAG annual meeting.
- 2023 **Going Public with Community-Engaged Work.** (Organizers: J. Mapes and J. Shannon). Community Geographies Collaborative Keynote. AAG annual meeting.

- 2022 **Lessons from creating a community-driven park access map.** NACIS annual meeting.
- 2022 **Dollar stores & supermarkets in small towns: Changes in the retail landscape** (poster with J. Shannon, University of Georgia). Workshop on Food Access at Dollar Stores and its Implications for Public Health. Tufts University.
- 2022 **Mapping memories, opening dialogue: challenges to complicating Kent State.** (paper with S. Koopman). American Association of Geographers annual meeting.
- 2022 **The Future of Community Geography.** (organizer, chair, and participant in panel). American Association of Geographers annual meeting.
- 2021 **Building a Community Geography Lab** with M. Hawkins** (paper), East Lakes/West Lakes Regional Meeting of the American Association of Geographers.
- 2021 **Neighborhoods and Nuance: Beyond counties in U.S. presidential elections** (paper), North American Cartographic Information Society. Online.
- 2021 **Mapping the 2020 U.S. presidential election.** American Association of Geographers. Online. (panel)
- 2020 **From Cartographer to Client** (paper) North American Cartographic Information Society. Online.
- 2019 **Mapping May 4th, 1970 at Kent State: spatializing stories to build solidarity and reconciliation 50 years later.** (paper with S. Koopman, C. Willer** and R. Burkhardt**) International Studies Association/Peace History Society Joint Conference. Kent, OH
- 2019 **Many maps, many stories: Cartography, community, and reconciliation at Kent State.** (paper) North American Cartographic Information Society. Tacoma, WA.
- 2019 **Mapping Stories of the Kent State Shooting: Voices of the community** (poster with S. Koopman) **Mapping May 4th, 1970 at Kent State: Using spatial stories to build solidarity and reconciliation 50 years later** (paper with S. Koopman). American Association of Geographers annual meeting, Washington, DC
- 2018 **The U.S. Small Town and the 2016 Presidential Election: Comparing media narratives and voting data** (paper), American Association of Geographers, New Orleans, LA,
- 2018 **Whither Rural and Urban: Rural and urban classification research at the Census Bureau** (panel) Applied Geography Conference, Kent, OH
- 2018 **Mapping U.S. small towns: challenges and solutions** (paper) North American Cartographic Information Society, Norfolk, VA,
- 2017 **Small Towns in the News: An analysis of U.S. media coverage 2006-2016** (paper), Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers, Geneseo, NY
- 2016 **Main Street Bridge: Kent, Ohio** (paper), **Bridge + River**, Organizer and Chair, Association for Study of Literature and the Environment, Detroit, MI
- 2016 **Mapping the new American small town** (paper) Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers, Altoona, PA
- 2015 **Town, gown and urban transformation in the 21st century city** (organizer, chair, panelist) **Sustainability goals & outcomes in a large-scale downtown redevelopment project** (paper) American Association of Geographers annual meeting, San Francisco, CA,
- 2015 **The new Main Street: Planning, politics, and change in downtown Kent, Ohio** (paper) American Association of Geographers annual meeting, Chicago, IL
- 2014 **Tracking the growth of women in geography through doctoral dissertations** with D. Kaplan (paper) American Association of Geographers annual meeting, Chicago, IL
- 2014 **Reconsidering Gender in Geography: An Analysis of All U.S. Dissertations from 1888-2012** with D. Kaplan (paper), **Institutional Boundaries and Lived-experience Mismatch in the American Small Town: Public Transit in Kent, Ohio** with K. Levstek** (paper), East Lakes/West Lakes meeting, American Association of Geographers, Kalamazoo, MI
- 2014 **Geography in Action: Doctoral Dissertation Research Trends and Traditions over the last 120 years,** History of Geography Plenary with D. Kaplan, American Association of Geographers annual meeting, Tampa, FL

