

# Ph.D. Student of Geography



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## **PROFILE**

I am a first year Ph.D. student in the department of Geography at the University of Connecticut. Before returning to academia I had a successful career in state government, working as a Transportation Planner and GIS Coordinator for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

### **EDUCATION**

### UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Ph.D. in Geography / 2019-Present

- · Interests: Sustainable cities, Urban transportation, Transportation Equity, GIS, Emerging technologies
- Advisors: Carol Atkinson-Palombo (Geography) and Norman Garrick (Civil Engineering)
- Currently a Research Assistant for the Transportation, Technology, & Society research group.

### KEENE STATE COLLEGE

B.A. in Geography / 2009 - 2012

- Specializations in Environmental Studies, and Geographic Information Systems
- Thesis Project Local Food Systems in Cheshire County: Worked with regional agencies to catalog and identify trends in agricultural activity. Our research indicated that a more systematic reliance on local producers by institutions could reduce environmental impacts while improving outcomes for the small business economy.

### AWARDS

- Aetna Graduate Creative Nonfiction Award 2019
- Massachusetts Department of Transportation Certificate of Excellence 2018
- Massachusetts Department of Transportation READi Innovation Award 2018
- Esri Special Achievement in GIS 2016
- Dean's List Keene State College 2009-2012

### **AFFILIATIONS**

- American Association of Geographers
- Transportation Research Board

- Northeast Arc User Group
- New England URISA

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### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### TRANSPORTATION, TECHNOLOGY, & SOCIETY GROUP

Research Assistant / 2019 - Present

- Plan and document preliminary research group meetings
- Led Institutional Review Board project material production and submission
- Organized outreach for summer abroad learning opportunities

# GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION FOR THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION

### Subject Matter Expert/ 2018

- · Planning and data assistance for a group of interdisciplinary professionals crafting policy recommendations
- Acted as a representative of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transportation

# NATIONAL COOPERATIVE HIGHWAY RESEARCH PROGRAM 08-123 Panel Member/ 2018-Present

- · Administrative panel member of a Transportation Research Board sponsored project
- Responsible for selecting project contracting group and providing project guidance

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### KEENE STATE COLLEGE

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant/ 2012

- Reviewed and revised assignments written by course instructor
- · Remained available for personal or group tutoring

#### MUNICIPAL GIS COORDINATION

### Workshop Leader/ 2015-2019

- · Worked with transportation professionals inexperienced in GIS, helping develop the skills necessary to use tools
- · Maintained a series of Youtube videos that give users insight to workflows, and produced training documentation

## **SELECT PRESENTATIONS**

- MA Highway Association Annual Meeting
- MA Municipal Association Annual Meeting
- AASHTO's GIS for Transportation Conference
- URISA (New England)
- MassDOT's Moving Together Conference
- Esri User Conference
- MassDOT's Innovation Conference
- Northeast Arc User Conferences Meetings
- •MA Regional Planning Agency Workshop Series (10 Installments)

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### GIS Municiapl Coordinator / 2015 - 2019

- Led annual outreach and update efforts of the Road Inventory File
- Identified workflows to better serve local and regional governments
- Engaged with municipalities to confirm the accuracy of their data
- Updated road attribute data using Linear Referencing tools
- Coordinated attribute updates using Esri Road Characteristic Editors
- Developed training materials, primarily short videos and user guides
- Travelled to regional meetings to present new tools and opportunities
- · Produced and assess accuracy of data which allocates federal funding
- Redeveloped the annual highway project equity analysis
- Road Inventory & data analysis team lead
- Member of the Drone Program Implementation data subgroup
- Member of the Bus Network Redesign technical working group

#### GIS Analyst/Transportation Planner / 2014-2019

- Provided data management and analysis expertise
- Developed custom maps, data sets, reports and graphics
- Provided GIS/data technical assistance to internal & external projects
- Generated mapping applications using ArcGIS Online and Server
- Lead of the GIS Services Analysis group

### UPPER VALLEY LAKE SUNAPEE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

### GIS Technician/Assistant Regional Planner / 2013 - 2014

- Used ArcGIS software to help develop the Regional Plan
- · Explored data relating to mixed-use zoning, natural resource inventories, and road quality connectivity
- Provided towns with technical assistance
- Maintained a high standard of data production quality and clarity
- Built and ran models to best identify potential trail locations

#### MONADNOCK CONSERVANCY

#### GIS Technician & Assistant Regional Planner/ 2012 - 2013

- Generated and analyzed data in ArcGIS to better manage natural resources and open space
- Participated in conservation field work activities

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### REFERENCES

DR. CAROL ATKINSON-PALOMBO

University of Connecticut - Geography, Env. Studies carol.atkinson-palombo@uconn.edu

DR. NORMAN GARRICK

University of Connecticut - Civil Engineering norman.garrick@gmail.com

KEVIN LOPES

MassDOT- GIS Services kevin.lopes@state.ma.us

DR. CHRISTOPHER CUSACK

Keene State College - Geography ccusack@keene.edu

DR. CHRISTOPHER BREHME

Keene State College - Geography cbrehme@keene.edu

IAN THISTLE

MBTA - Office of Performance Mgmt & Innovation ithistle@MBTA.com

## SKILLS

## TECHNICAL

- ArcGIS Suite
- Adobe Suite (limited)
- Microsoft Office Suite
- HTML/CSS
- OGIS
- Python (limited)

### SOFT

- Anticipatory Thinking
- Interdisciplinary
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Problem-Solving
- Adaptability

### OTHER

- Cartography
- MagicaVoxel
- Finalcut Pro
- · Creative writing
- Avid bicyclist
- Science ficton aficionado

# RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Sustainable Development
- Urban Planning & Geography
- Geospatial Technologies

- Local Governments
- Social Equity
- Transportation