

**NEIL CONNER, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor  
Geography*

&

*Social Science Education  
Credential Coordinator*



Department of Geography  
and City & Regional Planning  
California State University, Fresno  
College of Social Sciences  
Office: Science Building, Room 152  
Email: [nconner@csufresno.edu](mailto:nconner@csufresno.edu)  
Phone: 559-278-5270 (office)

## **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

---

### **University of Tennessee (2011-2015)**

Ph.D. Geography, 2015

Advisors: Dr. Joshua Inwood, Dr. Derek Alderman, Dr. Ronald Kalafsky

Specializations: Political/Cultural Geography & Geographic Education

### **Old Dominion University (2009-2011)**

M.A. International Studies, 2011

Advisors: Dr. Jonathan Leib, Dr. Thomas Chapman, Dr. Tim Anderson

Specializations: Popular Geopolitics & Globalization

### **University of Arizona (1999-2004)**

B.A. Education & History, 2004

Advisor: Dr. Paul Beezley

Specializations: Colonial America & the American Presidency

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE & PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

---

2018 - *Assistant Professor of Geography*: California State University, Fresno  
*Social Science Education Credential Coordinator*, CSU, Fresno (2019 - )

2016 - 2018 *Assistant Professor of Geography & Social Science Education*: Delta State University

2015 - 2016 *Lecturer*: Department of Geography, University of Tennessee

2011 - 2015 *Graduate Teaching Assistant/Associate*: Dept. of Geography, University of Tennessee

2004 - 2009 *High School Social Studies Teacher*: Bayside High School, Virginia Beach, VA

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

---

### **Intersections of Political & Cultural Geography**

- **Sense of Belonging**  
-Contested Notions of Identity; Immigration; Multiculturalism; Inclusion/Exclusion; Territoriality
- **Geographic Education**  
-Teaching Controversial Topics; Globalization; Citizenship; Religion; Geographic Scale
- **Popular Geopolitics**  
-Place Representation; National Narratives; Imagined Communities/Worlds of Fandom; Sports

## **PUBLICATIONS**

---

### **Publications in Refereed Journals**

- Conner, N.** (2019). Religion and the social integration of migrants in Dublin, Ireland. *Geographical Review*. 109:1, 27-46. (<https://doi.org/10.1111/gere.12295>) Published online: Jan 2018.
- Kalafsky, R. and **N. Conner** (2015). Examining the Geographies of Supply Chains in Introductory Coursework. *Journal of Geography*, 114:3, 83-93, (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00221341.2014.938685>)  
**\*\*Paper chosen as the “Best Article for College/University Education for 2016” by NCGE**
- Kalafsky, R. and **N. Conner** (2015). Exploring the Dynamics of Globalization: Supply Chain Vulnerability to Natural Disasters. *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, 39:1, 173-181 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03098265.2014.965666>)
- Conner, N.** (2014). Global cultural flows and the routes of identity: the imagined worlds of Celtic FC. *Social & Cultural Geography*, 15:5, 525-546. (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14649365.2014.908233>)

### **Book Chapters**

- Conner, N.** (in press). “Life in the NBA Bubble: A Space for Social Justice during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” In Brunn, Stanley and Donna Gilbreath (eds). *COVID-19 and An Emerging World of Ad Hoc Geographies*. Springer.
- Conner, N.** (2017). “Sports and the social integration of migrants: Gaelic football, Rugby football, and Association football in South Dublin.” In: Koch, Natalie (ed). *Critical Geographies of Sport: Space, Power, and Sport in Global Perspective*. Routledge. Chapter 13.

### **Publications in Refereed Encyclopedias**

- Conner, N.** (2014). Geography of Sports. In *Oxford Bibliographies in Geography*. Ed. Barney Warf. New York: Oxford University Press.  
<http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199874002/obo-9780199874002-0067.xml>

### **Book Reviews**

- Don Mitchell, Koch, N., Gardener, B., **Conner, N.**, Gripshover, M.M., Friedman, M., Huber, M.T. & Ross, R.B. (2018) The Great Baseball Revolt: The Rise and Fall of the 1890 Players League, *The AAG Review of Books*, 6:2, 141-153. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2325548X.2018.1440848>

## **MASS MEDIA: ENGAGEMENT & RECOGNITION**

---

- Interviewed for and quoted in an article from *The Incline* (a Pittsburgh, PA based news website):  
<https://theincline.com/2017/01/20/yes-there-are-steelers-bars-literally-everywhere-this-is-why/>
- Research and teaching featured and quoted in the 2015 UT Higher Ground Annual Report  
<http://www.higherground.utk.edu/2016/04/impactful-results/>

- Research and Teaching acknowledge in UTK Geography Department Newsletter 2014/2015
- Teaching Awards acknowledged in: “Notes from the Chancellor: February 2015”, Univ. of Tennessee
- Research/teaching featured/quoted in: “The Whole World in His Hands” *Tennessee Legacies*. S 2014.3.

## **AWARDS**

---

- 2017. **Connected Educator Award** Nominee, student-nominated, Delta State, technology use in course
- 2016. **Connected Educator Award** Nominee, student-nominated, Delta State, technology use in course
- 2016. **Outstanding Teaching Award**, University of Tennessee, Geography Department undergraduates
- 2016. **Best Article for College/University Education Award**, National Council for Geographic Education
- 2015. **K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award**, Association of American Colleges & Universities
- 2015. **New Faculty Teaching Institute Certificate**, University of Tennessee
- 2014. **Chancellor’s Award: Graduate Student Teacher of the Year**, University of Tennessee (\$500)
- 2013. **Outstanding Teaching Associate**, University of Tennessee, Geography Department
- 2013. **Special Award for Extraordinary Service**, University of Tennessee, Geography Department
- 2013. **Research Award**. University of Tennessee, Geography Department (\$300)
- 2007. **Collegiate Professional License**, Commonwealth of Virginia
- 2007. **Tenure in the Virginia Beach City Public Schools**. Bayside High School
- 2005-2009. **Outstanding New Teacher, Five-time Teacher of the Month**, Bayside High School
- 2004. **Secondary Education Certificate (Grades 7-12)**, Arizona Department of Education
- 2004. **Student-Teacher of the Semester** Nominee, University of Arizona

## **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & FUNDING**

---

**TOTAL: \$43,083.18** (total also includes award prizes – does not include personal travel awards from Fresno State)

- 2021-2022. **Instructional Related Activities**. CSU-F, undergraduate travel, AAG conference (\$7,500)
- 2020-2021. **Instructional Related Activities**. CSU-F, undergraduate travel, AAG conference (\$2,000)
- 2019-2020. **Instructional Related Activities**. CSU-F, undergraduate travel, AAG conference (\$7,500)
- 2018-2020. **Start-up Research Funding**. College of Social Sciences, CSU-Fresno (\$4,000)
- 2017-2018. **Faculty Development Fund**. Delta State University (\$1088.35)
- 2016-2017. **Faculty Development Fund**. Delta State University (\$654.83)
- 2016-2017. **Faculty Research Fund**. College of Education & Human Sciences, DSU (\$720)
- 2016-2017. **Dulce Fund**. Delta State University (\$500)
- 2016-2017. **Travel Fund**. Division of Social Sciences & History, Delta State University (\$1,070)
- 2013-2015. **Science Alliance Fellowship**. University of Tennessee, Geography Department (\$4,500)
- 2013. **W.K. McClure Scholarship**. University of Tennessee (\$3,000)
- 2013. **Stewart K. McCroskey Memorial Fund**, Univ. of Tennessee, Geography Department (\$250)
- 2012-2015. **Department Travel Awards**. University of Tennessee, Geography Department (\$500)
- 2012-2015. **Graduate School Travel Awards**. University of Tennessee (\$4,000)
- 2011. **Seaton Fellowship**. University of Tennessee Graduate School (\$5,000)

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

---

*Sports and the social integration of migrants in Dublin, Ireland*, Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Annual Meeting, Reno, NV, October 2018 (Paper)

