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*What are you currently researching?*

I'm working on a long term project on environmental understandings and activism in Turkey, with specific attention to ways that socio-spatial difference plays out in relation to such (e.g. differences with respect to environmental activism in southeast Turkey vs. Istanbul or the Aegean region). The project is a pilot to launch a larger collaborative effort on questions of citizenship, belonging and politics in relation to circuits of transnational migration (Southeast Turkey, Istanbul and Ankara, and Germany). It may lead to some more work on notions of democracy and civil society, as the E.U. has been heavily invested in fostering such in Turkey, specifically through grants to NGOs, including environment-focused efforts.

*Do you have any fun field work stories?*

I suppose a fun field work story would probably involve being interrogated by police about which villages I had been to that day (perhaps a bizarre notion of fun, but it makes a good story), or being convinced my room was being bugged since people seemed somehow to always know what was going on, even without me telling them (again, perhaps paranoia from the hot sun of the Harran plain)? Fun in a more classic sense would involve the many people who I had a chance to meet, sip tea with, and discuss everything from irrigation and marriage to the US bombing campaign in Afghanistan.

*Where are you originally from?*

The Washington DC area, Mount Vernon in Alexandria to be specific.

*How many places have you lived and where?*

It seems like quite a few, but most notably DC (suburbs and the District); San Francisco and Berkeley; Paris and southern France; Istanbul and Southeastern Turkey, and Minneapolis.

*Favorite place you have traveled to? Strangest place?*

I have spent a fair bit of time on various islands: Bailey's island near Portland Maine, Buyukada near Istanbul, and more recently St. Croix USVI. Given that, I would say my favorite places are islands in general. Strangest place? As a geographer, it would be hard to describe any place as strange per se, but perhaps most visually unusual would be the lunar landscapes: Death Valley in CA; The big island of Hawaii, the Badlands of the Dakotas, and Cappadocia in Turkey.

*What's your favorite place outside of the U.S.?*

Most definitely Turkey, but I also have affections for France and Italy, in particular. And given that my nephews live there, I would also include London.

*Your favorite place in Wisconsin?*

In front of my fireplace. Given things have been fairly busy since my arrival, I still can't say I know Wisconsin very well, but look forward to exploring more.

*Do you have a favorite animal? Do you have pets?*

Cats and otters. We have a cute mutt, Ziggy, and a feisty kitty, Pebbles.

*Do you have any special talents?*

Hopefully some I haven't discovered yet. I would say I'm fairly creative in a general sense (pottery, crafts, cooking).

*Say a weird fact about yourself:*

I was born on Friday the 13th, but somehow have managed to be very lucky!

*Ever had a near death experience?*

Several, again that is where the luck comes in. My sister saved me from a car door that randomly opened around a corner as a baby, my boyfriend and I got washed a few miles out to sea in Hawaii while boogie-boarding and swam for several hours without being able to see the shore before meeting a surfer who told us which way to swim, and there was also a bad car accident thrown in where I did end up with a fractured skull.

*Have you ever gotten lost before and where?*

I seem to always get lost whenever I'm in a shopping mall. They must design them that way.

*Any advice for undergrads in Geography?*

Learn a language, live abroad, or pursue new interests now. Somehow, such things seem to get more and more difficult as time goes on.

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Compiled by Kara McGurk

## Looking for a job in Cartography? Check Out These Mapping Companies...

### ESRI

Founded by Jack Dangermond, ESRI encompasses jobs in the fields of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and Cartography. ESRI is the producer of Arc View, which is worldwide software that's integrated throughout schools, governmental agencies, corporate agencies, and other businesses.

[www.esri.com](http://www.esri.com)

### THOMAS BROTHERS MAPS

Thomas Brothers Maps are known for their comprehensive city and state maps that get distributed across the United States. They're prominent in California, Washington, Oregon, Virginia, and Maryland, and Thomas Brothers is today incorporated with Rand McNally. The myriad of jobs in Thomas Brothers ranges from updating previous city maps to digitizing regional maps.

[www.thomas.com](http://www.thomas.com)

### EAGLE EYE MAPS

Locally, Eagle Eye Maps have been producing maps since the late 1970's in numerous publications including telephone directories, guidebooks, atlases, and presentations. Eagle Eye Maps produces different kinds of

paper maps that range from recreational-use to thematic maps. Eagle Eye Maps are more of a small-scale map producer.

