

Alex A. Kara

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Education

2018, MA Geography, GIS focus, Department of Geography, University of Cincinnati.
Thesis: *CHAAHK: a Spatial Simulation Model of the Maya Elevated Core Region*
2013, BA Archaeology, Department of Archaeology, Boston University.

Skills

Equipment: Total stations, GPS receivers.

Software: ArcGIS Desktop 10, ArcGIS Pro, QGIS, Repast Simphony

Computer Languages: Java, Python, R, SQL, LaTeX

Positions

Content Writer Summer 2019 – present

The Robot Report, WTWH Media, Cleveland, OH

- Publish news and analysis articles about robotics, artificial intelligence, and adjacent topics.

Survey Manager and GIS Technician Summer 2014 – Spring 2016

Motul de San Jose Archaeological Project, Williamstown, MA and Peten, Guatemala

- Directed one to eight workmen to clear vegetation and survey archaeological features using Trimble high resolution and handheld GPS unit.
- Worked with project archaeologists to georeference excavations, annotated according to project nomenclature.
- Designed and implemented a GIS database of archaeological data for the region surrounding the ancient Maya capital of Motul de San Jose.
- Organized data originating from archaeological fieldwork, published maps, and a variety of remote sensing instruments.
- Produced maps for project publications and presentations.

Teaching Assistant Fall 2014 – Spring 2016

Department of Geography, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

- TA for courses in cartography, GIS, and remote sensing.
- Tutored students needing assistance to understand course content.
- Provided technical support for both professors and students.

GIS Research Assistant Summer 2013 – Spring 2014

Peru Human Eco-dynamics Project, Boston, MA

- Acquired, processed, and projected aerial sensor data including UAVSAR, IKONOS, ASTER, Landsat, and historical photographic imagery.
- Digitized, georeferenced, and corrected an array of disparate archaeological survey data.
- Combined these data to create a regional database of archaeological features spatially represented as polygon vectors.

Publications

2015 Predicación Geoestadístico y Mapeo de Estructuras Arqueológicas en los Sitios Chachaklu'um y K'ante't'u'ul. In “La Tercera Temporada Proyecto Periferia de Motul de San Jose, Chachaklu'um 2015.” Instituto de Antropología e Historia de Guatemala. Translated by Franklyn Solis.

2014 Mapeo del Sitio Arqueológico Chachaklu'um. In “La Segunda Temporada Proyecto Periferia de Motul de San Jose, Chachaklu'um 2014.” Instituto de Antropología e Historia de Guatemala. Translated by Jeanette Castellanos.

Presentations

2018 Scrutinizing Theories of Maya Collapse with the CHAAHK Spatial Simulation Model. Paper presented at the Society for American Archaeology annual meeting, Washington, DC.

2017 Canals, Collapse, and Causation: Applying Agent-Based Modeling towards Understanding the Ancient Maya's Terminal Classic Collapse. Paper presented at the American Association of Geographer's annual meeting, Boston, Massachusetts.

2015 Of Peteneros and PostGIS: Interfacing Geospatial Data Acquisition, Management, and Analysis in Maya Archaeology. Poster presented at the Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology annual conference, Siena, Italy.

2014 Computers, Geographic Space, and Archaeology. Lecture presented for Zachary Hruby's “Introduction to Archaeology” course at Northern Kentucky University.

2014 A Fistful of Data: Quantitative, Exploratory Analysis of Combined Remote Sensing and Archaeological Data. Paper presented at the Society for American Archaeology annual meeting, Austin, Texas. Co-author Lauren Santini.

2013 Total Station mapping and excavation of Water Management features at Xultun, Guatemala and implications for understanding ancient Maya settlement patterns. Poster presented at the Society for American Archaeology annual meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii.