

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY  
GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

THE BLUE BOOK

2019-2020

## Table of Contents

<b>Geography Faculty and Staff Directory.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1. Overview of the Graduate Program .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Faculty and Administration .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Entering the Program .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. Degree Requirements .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>A. Master of Arts/Master of Science Degree Requirements .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>B. Doctoral Degree Requirements .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5. Other Academic Requirements and Procedures .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>6. Financial Support-Fellowships, Awards, Teaching Assistantships .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>7. Housekeeping.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>8. The Graduate Program as a Professional Community .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>9. Additional Resources .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>10. Geography Graduate Program Faculty .....</b>	<b>22</b>

## FACULTY AND STAFF DIRECTORY

<b>Nathaniel Gabriel</b>	Assistant Teaching Professor	LSH-B246 848-445-4362	<a href="mailto:nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu">nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu</a>
<b>Asher Ghertner</b>	Associate Professor	LSH-B238 848-445-4128	<a href="mailto:a.ghertner@rutgers.edu">a.ghertner@rutgers.edu</a>
<b>Robin Leichenko</b>	Professor (Chair)	LSH-B265 848-445-4056	<a href="mailto:rleichen@geography.rutgers.edu">rleichen@geography.rutgers.edu</a>
<b>Andrea Marston</b>	Assistant Professor		
<b>Paul O'Keefe</b>	Instructor	LSH-B240 848-445-4356	<a href="mailto:paul.okeefe@rutgers.edu">paul.okeefe@rutgers.edu</a>
<b>Åsa Rennermalm</b>	Associate Professor and Undergraduate Program Director	LSH-B214 848-445-4731	<a href="mailto:arennerm@geography.rutgers.edu">arennerm@geography.rutgers.edu</a>
<b>Kevon Rhiney</b>	Assistant Professor	LSH-B259 848-445-4375	<a href="mailto:kevon.rhiney@rutgers.edu">kevon.rhiney@rutgers.edu</a>
<b>David Robinson</b>	Distinguished Professor	LSH-B230 848-445-4741	<a href="mailto:drobins@geography.rutgers.edu">drobins@geography.rutgers.edu</a>
<b>Laura Schneider</b>	Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director	LSH-B234 848-445-0071	<a href="mailto:laschnei@geography.rutgers.edu">laschnei@geography.rutgers.edu</a>
<b>Kevin St. Martin</b>	Associate Professor	LSH-B232 848-445-3634	<a href="mailto:kstmarti@geography.rutgers.edu">kstmarti@geography.rutgers.edu</a>
<b>Willie Wright</b>	Assistant Professor		<a href="mailto:wright.w@rutgers.edu">wright.w@rutgers.edu</a>
<b>Cleo Bartos</b>	Administrative Assistant	LSH-B254 848-445-4103	<a href="mailto:cleo.bartos@rutgers.edu">cleo.bartos@rutgers.edu</a>
<b>Kelly Bernstein</b>	Sr. Department Administrator	LSH-B250 848-445-4106	<a href="mailto:kellbern@rutgers.edu">kellbern@rutgers.edu</a>
<b>Johnny Nunez</b>	Unit Computing Manager	LSH-B248 848-445-2048	<a href="mailto:johnnyn@sas.rutgers.edu">johnnyn@sas.rutgers.edu</a>
<b>Michael Siegel</b>	Staff Cartographer	LSH-B263 848-445-4054	<a href="mailto:misiegel@geography.rutgers.edu">misiegel@geography.rutgers.edu</a>

# The Graduate Program in Geography

## 1. Overview of the Graduate Program

The Graduate Program in Geography (hereafter “the Program”) encourages work on a wide range of research specialties and fosters strong interdisciplinary ties. Specific research topics reflected in the work of our faculty include: *human geography and social theory* - contemporary urban development in advanced economies; urban revitalization and gentrification; grassroots politics; citizenship; democratic theory and practice; housing, residential segregation, and community control of land use; comparative political and economic aspects of urban change and policy; globalization; international trade; gender; development; *physical geography* – climate; snow-cover dynamics; land use and land cover change; invasive species; coastal geomorphology and process-response modeling of beaches and dunes; groundwater and water supply; and *environmental geography* - human responses to environmental hazards; megacity disasters; human dimensions of global environmental changes; public health and risk communication; institutional and cross-cultural aspects of environmental management; political ecology; environmental justice; forest, fisheries, wildlife, and agro-ecologies. Each of these core areas may be enhanced through training in advanced *geographical techniques* - remote sensing, geographic information science and spatial analysis.

Student research and educational opportunities are facilitated through the Geography faculty’s close collaborative links with a number of interdisciplinary research institutes and curricular programs including the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, the Water Resources Research Institute, the Office of the State Climatologist, the Agricultural Experiment Station, the Center for Urban Policy Research, the Brownfields Center, the Center for Russian, Central and East European Studies, the Center for African Studies, the Center for Historical Analysis, the Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture, and the Grant F. Walton Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis.

Graduates of the Program consistently secure top tier faculty appointments at major universities and colleges in Europe and North America, including the University of Arizona, University of California-Berkeley, University of Brighton (UK), the City University of New York, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Illinois, Kings College (UK), Miami University, Rutgers University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, University of Rhode Island, Syracuse University, Temple University, University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Tennessee. Graduates also hold positions in federal, state, and county governmental agencies, international research institutes, non-governmental organizations, and private firms operating within their areas of specialization.

## 2. Faculty and Administration

The Graduate Program in Geography is administered from the offices of the Department of Geography on Livingston Campus, Rutgers – New Brunswick. The graduate program has a total of 27 faculty members. They consist of 9 members of the “core” Department of Geography faculty and 18 faculty members with geographic research interests located in other schools and departments, such as the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy; the Department of Human Ecology; the

Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources; the Department of Landscape Architecture; and the Department of Anthropology.

Full members of the graduate program can teach graduate courses and supervise Master's and PhD research; associate members can teach graduate courses, supervise Master's research, and serve on PhD committees.

The **Graduate Director** is elected for a three-year term by the graduate faculty and is responsible for the administration of the program. Students should initially contact their principal advisors regarding any academic or personal issues. After that, the Graduate Director can be contacted for any additional information and advice on dealing with any issues. Students may also consult various deans in the School of Graduate Studies-New Brunswick, (hereafter "SGS"). An Executive Committee, typically comprised of the outgoing Graduate Director and Chair of the Geography Department, supports the Graduate Director. The Graduate Director also works closely with the **Chair of the Geography Department** in other areas of mutual responsibility, notably on the appointment of Teaching Assistants (see below). The **Graduate Program Administrative Assistant** supports the Graduate Director, and can assist with answering questions and helping to negotiate the bureaucracy. The **Department Administrator** handles the Program's finances and expenses particularly as they pertain to assistantships and fellowships.

### 3. Entering the Program

Students are accepted into the Master's and Doctoral programs in Geography on the basis of outstanding undergraduate records and because their interests match up well with the expertise of one or more of the graduate faculty members in geography at Rutgers. Based on this affinity, the Graduate Director assigns all incoming students a **principal advisor**, also known as the "main advisor" or "chair" (of a student's eventual thesis, exam or dissertation committee). For a PhD student, an advisor must be a full member of the graduate faculty in geography; for a Master's student, the advisor may either be a full or an associate member. This assignment is **provisional** and may be changed, in consultation with all concerned and should be communicated in writing (or via email) to the Graduate Director and Graduate Administrative Assistant.

Students in the program should begin consulting with their principal advisors from the time they arrive, working together to determine appropriate general **coursework**. All new geography PhD and MA students are required to take two courses: Geography 450:601 "Geographic Perspectives" and 450:602 "Research Design." Students should enroll in "Geographic Perspectives" during their first semester in the program. New terminal MA students and PhD students who hold an MA, should enroll in Research Design during their second semester in the program. Incoming PhD students who do not hold an MA (or equivalent graduate degree) should enroll in Research Design during their 4<sup>th</sup> semester (i.e., during the second semester of their second year in the program). While course work at the graduate level in cognate disciplines is encouraged, at least 12 credit hours counted toward any advanced degree must be in Geography courses (450: xxx). On rare occasion applicants who have insufficient background in geography or relevant cognate fields may be admitted with the requirement that they successfully complete specified courses to make up their deficiencies.

Within a year of entering the program, students should assemble a suitable advisory committee, and, working with their advisors, set a timetable and initiate plans for dissertation/thesis research, and/or

comprehensive exam preparation. PhD students should also gradually work toward meeting other professional milestones such as obtaining teaching experience, making professional conference presentations, and publishing research findings in academic journals.

The Graduate Director typically meets with all incoming students during the second semester in the program to discuss any issues and to ensure that they are making good progress. In addition to this informal review of first-year students, all students in the program are also evaluated in an “**annual review**” by the graduate faculty each spring. Students are reminded of this review several weeks in advance and are asked to submit a “**Self- Assessment**” report **and forward it to their advisor, the Graduate Director and Administrative Assistant**. The graduate faculty members meet to review these statements, along with their records, and evaluate all students in the program. The Graduate Director informs all students of these evaluations in writing.

Students who are making clear progress toward their degrees and have a majority of A's in their coursework are likely to be positively rated. They are congratulated and provided with all possible program support. Students more likely to receive negative ratings include those making slow or uncertain progress; those whose records have a majority of B's and/or any grade of less than B; and students with two or more "temporary" or "permanent" incompletes (see below, under "Incompletes"). **Courses that receive a grade of C or lower may not be counted toward any advanced degree in Geography.** A student receiving a C+ in any course in his/her first 18 credits will be considered marginal in the program, and will be reviewed with special care. In addition, a student with two or more temporary incompletes on his/her overall graduate record will not normally be allowed to register for additional courses in geography, barring unusual circumstances. If students are not performing adequately, they are informed of this and given a specified time to resolve any issues. If they do so, they are returned to good standing. If they do not, they may be terminated from the program after full consultation with their advisors, their committee members, and the full graduate faculty. Such decisions can be appealed, either within the graduate program, or in the wider Graduate School.

#### 4. Degree Requirements

The program offers the following degree options: Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MS), and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).<sup>1</sup> For students seeking a terminal MA, the requirements for the MA and MS degrees are identical; students seeking the terminal Master's may opt for either designation at their discretion. As of fall 2008, students seeking a PhD are eligible to enter the PhD program without first obtaining a Master's degree. PhD students who do not hold an MA may obtain the MA (or MS) upon completion of their PhD qualifying exams. **These students must file for the MA two months prior to their PhD qualifying exams, as per the MA degree instructions.**

In a typical year, we anticipate that roughly a third of Geography graduate students will enter the Master's degree program with the intention that the Master's will be their ultimate or “terminal” goal. The other two-thirds will enter the PhD program. Those entering the PhD program with a Master's degree in hand may apply to transfer up to 24 credits from graduate courses in geography and related

---

<sup>1</sup> A Master of Philosophy, or M.Phil. Degree is also available through the program. Students interested in the M.Phil. which is awarded to students who have completed all requirements for the PhD except the dissertation, should consult appropriate sections of the Graduate Catalog.

fields taken elsewhere over the last six years (see *Transfer of Credit and Admissions procedures*). Those entering the PhD program without an MA degree may obtain an MA upon completion of the PhD qualifying exams.

Terminal Master's students who wish to obtain a PhD may apply for a "change of status." This application will be evaluated by the Graduate Director and the admissions committee, who typically assesses the student's record and consults with relevant program faculty before approving such a change. Applications for change of status must be submitted by February 1 in order for the change to take effect by the start of the following fall semester. Students who are accepted into the PhD program but do not make satisfactory progress may be advised – or may elect – to shift to the terminal Master's degree track during their first or second year in the program.

## **A. MASTER OF ARTS/MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

---

Students seeking the MA/MS Degree in Geography must complete a total of 30 credit hours of graduate study. They may pursue the degree via one of two options:

- 1) Thesis Option: by taking 24 credits of course work and six research credits, submitting a thesis written under the supervision of the student's committee, making a public presentation of the thesis, and successfully defending it orally in response to questions prepared by the student's committee.
- 2) Exam Option: by taking 30 credits of course work, submitting a writing sample for approval by the student's committee, and successfully passing written comprehensive examinations given and evaluated by the student's committee. The writing sample, typically a revised seminar paper, is expected to be substantial, though considerably less ambitious in scope than a thesis.

### **Master's Advisory Committees**

After the first semester (or for part time students, after completing 12 credit hours of coursework) the student forms an advisory committee, which administers the master's comprehensive examinations or supervises work on an appropriate thesis topic. Master's committees consist of a total of three faculty members, including the student's advisor, normally all of whom are members or associate members of the Geography graduate faculty. Students writing a thesis select three faculty members whose specializations are relevant to their thesis topic. Non-thesis students select three faculty members whose specializations reflect the student's broad research interests and desired areas of specialization.

### **MA/MS Thesis**

While not as rigorous as a PhD dissertation, the Master's thesis must, nonetheless, be original and of high conceptual and written quality. A Master's thesis can be an effective means of demonstrating a student's analytical capabilities, and may accordingly constitute an important credential for students interested in eventually pursuing the PhD degree. Students should consult with their advisors carefully before deciding whether a thesis is appropriate to their professional goals. The Program also recommends that theses be copyrighted.

Master's theses are subject to style and other guidelines as detailed on the ***SGS Academics page***. Follow the link for [How to Apply for Degrees](#) and, [Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Style Guide](#).

### **Master's Comprehensive Examinations**

For the non-thesis option the comprehensive examination normally consists of three written exams, testing the candidate's general knowledge of the field. Either a "closed book" three-hour exam for each written paper or a 24 hour "open book" exam, sometimes submitted via e-mail are usual. The written exams are followed by an oral exam at which the written exams and the writing sample (i.e., research paper) are reviewed. All four exams are normally taken within a two-week period.

### **Filing for Candidacy: MA/MS Degree**

The "Candidacy Form" or [Application for MA/MS or Candidacy Form](#) can be downloaded and printed from the SGS website. Please refer to the "Master's Degree Checklist" and the candidacy form deadline dates.

It is the student's responsibility to file an application for degree candidacy **at least two months prior** to the time of the final comprehensive examinations.

It is also the student's responsibility to schedule both written and oral examinations with committee members, and arrange a venue for the oral exam. You may reserve room B-120 Lucy Stone Hall through the Graduate Administrative Assistant.

***PLEASE NOTE: The student should bring the form to the defense to obtain signatures from the committee members and graduate director, after which a copy is given to the Geography Administrative Assistant. The original must be delivered to the Graduate School. This should happen soon after the examination and no later than the announced deadline dates for completion of degree requirements for any given period. A bound copy of the thesis or research paper must be presented to the Graduate Director at the time his or her signature is sought. An electronic version of the thesis abstract must be submitted via email to the Graduate Director prior to the time of signature.***

### **Time Limits**

Master's degrees can be completed within a year and a half of full time study and should be completed within 3 years. Extensions may be granted on application to the Graduate School for students in good standing, by submitting the "[Extension of Time](#)" form.

### **Filing for Diploma**

Review the full requirements for degree candidates on the **SGS Academics page**. Follow the link for "How to Apply for Degrees" and the appropriate checklists:

**Master's Degree with Thesis Checklist:** [Master's degree-thesis-checklist](#)

The [online diploma application](#) can be found on the SGS website. **You are required to enter your NetID and Password to access the application. The Diploma application must be filed by the appropriate deadline dates listed on the website.**

## **B. Doctoral Degree Requirements**

---

The doctoral program in Geography at Rutgers emphasizes preparation for a research-oriented career in academia, public service or the private sector. While most applicants to the PhD program have at least one prior degree in geography, applicants with degrees in other disciplines are nonetheless encouraged to apply. All such students will be required to enroll in Geography 450:601 "Geographic



Perspectives” and 450:602 "Research Design". Some students may be asked to compensate for other deficiencies in their preparation for the PhD (see coursework above) prior to advancing to candidacy.

The PhD differs qualitatively from bachelor’s and master’s degree programs in its emphasis on research and the dissertation as a major, original contribution to knowledge. Accordingly, the doctoral program in Geography at Rutgers emphasizes preparation in the student’s area (subfield) of specialization, research as a problem-solving activity, and preparation of research results for publication.

### **PhD course work**

The PhD degree at Rutgers requires 72 credit hours of graduate study, including a *minimum* of 24 research credits. Students entering the program with prior coursework in geography or cognate fields may apply to have **up to 24 credits** transferred from other universities, upon completion of 12 credits of graduate level course work with grades of B or better in the Graduate School as a matriculated student. Students must complete and submit to the Graduate Director for review, the [Transfer of Credit Application](#).

### **Doctoral Qualifying Examination Committee**

After completing 36 credit hours of graduate-level courses and seminars (for students holding an MA, 24 of these credits hours should be transferred from their MA) students should form the Doctoral Qualifying Examination committee. This committee is normally composed of four members of the Geography graduate faculty. The chair of the committee must be a full member of the program. The other members normally conduct research within the student’s area of specialization or in a closely allied field. Where justified, one of these committee members may be an outside member, that is, from another graduate program at Rutgers, or from another university. Independent scholars deemed qualified by the Graduate School may also serve as outside members. A fifth member may be added to the committee, if such an addition is deemed appropriate by the student and his/her advisor. The Qualifying Examination Committee is solely responsible for determining whether a candidate has successfully passed the examination.

***For PhD students who do not hold an MA, the qualifying exam will also serve as the MA comprehensive exam. These students must bring both the MA and PhD candidacy forms to the exam. The committee will sign both forms upon successful completion of the exam.***

### **Filing for Candidacy: PhD Degree**

The “**Candidacy Form**” or [Application for PhD Candidacy](#) can be downloaded and printed from the SGS website, on the Resources/Forms page.

The Application for PhD Candidacy form is to be used on two occasions, first at the time you take your qualifying examination and again at the time you take your final (post dissertation) examination. Students should carefully follow the instructions on the application. **The SGS retains all original PhD Candidacy forms. The Geography department only retains a copy of the form for the student’s file.**

***PLEASE NOTE: The student should bring the form to the defense to obtain signatures from the committee members and graduate director, after which a copy is given to the Geography Administrative Assistant. The original must be delivered to the Graduate School.***

## Qualifying Examination

The qualifying examination is typically taken after the student has completed 48 course credits (including those transferred from a Master's degree). For students entering the program with a prior Master's degree (or equivalent graduate degree), the **qualifying exams should be taken during their 4th semester in the program** (i.e., during spring semester of their second year). For students entering the program without a prior Master's (or equivalent degree), the qualifying exams should be taken during the 6th semester in the program (i.e., during spring semester of their third year). While the exam is usually taken after all coursework is completed, the exam may be taken during a student's final semester of coursework. Under such circumstances, the student may not officially advance to candidacy until suitable grades are posted for any outstanding coursework taken during the term in question. The qualifying exam has both written and oral components. Its purpose is to assess the student's problem-solving skills and whether his or her mastery of the area of specialization is sufficient to conduct dissertation research. After completing the dissertation proposal, the student, in consultation with the major advisor, informs the doctoral committee members and Graduate Director of his or her readiness to undertake the qualifying examination. Setting the examination timetable in conformity with the schedules of committee members is the responsibility of the student and the committee chair. **Exams should be scheduled by May 15 (and preferably by April 30)** of any academic year. Because faculty are engaged in research over the summer months, exams should not be scheduled during June, July or August, except under exceptional circumstances, and with the agreement of all committee members.

## Written Exam

The written portion of the qualifying examination is used to assess the student's knowledge of the field and problem-solving abilities in the context of geographical research. Several different written examination formats are possible, at the discretion of the doctoral committee. These may include a single extended research problem prepared by the entire committee, individual papers prepared for separate examiners, or an alternate format approved in advance by the chair of the committee and the Graduate Director. The most usual format is one general paper and three papers in different specialties related to the student's dissertation topic. Either a "closed book" three-hour exam for each written paper or an 8-hour "open book" exam, sometimes submitted via e-mail are usual. The written exams are normally taken within a two-week period.

## Oral Exam

The oral portion of the qualifying examination is administered **no later than two weeks after successful completion of the written portion**. All parts of the written exam must be passed before the student proceeds to the oral exam. The primary foci of the oral exam are the area of specialization and a thorough discussion of the dissertation proposal; major emphasis is also placed on the student's response to the written exam. The oral exam is graded on a pass/fail basis. The research advisor and all but one of the remaining members of the examination committee must approve in order for the student to pass the oral examination. The student must bring to the oral examination the [Application for PhD Candidacy](#) form. If all parts of the qualifying examination are passed successfully, members of the committee and the Graduate Director sign this document and the student advances to candidacy. The signature of the student's advisor and/or other committee members may be withheld if revisions to the student's proposal are necessary. The student has 30 days after the proposal defense to do the revisions. A final copy of the dissertation proposal must also be submitted to the Graduate Director for placement in the student's files.