- 2013 **Creating ‘Online Mapping for Community Outreach’**, University Teaching Council Celebration of College Teaching Conference, Kent State University, Kent, OH (poster)
- 2013 **The Community as Laboratory; The Classroom as Workshop** (organizer & chair), **Documenting and preserving cultural landscapes in an Adirondack mining town using Google Earth** (paper) American Association of Geographers annual meeting, Los Angeles, CA
- 2012 **Lyon Mountain Digital Mapping Project** with B. Bosworth* and M. Hewson* (poster), Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, Plattsburgh, NY
- 2012 **Qualitative GIS Symposium VI: Dynamic mapping: Exploring urban history, identity, and social justice with GIS** (organizer & chair), **Designing vulnerability: Urban renewal, social isolation, and the Lake Champlain flood of 2011** American Association of Geographers annual meeting, NYC
- 2011 **Re-defining ‘community’: Place and politics in the Yampa River Valley** (paper), American Association of Geographers annual meeting, Seattle, WA
- 2010 **One size fits all?: Urban policy transfer and the new American small town** (paper), American Association of Geographers annual meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 2009 **Beyond Ecotopia: Reconciling the ideal with the real** (organizer), **“Deconstructing/reconstructing the ecological dream in the small town”** (paper), Association for Study of Literature and the Environment, Victoria, BC
- 2009 **The promise of the creative economy in American small towns: a critical assessment** (paper) American Association of Geographers annual meeting, Las Vegas, NV
- 2008 **From outpost to exurb: The mythology and reality of American small towns** (paper), American Association of Geographers annual meeting, Boston, MA
- 2007 **From theory to practice — Can new planned developments be sustainable?** (organizer), **Exploring ‘sustainable’ new communities** (paper), American Association of Geographers annual meeting, San Francisco, CA
- 2005 **Hating to love the big-box: Consumer choice and the changing structure of small-town retail** (paper), American Association of Geographers annual meeting, Denver, CO,
- 2004 **Death of a small town supermarket: The changing role of chain stores in the American landscape** (paper), American Association of Geographers annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA,
- 2000 **Education, elitism, and inequality** (illustrated poster), American Association of Geographers annual meeting, Pittsburgh, PA
- 1999 **The rise and decline of Schuylerville’s Broad Street** (paper), American Association of Geographers East Lakes regional meeting, Loudonville OH
- 1998 **Education in Catholic and Islamic developing counties** (poster with Darrell Norris), American Association of Geographers annual meeting, Boston, MA
- 1998 **Education in Catholic and Islamic developing countries** (paper with Darrell Norris) Third World Conference, Chicago, IL

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2025 **Cartography and Geographic Information Society (CaGIS) Honorable Mention**
Professional/Thematic map with Nathan Abdoo, Martin Chapman, Laila Forrest, Bobbie Foutty, Dwayne Gullatte, Elizabeth May, Ryan Prizzi, Margaret Radachy, Dakota Sherry, and Justin Swanberg.**
- 2024 Faculty Service-Learning Award, Kent State Community Engaged Learning
- 2023 Featured Faculty, Kent State Center for Teaching and Learning
- 2022 Map selected for publication in *Atlas of Design*, North American Cartographic Information Society
- 2017 Volunteer of the Year, Main Street Kent
- 2015 NTT Professional Development Excellence Pool Award (\$5,175), Kent State University
- 2014 Teaching Scholar, University Teaching Council, Kent State University

- 2014 Selected as a panelist for “Great Ideas in Learning,” Kent State Online Learning Symposium.
- 2013 University Teaching Council Summer Teaching Development Grant (\$3,250), Kent State University
- 2005 College Graduate Merit Award (fellowship/assistantship), University of Southern California
- 2003 Second place, Best Environmental Coverage, Suburban Newspapers of America
- 2004 Third place, In-Depth Reporting, Suburban Newspapers of America
- 2003 Third place, In-Depth Reporting, New York Associated Press Association
- 2002 Second place, In-Depth Reporting, New York Associated Press Association

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Disciplinary

- 2022- Editorial Board, *Cartographic Perspectives*
- 2023-2025 Chair, Community Geographies Collaborative Specialty Group (AAG)
- 2022-2025 AAG Public and Engaged Scholarship Task Force
- 2024 Judge, *Atlas of Design*, North American Cartographic Information Society
- 2021-2023 Vice Chair, Community Geographies Collaborative Specialty Group (AAG)
- 2021 Program Reviewer, SUNY Geneseo Department of Geography
- 2017 Committee to create Intro to GIS transfer guidelines for the State of Ohio
- 2014-2019 Exam question author, Advanced Placement Human Geography, Educational Testing Services
- 2010-2019 Lead Table Leader & Reader, Advanced Placement Human Geography, Educational Testing Services

Peer reviewer for:

Nature: Scientific Data, Syracuse University Press, Rowman & Littlefield, *Global Environmental Change*, *Urban Affairs*, *Geoforum*, *Geojournal*, *Journal of Cultural Geography*, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Applied Geography*, Pearson, Routledge, *Geographical Review*, *The Geographical Bulletin*, *Landscape and Urban Planning*, *South African Geographical Journal*

University service

- 2023- Co-organizer Kent State Campus Bioblitz
- 2022- Co-director, Center for Ecology and Natural Resource Sustainability (CENRS)
- 2020- Educational outreach (ongoing tours & workshops) for the May 4 Visitor Center
- 2015- College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee representative
- 2024 Graduate Faculty Representative, Christian Bullion, Biological Sciences
- 2024 Graduate Faculty Representative, Greg Stone, Political Science
- 2024 ESDRI Seed Grant Review Panel
- 2023 Search Committee, May 4 Visitor Center Director
- 2021-2023 Association of Public and Land Grant Universities Innovation & Economic Prosperity Working Group
- 2021-2022 Newman Civic Fellowship Committee (Campus Compact)
- 2021-2022 Community Engagement subcommittee, Academic Affairs
- 2018-2019 Kent State University Center for Teaching and Learning Advisory Council
- 2017-2020 Kent State University Teaching Council
- 2014-2015 East Lakes 2015 Organizational Committee
- 2013 Geography Awareness Week Committee
- 2013 Centennial Celebration Committee