*Teaching Controversial Topics: promoting effective citizenship and student empathy in secondary schools*, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 2018 (paper)

*Developing Empathetic Learners*, Mid-South Educational Research Association (MSERA) Annual Meeting, Starkville, MS, November 2017 (Paper)

Author Meets Critics: Mary Gilmartin's *"Ireland and migration in the twenty-first century"* American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, April 2017 (Panelist)

Author Meets Critics: Robert Ross's *"The Great Baseball Revolt: The Rise and Fall of the 1890 Players League"* American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, April 2017 (Panelist)

*Sports and the social integration of migrants: Gaelic football, Rugby football, and Association football in South Dublin*, SEDAAG Annual Meeting, Columbia, SC November 2016 (Paper)

*Social Integration and migration: everyday sports in Dublin, Ireland*. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 2016 (Paper)

*Social Integration & the Contested Notions of Irish National Identity* SEDAAG Annual Meeting, Pensacola, FL November 2015 (Paper)

*Religion & Social Integration in Dublin, Ireland: Bridge or Barrier?* American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 2015 (Paper)

*Sports Geography: Using Sports to Teach Geography*, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 2015 (Panel)

*Faculty of the Future: Voices from the Next Generation*, Association of American Colleges & Universities Annual Meeting, Washington DC, January 2015 (Panel)

*Social integration & everyday sports in Dublin, Ireland, Race, Ethnicity, and Place (REP) Conference*, Ft. Worth, TX, October 2014 (Paper)

*Utilizing online case studies in introductory-level geography courses*, National Conference on Geography Education (NCGE), Memphis, TN, August 2014 (Paper)

*Defending Victory: Religious identity and territoriality in Dublin, Ireland*, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL, April 2014 (Paper)

*Boundaries of Faith: Religion, identity, and territoriality*, SEDAAG Annual Meeting, Roanoke, VA, November 2013 (Paper)

*Contested notions of identity & social integration in Dublin, Ireland*, McClure Symposium, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, November 2013 (Poster)

*'Old Firm' Battle Lines: The territoriality of Celtic FC supporters in Glasgow and Belfast*, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, April 2013 (Paper)

*The Religious identity & territoriality of Celtic FC supporters in Belfast: An afternoon with the IRA*, SEDAAAG Annual Meeting, Ashville, NC, November 2012 (Paper)

*The Celtic Diaspora: Identity, football and global cultural flows*, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, New York City, NY, February 2012 (Paper)

Sessions Co-Organized:

Identity, Sport, and Race, Co-Organizer with Dr. Derek Alderman, at the Race, Ethnicity, and Place (REP) Meeting, Ft. Worth, TX, October 2014.

Undergraduate student advisee – assisted conference presentations

Daniel Shemwell. *The Sacred Sites of Emmett Till and Civil Rights Pilgrimage*, Winning the Race Conference (2017), Delta State University. (Poster) **\*\*Winner of People's Choice Award\*\***

Ashley Moore. *Food and Faith in the Mississippi Delta*, Winning the Race Conference (2017), Delta State University. (Poster)

**COURSES TAUGHT (# times taught)**

---

**California State University, Fresno (2018 – present) August 2021**

**Introduction to Cultural Geography** (Undergraduate – 6)

**Diversity in the United States** (Undergraduate – 2)

**The American West** (Undergraduate – 8)

**People and Places: A Global Perspective** (Undergraduate – 1)

**Social Science Teaching Methods** (Graduate – 1)

**Delta State University (2016 – 2018)**

World Regional Geography (Undergraduate – 5)

Topics in Cultural Geography: Popular Culture & Society (Undergrad/Grad – 1)

Topics in Cultural Geography: Geography & Films (Undergrad/Grad – 1)

Topics in Political Geography: Nationalism & Geopolitics (Undergrad/Grad – 1)

Geography of Africa (Undergrad/Grad – 2)

Geography of Religion (Undergrad/Grad – 1)

Geography of Tourism (Undergrad/Grad – 1)

Methods in Social Science (Undergraduate – 2)

Teaching Social Science (Undergraduate – 2)

Directed Teaching Internship (Field Supervision of Student Teaching) (2 students)

Current Trends in Social Science Education (Graduate – 1)

## **University of Tennessee (2012 – 2016)**

World Regional Geography (Undergraduate – 9)  
Human Geography (Undergraduate – 2)  
Cultural Geography: Core Concepts (Undergraduate – 1)  
Geography of Europe (Undergraduate – 1)  
Geography of American Popular Culture (Undergrad/Grad – 2)

## **Bayside High School (2004 – 2009)**

World Regional Geography (14)                      AP Human Geography (4)                      US & VA Government (7)

## **SERVICE**

---

### ***To Geography, Department of Geography, College of Social Sciences (COSS), and CSU-Fresno***

2021 – Present: American Geographical Society: Teacher Advisory **Board Member**  
2021 – 2022: CSU-Fresno: Campus Faculty Hearing **Panel Member**  
2020 – Present: CSU-Fresno: President Commission on Teacher Education, **COSS Representative**  
2021 – Present: Macmillan World Regional Geography Advisory **Board Member**  
2020 Fall: COSS: Graduate School and Credential Program Information Session  
2019 Fall: Department: Faculty Search **Committee Member** (search ultimately cancelled)  
2019 – 2020: COSS: Task Force on BA Social Science **Committee Member**  
2019 – Present: COSS: Social Science Education Credential **Coordinator** (CSU coordinator meetings)  
2019 March: Department: **Volunteer Judge** at the 2019 National Geographic California Geography Bee  
2018 – Present: Department: **Advisor** to Gamma Theta Upsilon, Kappa Theta Chapter  
2018 – Present: Department: **Advisor** to Club Geography  
2018 – Present: Department: **Scholarship Committee Member**  
2018 – Present: Department: **Curriculum Committee Member**  
2018 – Present: Department: **Outreach Committee Member**  
2018 – 2019: COSS: Collaboration **Committee Member**  
2018 Fall: Tenure-Track Faculty Network (TTFN) 2018 Cohort Social **Committee Chair**  
2015 – Present: **Founder and Administrator** of the “Geography of Sports” *Facebook* Page

### ***To Geography, Division of Social Sciences and History (DSSH) at DSU, and Delta State University***

2017 – 2018: Division of Social Science and History Chair Search Committee Member  
2017 – 2018: Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) Standard Committee Member  
2017 – 2018: Graduate Education Programs Council Committee Member  
2017 – 2018: Division of Social Sciences & History. Office Organization Committee Member  
2017 May: Organizational Support: Tennessee Geographic Visionary Award: Randy Boyd & Nissan  
2017 April: Moderator of Interfaith Dialogue Panel: Faith on College Campuses  
2016 – Present: Safe Space Faculty Member  
2016 – 2018: Graduate Coordinator/Advisor for Social Science Education M.Ed. Degree  
2016 – 2018: Undergraduate Coordinator/Advisor for Social Science Education B.S. Degree  
2016 – 2018: Teacher Education Council Committee Member  
2016 – 2018: Assessment Committee Program Coordinator, Education & Human Sciences  
2016 – 2018: Proxy Delta State Faculty Senate Representative, DSSH  
2016 – 2018: Co-Chair of the Division of Social Sciences and History Social Committee

2016 – 2018: Quality Enhancement Plan (Cultural Competency) Committee Member  
2016 – 2018: Social Sciences Portfolio (SSC 101 & 499) Committee Member  
2016 – 2018: Library Committee Member  
2016: Faculty Representative at the Internship Seminar for Student Teachers  
2016: Discussion Leader at the Geo-Literacy Leadership Institute (GLI), Univ. of South Carolina