## **Time Limits**

The time limit for successful completion of the qualifying examination is three years of full-time study. Two semesters of part time study count as one semester of full-time study with respect to the timetable for qualifying examinations. A student who fails to pass the qualifying examination within the specified time limit is recommended for dismissal from the PhD program. The time limit for completion of the PhD program is seven years after admission to the graduate program or four years for those entering the program with a Master's degree. Under some circumstances, extensions can be obtained, but only through written petition to the Graduate School, by completing the [Extension of Time](#) form.

## **Dissertation Proposal**

The final step of the pre-candidacy stage is to prepare a formal dissertation proposal. This detailed document typically contains a thorough review of relevant literature, a statement of the research problem and hypotheses, a justification of how or why the student's specific subject or approach will constitute a significant contribution to the field of geography, a proposed methodology, an outline of the projected document, and a timeline for completion of the various tasks involved in the dissertation. Typically, much of the proposal is used in the introductory chapter of the dissertation and/or in a grant proposal. Students are encouraged to seek advice from committee members during the process of creating the proposal.

## **Dissertation Format**

Candidates should familiarize themselves thoroughly with the [Thesis and Dissertation Style Guide](#) available through the SGS website.

Beyond the guidelines set forth in that document and the goal of internal consistency with the individual dissertation, the Graduate Program in Geography requires only that the dissertation format be appropriate to the subject and approach. Because the various sub disciplines of geography, as represented by their professional journals, employ very different conventions in matters of format and style, candidates are encouraged to select those consistent with whatever professional outlet is most appropriate for eventual publication of the research.

## **Dissertation Committee**

Prior to completion of the dissertation the doctoral defense committee is formed. Usually, three members are from those who served on the qualifying exam committee and the fourth must be an "external member". The external member(s) must hold a PhD from a recognized institution in a cognate field related to the area of specialization. The external member(s) may be affiliated with another Rutgers department, another institution of higher education, a government agency, or private enterprise. If they are from another university, the student's dissertation advisor must provide the Graduate Director with the member's name, position and work address. If the external member is an independent scholar (that is with no formal institutional affiliation), then the advisor must also send a recent copy of the proposed committee member's *curriculum vitae* to the Graduate Director. The Graduate Director will then forward the materials to the appropriate Graduate School dean, who will write the member a letter inviting them to serve and thanking them for being willing to do so. After the advisor and three other committee members have been chosen, one or two other committee members, either internal or external, can also be added if needed.

## Dissertation Defense

It is the student's responsibility to obtain their original ***Admission to Candidacy for the PhD or Candidacy Form*** from the Graduate School Dean's Office for their final defense. The Geography department only retains a copy for the student's file. **You must have the original Candidacy form for the defense**

As the student's field research and dissertation writing gets substantially underway, the main advisor and other committee members should monitor any progress made, and provide clear and early indications of any reservations they have about the student's progress -- carefully specifying any changes needed for eventual dissertation acceptance. When the student and individual members of the doctoral committee judge the dissertation to be complete and ready to be defended, the student submits a written request to the Chair of the Committee that a defense be scheduled, and drafts of the dissertation are circulated to committee members for their preliminary approval.

After the doctoral committee approves the general content of the dissertation draft the student should notify the Graduate Director and the Graduate Administrative Assistant of the title, date and location of the defense so that a public notice of the defense can be made. It is also the student's responsibility to arrange a venue for the oral exam. Room B-120 Lucy Stone Hall may be reserved through the Graduate Administrative Assistant.

**External Member of Defense-** Prior to your defense, it is important to forward the name and contact information of the external member of your defense to the Graduate Administrative Assistant. This information is sent to the graduate school so they can send a letter of appreciation and acknowledgement for serving as an external member. A copy of the letter is retained in the student's department folder.

On a specified date, the candidate provides a formal lecture on the dissertation topic; all members of the public and especially the University community are invited to attend the lecture, to question the candidate, and to discuss or debate all aspects of the dissertation research. Following the public lecture and discussion, the Doctoral Committee convenes with the candidate in a closed session of the defense. Directly after this session, the committee votes whether to accept or to reject the completed dissertation. At least three of the committee members, including the outside member, must concur in this decision.

The chair of the Doctoral Committee advises the candidate of the defense result immediately after the committee's deliberations are completed. Any conditions that pertain to completion of the formal dissertation are communicated to the candidate at this time. A candidate who fails a doctoral defense is not normally permitted to schedule another defense. In the case of a successful defense, committee members sign the **Candidacy form and the title page of the dissertation**.

The chair of the Doctoral committee informs the Graduate Director, in writing, of the results of the defense. After all required revisions of the dissertation are completed the **Candidacy form** is forwarded to the Graduate Director for final program approval. A bound copy of the dissertation in final form is submitted to the Graduate Director for inclusion in the Program's library at the time this signature is requested. (This copy is in addition to other copies required by the Graduate School, and those customarily provided to members of the Doctoral Dissertation Committee.) An electronic version of the dissertation abstract must be submitted via email to the Graduate Director and Graduate Administrative Assistant prior to the time of signature.

**After a successful defense, the signed and completed *Application for PhD Candidacy form* along with one original title page (with signatures in black ink) must be returned to the Graduate School Dean's Office, along with three additional copies of the title page and abstract (photocopies are acceptable) by the degree deadline. *Please remember to provide a copy of the form to the Geography Graduate Director.***

### **PhD Degree Application Checklist**

You are not eligible to receive your degree until all of the requirements have been met. Review the full requirements checklist and degree material deadlines on the [Academics page](#) of the SGS website.

**The Graduate School strongly recommends that students meet with a member of the Graduate School Dean's office to review their records to ensure that all requirements have been met.**

### **Application for PhD Candidacy form**

Students in the PhD program should first obtain this form and complete the first page prior to their proposal defense. If they pass their proposal defense and "qualifying exams", they should then have their advisor and committee members sign on the second page, section B (section A is for failure). The top three signatures in section B (or A) should be those of the other committee members; the advisor should sign at the bottom of the section, in his or her own special slot. *All signatures must be in black ink.* This half-completed form is then forwarded to the Graduate Director for signature, a copy is placed in the student's file, and the original is then forwarded to the Graduate School.

Several years later, when students have completed their research and written their dissertations, they **must reacquire this original form from the Graduate School**, add the requested information on courses and credits on the fourth page, and – if they pass – once again have their entire committee sign Section B of the third page of this form, this time also signing the dissertation itself. It should then be brought to the Graduate Director and Dean of the Graduate School, as before. Students must also submit a copy of the signed Candidacy form and a signed copy of their dissertation to the geography department. Students should now be heartily congratulated for having successfully obtained a doctoral degree in Geography from Rutgers University

### **Filing for Diploma**

Students must be registered for the same semester that they are to receive their diploma. It is the student's responsibility to file for conferral of the PhD by the announced deadlines. Note that the dissertation must be filed, the ***original Application for PhD Candidacy form*** recording its result returned by the deadline date, and the diploma application filed by the appropriate deadline date.

### **Online Diploma Application**

The online diploma application can be found on the SGS website, under Current Students. You are required to enter your NetId and Password to access the application. **Please note the online [diploma application deadline dates](#) listed on the SGS website.**

### **Electronic Theses and Dissertations (RUetd) Submission**

All theses and dissertations must be submitted electronically through the online RUetd Submission System [RUetd](#). You must login with your NetID and password and follow the instructions. Please note

the electronic thesis and dissertation submission deadline dates listed on the SGS website [Candidacy and Thesis/Dissertation Deadlines](#).

### **RU Core (Rutgers University Community Repository)**

Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) will be preserved and made permanently available in the [RUcore](#). This innovation has replaced printed copies enabling researchers throughout the world to have access to the information through RUcore.

### **Thesis and Dissertation Workshops**

The Office of Academic Services, through the SGS offers Dissertation Workshops for students who plan to file for graduation. Additional information can be found on the SGS website and by contacting Barbara Sirman (include your RUID# in the email), [sirman@sgs.rutgers.edu](mailto:sirman@sgs.rutgers.edu)

#### **[Thesis and Dissertation Workshops](#)**

## **5. Other Academic Requirements and Procedures**

### **[Registration](#)**

Continuing students may use [WEBREG](#) the online registration system to register for classes.

The Office of the Registrar provides useful links and registration information for graduate students, fall and spring graduate registration calendars, grades and transcripts, class schedules, NetID and RUID information, as well as registration information for new admits.

### **Student Accounting, Billing, and Cashiering**

The office of student accounting, billing and cashiering provides access to your online term bill, processes refunds, administers payment plans, and can assist you with issues that arise with your student account. To activate your registration, you must pay your term bill. To make payments and review your term bill online, go to the Student Accounting website at. [Student Accounting and Billing](#).

### **Graduate School Academic Calendar**

For more information on registration and a list of important deadline dates, add/drop period, etc. refer to the Graduate School Academic Calendar [Registrar's Office, Academic Calendar](#)

### **Forms and Documents**

Since forms are regularly updated by the Graduate School, it is advised that you download the most current and up-to-date forms online, rather than requesting them from the department. Students will find a complete list of all the pertinent graduate school forms on the SGS website under "Resources", "Forms" [Graduate Student Forms](#)

### **Committees**

Students' dissertation proposal and dissertation committees are intended to give them access to scholars with strengths that complement those of their principal advisor, and that are especially appropriate to their intended research. Advisors and committee members read and critique students' evolving research proposals and results, and are -- as representatives of the graduate faculty as a whole -- the final judges of the quality and acceptability of a student's completed PhD dissertation (or Master's exam or thesis, for students in the Master's program). Committee membership decisions and

acceptances should be recorded on the "**Advisor and Committee Approval Form**" and sent to the Graduate Director for approval.

### **Time for review and assessment**

The graduate program in geography follows the general rule suggested by the School of Graduate Studies regarding lead time that students allow for review of theses and dissertations and the response time for faculty members to inform students of such assessments and for providing feedback. The general rule as stated by SGS is that material should be submitted by the student at least two weeks before an examination or other deadline and at least two weeks (but not more than four weeks) should be allowed the faculty member for informing students of the assessment.

### **Undergraduate Courses**

Graduate students may take up to 12 credits in undergraduate coursework (300 and 400 level courses), with the permission of their advisor and the Graduate Director. Students who have been approved to take such courses for graduate credit should request that a "G" be added to the course when they register. If the "G" needs to be added retroactively, the student must see the Graduate Director.