Department service

2024-	Graduate Faculty Committee
2021-	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee
2020-	Nature & Society Core Course Coordinator
2016-	Student Complaint Committee
2015-	Human Geography Core Course Coordinator
2015-	Gamma Theta Upsilon (Geography Honor Society) faculty sponsor
2013-2021	Social media and website outreach
2015-2021	Undergraduate Coordinator
2013-2021	Internship Coordinator
2016-2019	Faculty Advisory Committee (Department of Geography)
2015	Teaching online with Blackboard workshop for graduate students, Kent State University
2014	"Adobe Illustrator Workshop" for faculty and graduate students, Kent State University

Plattsburgh State service 2010-2012:

Geography Task Force
Environmental Studies Curriculum Committee
Global Studies Curriculum Committee
Middle States Sustainability Working Group
"Beyond ArcMap: Google's tools for interactive mapping," faculty workshop
Faculty Leader, Political Ecology in Costa Rica, Office of International Education

Community service

Safe Routes to School stakeholder
AMATS Safe Streets Committee
Kent Public Art Committee
Advisory Collective, Growing Democracy (KSU)
Main Street Kent Design Committee
Park Equity Committee League of Women Voters
Created congressional and state legislative district maps for Fair Maps Ohio's Redistricting Campaign
Coordinator, Heart & Soul Community Planning Initiative, City of Kent
SR 261 Re-visioning the Corridor Citizens Advisory Committee

Professional affiliations

American Association of Geographers, 1998-
North American Cartographic Information Society, 2018-

MEDIA COVERAGE

IdeaStream Public Media. 2025. Kent State plans discussions, remembrances for 2025 May 4 commemoration.

<https://www.ideastream.org/community/2025-05-01/kent-state-plans-discussions-remembrances-for-2025-may-4-commemoration>

Kent State Today. 2025. Kent State Geographer to Discuss Mapping May 4

<https://www.kent.edu/today/news/kent-state-geographer-discuss-mapping-may-4-and-oral-histories>

Kent State Today. 2025 Embracing May 4 Oral Histories is an 'Absolute Privilege'

<https://www.kent.edu/today/news/pov-embracing-may-4-oral-histories-absolute-privilege>

Kent State Today. 2024. Keeping the Memory of May 4 Alive. 2024.

<https://www.kent.edu/today/news/keeping-memory-may-4-alive>

Kent State Today. 2024. Forging a Connection Between May 4, 1970 and May 18, 1980.

<https://www.kent.edu/today/news/forging-connection-between-may-4-1970-and-may-18-1980>

Kent State Today. 2024. Community Geography Lab Grand Opening.

Washington Post. 2023. Small towns don't vote like other rural areas. K. Perry, T. Meko and K. Uhrmacher.

Kent Wired. 2023. Earth Month festivities kick off at Kent State. S. Brown.

Kent State Today. 2023. Building More Sustainable Cities with LEGO. P. Soencksen.

Our Towns Civic Foundation. 2022. Story Maps are at the center of community collaboration in Kent, Ohio.
A. Kuroff.

USA Today. 2020. No students. No graduation. 'Total devastation' in college towns during coronavirus pandemic. Z. Nicholson and E. Semmler.

Crain's Cleveland. 2020. May 4 shaped Kent State's mission, values in years following shooting. R. Abbey McCafferty.

Mapping May 4 coverage

Kent State Today. 2024. Connecting Across Differences.

Kent Wired. 2023. Mapping May 4 project connects history to its location.

Record-Courier (Kent/Ravenna) and Columbus Dispatch. 2020. New May 4 shooting site markers explain distance between Guardsmen, wounded students. B. Gaetjens.

Record-Courier (Kent/Ravenna) and Akron Beacon-Journal. 2020. Virtual events mark 50th anniversary of May 4 shootings.

Post-Gazette (Pittsburgh). 2020. Kent State University's 50th commemoration of the 1970 shootings to be held online. M. Fuoco.

Plain Dealer (Cleveland). 2020. See and hear how people remember May 4, 1970. M. Kilpatrick.

Cool Cleveland. 2020. Kent State Marks the 50th Anniversary of the May 4 Shootings with Online Content.

Maps Mania. 2020. Mapping the Kent State Massacre. K. Clarke.

Zinn Education Project: Teaching People's History. May 4, 1970: Kent State Massacre.