***To Geography, the Department of Geography at UT, and the University of Tennessee***

2016: Coordinator of GEOG 101 (World Geography) Assessment for the UT Geography Department  
2015 – 2016: Proxy UT Faculty Senate Representative for the UT Geography Department  
2015 – 2016: Coordinator of GEOG 101 (World Geography) Textbook Adoption Committee  
2015 – 2016: Coordinator of GEOG 101 (World Geography) for UT Geography Department  
2015 – 2016: Advisor to Club Geography (undergraduate organization)  
    -Student Programming Allocation. University of Tennessee (\$1,100)  
    -Around the World: Volunteer Teaching, K-12. MUSE Knoxville  
    -Taste the World Event. International House. University of Tennessee  
2015 – 2016: Mentor for Graduating Geography Majors (Graduate School applications)  
2015 – 2016: Undergraduate Program Committee Member  
2015 – 2016: Human Geography Committee Member  
2015 – Present: Founder and Administrator of the “Geography of Sports” *Facebook* Page  
2015: Geography Department Representative @ Vol Walk of Life (student recruitment)  
2015 – 2016: Geography Department Representative @ Sophomore Step-Up (student recruitment)  
2013 – 2015: Graduate Student Representative for Geography Department Awards Committee  
2013 – 2014: Geography Student Representative for the Graduate Student Senate, UT  
2013 – 2014: Co-Coordinator of GEOG 101 (World Geography) for UT Geography Department  
2012: Participation in the Geography Bowl @ SEDAAAG for UT Geography Department  
2012 – 2013: Graduate Student Representative for Gamma Theta Upsilon, Iota Theta Chapter, UT  
2012 – 2013: Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty, Department of Geography, UT  
2012: Representative on the College Awards Committee, Department of Geography, UT  
2011 – 2015: Co-Chair of the Geography Social Committee, University of Tennessee  
2011 – 2015: Co-Administrator of Social Media (*Facebook*) for the Geography Department, UT

**THESIS ADVISOR/COMMITTEE MEMBER**

***Delta State University***

2016 – 2018 Boyce Upholt – M.A. thesis committee member  
2016 – 2018 Daniel Hudson – M.A. thesis committee chair

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ADVISOR**

***Delta State University***

2017 – 2018: 26 students  
2016 – 2017: 22 students

**STUDENT/ADVISEE AWARDS**

***Delta State University***

2018 – Rebecca Hamilton – Jack W. Gunn Award – highest undergraduate award at DSU (1 per year)  
2018 – Rebecca Hamilton – Lady Statesmen Emerald Award of Excellence – Delta State University  
2018 – Joshua Goff – Ethan Schmidt Scholarship for Social Science Education, Delta State (\$400)

## **MANUSCRIPTS REVIEWED (# of manuscripts reviewed)**

---

<i>Social &amp; Cultural Geography</i> (5)	<i>Europe-New Zealand Research Series</i> (1)
<i>Journal of Geography in Higher Education</i> (1)	<i>Geographical Review</i> (1)
<i>Journal of Latin American Geography</i> (1)	<i>Southeastern Geographer</i> (3)

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS**

---

2020 – Present: National Center for Research in Geographic Education (NCRGE)  
2020 – Present: California Geographical Society  
2019 – Present: California Council for the Social Studies  
2018 – Present: Association of Pacific Coast Geographers  
2018 – Present: California Geographic Alliance  
2018 – Present: California Faculty Association  
2018 – Present: California Teachers Association  
2018 – Present: National Education Association  
2018 – Present: American Association of University Professors  
**2017 – Present: American Geographical Society (AGS)**  
2016 – 2018: National Council for the Social Studies  
2016 – 2018: Mississippi Geographic Alliance  
2014 – 2015: Association of American Colleges & Universities  
**2013 – Present: National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE)**  
2012 – 2015: Gamma Theta Upsilon Honor Society  
2011-2016: Tennessee Geographic Alliance  
2011 – 2018: South Eastern Division of the AAG  
**2010 – Present: American Association of Geographers (AAG)**  
2004-2011: Virginia Geographic Alliance