### **International Students**

All international students should visit the Center for Global Services for guidance and assistance with employment, immigration, social security numbers and other matters. In addition, as a condition of admission, all international graduate students with TOEFL scores below 233 on the new computer test and 575 on the paper test must take an English language examination and enroll in English as a Second Language courses for E credit. Also, according to new university regulations, all International TAs must schedule an oral language exam, called the SPEAK Test before teaching for the first time. Students who meet the basic minimum TOEFL requirement for admission, but nonetheless have obvious difficulty with English upon arrival in the country may be required to take the English language examination and enroll for remedial instruction at the discretion of the Graduate Director.

### **Non-degree Students**

Students who have not completed a regular application to the Graduate Program in Geography may take a limited number of courses in Graduate Geography -- no more than 12 credits -- as "Non-degree students. Interested students must meet with the Graduate Director, and if approved, must request special permission from each course instructor to take courses under this arrangement. Non-degree status does not imply that the student will automatically be approved for admission to the graduate program. If students enrolled for non-degree credits subsequently apply and are admitted to the Graduate Program in Geography, they may use non-degree credits toward PhD or Master's requirements.

### **Non-matriculated students**

On rare occasion, the Graduate Director may admit a prospective student as a "Non-matriculated student" in Geography. Under this arrangement, the Graduate Director signals that the student is likely to gain admission after processing a formal application to the program. This option is normally used as a recruiting tool to attract qualified applicants who miss the program's application deadline but express an interest in enrolling for formal credit. The normal route into the program for students who have not applied for formal admission is nonetheless via the non-degree option.

## Transfer of Credits

Students who have taken graduate courses in Geography or closely related disciplines (e.g. certain fields within Geology or Anthropology) elsewhere in the last six years may apply to transfer **up to 24 credits** after they have completed 12 credits in the Rutgers PhD program with a B or better. The student must complete the [Application for Transfer of Credit](#) form, found on the SGS Graduate Student Forms page.

## Incompletes

Students unable to complete a particular course by the end of the semester may arrange with the instructor to receive an "Incomplete" ("IN"), which must be made up within a year under Graduate School guidelines. During this year, these incompletes are referred to as "temporary"; afterwards, they are usually converted (or "abandoned") to "PINs", or "Permanent Incompletes" – and can no longer be made up under ordinary circumstances. More than one Temporary Incomplete signals to the Graduate Program in Geography that a student might not be making adequate progress toward his or her degree. Two or more permanent incompletes signal the same. In addition, a student with two or more temporary incompletes on his/her overall graduate record may not be allowed to register for additional courses in Geography.

## Tuition Remission (RT100)

All students with full Graduate Fellowships and full Teaching Assistantships are entitled to receive tuition remission and do not have to pay tuition for any courses taken while Fellows or TAs. In order to receive tuition remission students are required to complete the [RT100 form](#) **every semester** and bring this form with them to the student accounting office when paying term bills. RT100 remission forms will be provided to you by the Department Administrator for TAs and most Fellowships; for Walter Russell Scholarships or Diversity Fellowships, however, students should work with the appropriate administrator at the Graduate School.

## Summer Tuition Remission

Students employed as TAs or GAs for a full academic year may also receive up to 6 credits of tuition remission for the following summer. Fellows do not receive summer tuition remission.

## Research Credits

Generally, students take research credits after they have defended their dissertation proposal and become PhD candidates. Students involved in field research and out of daily contact with their advisors must register for at least one research credit per semester. Students in New Brunswick or elsewhere, working or writing in regular contact with their advisor, should register for at least three research credits per semester. Students who have not yet defended their dissertation proposal may, however, take a limited number of research credits prior to becoming ABD. These credits must be for dissertation-related research only (not independent studies), typically awarded for supervised *summer* dissertation research to be credited upon completion and reporting in the following fall semester. Students must have 24 research credits by the time they defend their PhDs, so within the above minimum constraints, it is up to them and their advisors to figure out the rate per semester at which they acquire these 24 necessary research credits.



## **Matriculation Continued**

If a student has circumstances that make it impossible to be actively involved in coursework or research in a given semester, they can register for "Matriculation Continued". This carries no credit, costs less than a research credit -- and keeps the student alive in the program, as it were. This status is similar to a total leave of absence, however, students who are doing any work at all, even away from Rutgers and their advisors, should register for one research credit rather than assume "matriculation continued" status. Matriculation continued is not typically granted for more than two semesters. Seeking it for a longer period than that, may be taken as evidence that a student is not making adequate progress toward a degree.

## **Remaining "Fulltime" While Taking less than 4.5 credits**

Although the federal regulations governing financial aid require registration of at least 4.5 credit hours, special consideration may be granted under certain conditions to doctoral students working on their dissertation, for the purpose of loan deferment. Students should complete the [Enrollment Certification of Doctoral Students](#) form found on the SGS Graduate Student Forms page.

**Human (and Animal) Subjects Research:** All research with humans or vertebrate animals -- for dissertations, theses, or in more preliminary research, or even for certain class assignments -- must be approved by the University's Institutional Review Board (or "IRB"). This includes participant-observation and interview and questionnaire research for human geographers, and could potentially include research by physical geographers where human impacts are anticipated. Students should meet with their advisor or the Graduate Director or visit the website of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs ([ORSP](#)) for more details.