[www.eagleeyemaps.com](http://www.eagleeyemaps.com)

### RAVEN MAPS

More on the artistic side, this company designs some of the most detailed topographic maps. Most maps are designed on polyurethane sheets to display relief landforms and are poster size. Raven Maps Headquarters is located in Medford, Oregon.

[www.ravenmaps.com](http://www.ravenmaps.com)

### MAPSOLUTE INC.

From Map24 to GoogleMaps, this website displays all cities across the United States and Canada. Professions in Mapsolute range from continuously changing and upgrading maps to map marketing to even map programming. Mapsolute has all of the online maps you need for traveling across North America.

[www.mapsolute.com](http://www.mapsolute.com)

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Written by Sage Sulenta

# MADISON GEOGRAPHIC

*The Official Newsletter of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Geography Club • April 2005*

## Soils Labs Renovation Cause for Emigration

Scheduled to start any day now, major renovations of the Soils Laboratories on the south end of 2nd floor Science Hall are expected to last into this summer. A friendly heads up from Professor Knox informed me that there are many improvements planned for the labs, the implementations of which Physical Geography has awaited for a “mighty long time.” When construction is finished, there will be a pollen lab for Professor Jack Williams (the Department’s new paleoclimatologist), a new walk-in freezer, upgrades of fume hoods, and refurbished cabinets and flooring, along with air conditioning for the entire wing of the second floor! Until project completion, however, students won’t be the only ones asked to pardon the dust: Professor Mark Harrower has already relocated to room 115C. Soon Professor Joe Mason, and eventually all faculty in the wing’s offices up to Professor Knox’s room (#234), will have to temporarily move to other areas of the building. So, though some may claim that Science Hall has been here forever, these renovations are just more evidence that geography and geomorphology are truly dynamic disciplines.

Written by Ben Spaier

## Professor of the Month - Leila Harris

Leila Harris is an Assistant Professor of Geography who received her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. She teaches the following courses: Geog 101: Introduction to Human Geography; Geog 930: Gender, Space, and Environment graduate seminar; Geog 401/IES 400: Environment, Culture Politics in North America (Spring 2005); and Geog 319: International Environmental Justice.



### *What got you started in Geography?*

Taking Intro to Cultural Geography as a first year student at UC Berkeley. Every class we discussed a different territorial conflict (Kurds, Catalan, East Timor, Palestine) and it fit perfectly with my interest in learning about the world and understanding the history and context behind the news headlines. Taking a political ecology class with Prof. Watts a few years later and then working closely with geographers at the National Science Foundation sealed it.

### *What are your teaching goals?*

I remember learning about environmental justice issues and development questions for the first time as a student. Thinking about how exciting that was for me now gives me the energy to teach. My hope is that a student in my classes will think about things in slightly different ways than before, will be interested in learning more about something we discuss, or otherwise be unable to hear the news or listen to a presidential debate in quite the same way as before.

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## UPCOMING GEOGRAPHY CLUB NEWS AND EVENTS

### GEOCACHING

Sat., April 9th, 1:00 pm

Do you like treasure hunts or orienteering? Then you'll want to join us for geocaching; a treasure hunt for the 21st century. Instead of using old pirate maps, we'll be using GPS to hunt down secret stashes of trinkets hidden in local parks.

We'll be meeting in the parking lot behind Science Hall at 1:00. Email the Club ([club@geography.wisc.edu](mailto:club@geography.wisc.edu)) if you're interested so we can reserve car space for you.

### GEOGRAPHY STUDENT SYMPOSIUM Friday, April 22nd Memorial Union

Both graduate and undergraduate students are invited to participate in the annual Geography Student Symposium. Students give 15-minute presentations on topics from all geographic disciplines, and then take five minutes of questions.

There is still time to submit abstracts if you are interested in presenting. Please contact Michelle Schenck ([mschenck@students.wisc.edu](mailto:mschenck@students.wisc.edu)) for more information. There are multiple monetary awards for graduates and undergraduate presentations.

If you don't want to present, be sure to check out some of the student presenters throughout the day. Additionally, there will be a keynote speaker in Room 180 Science Hall, followed by a reception in the faculty lounge on the third floor.