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

---

March 2021	CCSS Annual Conference: Cultivating Global Citizens. Virtual Experience
November 2020	AGS Annual Symposium: Geography 2050: The Future of the World Ocean. Virtual
June 2020	Introduction to Teaching Online Using QLT
February 2020	CCSS Annual Conference: 2020 Vision for Social Studies. Costa Mesa, California
November 2019	AGS Annual Symposium: Geography 2050: Borders & a Borderless World. NYC

## **REFERENCES**

---

**(1) Dr. Joshua Inwood**  
Associate Professor of Geography and The Rock Ethics Institute  
Pennsylvania State University  
311 Walker Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
Phone: (814) 865-3433  
Email: [jfi6@psu.edu](mailto:jfi6@psu.edu)



**(2) Dr. Derek Alderman**

President of the American Association of Geographers (AAG)  
Professor and former Chair of Geography  
University of Tennessee  
303 Burchfiel Geography Bldg.  
Knoxville, TN 37996-0925  
Phone: (865) 974-0406  
Email: [dalderma@utk.edu](mailto:dalderma@utk.edu)

**(3) Dr. Ronald Kalafsky**

Chair & Professor of Geography  
University of Tennessee  
316 Burchfiel Geography Bldg.  
Knoxville, TN 37996-0925  
Phone: (865) 974-0407  
Email: [kalafsky@utk.edu](mailto:kalafsky@utk.edu)

**(4) Dr. Jonathan I. Leib**

Chair of Political Science & Geography  
Professor of Geography  
Old Dominion University  
7000 Batten Arts and Letters (BAL)  
Norfolk, VA 23529-0088  
Phone: (757) 683-3849  
Email: [jleib@odu.edu](mailto:jleib@odu.edu)

**(5) Dr. Garry Jennings**

Former Chair of Social Sciences & History  
Emeritus Professor of Political Science  
Delta State University  
204 Kethley Hall  
Cleveland, MS 38733  
Email: [jennings@deltastate.edu](mailto:jennings@deltastate.edu)

**FIELD EXPERIENCE**

---

8 weeks: January – March 2017. Cleveland, MS – East Side High School & Bayou High School  
4 weeks: June – July 2014. Dublin, Ireland (Ballymount)  
6 weeks: June – July 2013. Dublin, Ireland (Tallaght)  
3 weeks: June 2012. Dublin, Ireland (Firhouse)  
3 weeks: February 2011. Dublin, Belfast, Glasgow, London

**STUDY ABROAD**

---

April-September 2010. Argentina  
April-September 2003. Spain

## **STUDENT-CENTERED TRAVEL**

June-July 2007. Counselor for People to People Ambassador Programs, Western Canada

June-July 2002. Counselor for Rein Teen Tours, Western United States

## **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL EXPERIENCE**

Argentina	Chile	Mexico	Spain
Austria	Czech Republic	Netherlands	South Africa
Belgium	England	Northern Ireland	Switzerland
Bolivia	Germany	Paraguay	Uruguay
Brazil	Greece	Portugal	Wales
Canada	Ireland	Scotland	Zimbabwe

## **GUEST LECTURER**

World Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Behind the Swoosh: Nike Sweatshops in Thailand</li><li>• Blood Minerals: Conflict in the Congo</li><li>• Cambodia: The Kymer Rouge Tribunal</li><li>• Introduction to the Geography of Religion</li><li>• New Zealand: The Māori, Rugby, &amp; South Island Insanity</li><li>• Territoriality, Identity &amp; Conflict in Israel/Palestine and Syria</li><li>• The British Isles: Ethno-Nationalism and Religious Sectarianism</li><li>• The Dalai Lama &amp; Human Rights Abuse in Tibet</li><li>• The Geography of Chocolate: Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire</li><li>• The Geography of Football (Soccer): South Africa &amp; World Cup 2010</li><li>• Water Wars: Bolivia, South Africa, and Flint, Michigan</li></ul>
Geography of Europe	European Football & Identity: The Old Firm Rivalry Fiestas de España: San Fermín, La Tomatina, y Semana Santa
Intro: Geographic Research	Teaching as a Graduate Student
Sports & Religion	The Religious Identity of the Old Firm Rivalry