## **Appeals and Grievance Procedure**

Per university regulations, a student has the right to appeal any action by an instructor. S/he should first discuss the matter with the faculty member(s) involved. If the matter cannot be resolved to the student's satisfaction, the student should appeal to the Graduate Director. If the student or other parties to the issue are still dissatisfied, they may appeal in writing to the Graduate Executive Committee. The Graduate Executive Committee will either consider the matter themselves or constitute an ad hoc Committee of Review to resolve the matter. If the complaint is directed against the Graduate Director or another member of the Graduate Executive Committee, those members will participate in the Committee deliberations, but will be excused before the committee votes. If the matter remains unresolved to the satisfaction of all parties involved, it will be referred to the Dean of the Graduate School for final determination.

Students who wish to appeal other matters such as advisor assignments and committee arrangements should first approach the Graduate Director, who will attempt to resolve the matter. If the student or other parties to the issue are still dissatisfied, they may appeal in writing to the Graduate Executive Committee. The Graduate Executive Committee will either consider the matter themselves or constitute an ad hoc Committee of Review to resolve the matter. If the complaint is directed against the Graduate Director or another member of the Graduate Executive Committee, those members will participate in the Committee deliberations, but will be excused before the committee votes. If the matter remains unresolved to the satisfaction of all parties involved, it will be referred to the Dean of the Graduate School for final determination.

## **6. Financial Support – Fellowships, Awards, Teaching Assistantships**

### **Geography Program Fellowships**

Top applicants to the Graduate Program in Geography each year compete to receive one of a very limited number of multi-year funding packages available to new students. The standard package offered in Geography is two years of fellowship followed by two years of Teaching Assistantship. During the fellowship years, recipients of these packages receive a living stipend, tuition remission, and campus major medical insurance. Fellows must complete the [\(RT100 form\)](#) to receive tuition remission and register for Graduate Fellowship (16:450:811) **each semester** so that the fellowship appears on their transcript.

### **Other Rutgers Dissertation Fellowships**

Several students in recent years have received partial financial support through being chosen -- on the basis of competitive applications -- graduate student fellows for a year at Rutgers' CCA (Center for Cultural Analysis), IRW (Institute for Research on Women) and RCHA (Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis).

### **University and Bevier Fellowships**

The School of Graduate Studies will award 15 University and Louis Bevier Dissertation Completion Fellowships for the 2019-2020 academic year. All SGS doctoral students are eligible to apply. These awards are designed to provide support during a doctoral candidate's final year of dissertation work. The award is intended to support completion and recognize excellence. Fellows may not hold other full-time awards concurrently with University and Louis Bevier Fellowships. Additional information and the application may be found at: [University and Louis Bevier Fellowships](#). Students may submit their applications through the University and Bevier Fellowship application portal. Application deadline is March 2, 2020.

### **Geography Program Awards and Conference Travel Awards**

The graduate program director and faculty of the Department of Geography sometimes allocates special funds to support student travel to the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers and other conferences. The level of departmental support varies with demand and available funds. In recent years, students have received from \$200-250 to help offset conference travel expenses. In order to be eligible for these departmental funds, students must be presenting at the conference.

### **Graduate School Awards**

#### **SGS Off-Campus Dissertation Development Awards**

These awards are intended to provide support for students during the early stages of their doctoral research who would materially benefit from field-specific research opportunities. It is also designed to connect graduate students with the [GradFund](#) office, by providing seed funding to help students secure external grants and fellowships to support the dissertation project. Additional information can be found on the [SGS Off-Campus Dissertation Development Awards](#) page.

## SGS Achievement and Merit Awards

Each year, the SGS honors graduate students for outstanding contributions to graduate education at Rutgers University. There are several awards available to both Doctoral and Master's Students. A complete list, along with the Visit the SGS [Achievement and Merit Awards](#) page for a complete list of awards, applications, requirements and deadline dates.

## External awards

Students are strongly encouraged to apply for external awards to fund their graduate study from the National Science Foundation, Ford Foundation, Jacob Javits and other organizations. In addition, students doing **field research** apply for outside support, have had considerable success in recent years from such organizations as the National Science Foundation, Fulbright-Hays, National Institute of Mental Health, Social Science Research Council, Society of Women Geographers, American Association of University Women, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) awards, etc. The Graduate School provides health benefits for winners of major competitive U.S. and Canadian national fellowships who will be in residence during the coming year. The Dean of the Graduate School New Brunswick can provide additional information on eligibility.

The GradFund, the Office of Graduate Student External Grants and Fellowships is a resource center for graduate student external support and provides assistance to graduate students in identifying and selecting appropriate sources and award opportunities, application timelines and logistics, etc. For additional information, important links, events and workshops, visit the [GradFund](#) website.

## Teaching Assistantships: TAs, Gas, PTLs

A limited number of TA assignments (that have not been allocated as part of a multi-year funding package) are awarded competitively within the program, in the spring, for the following academic year. Every year the Department Chair or Graduate Director invites interested students in good standing to apply for TA assignments. To be eligible, applicants must have completed 12 or more credits of coursework in the program, have their principal advisor's endorsement, no incomplete grades ("INs") on their record, and no other means of full financial support (i.e. someone with an Excellence Fellowship cannot also hold a TA). TA positions provide a stipend, tuition remission and, for those students employed as full-time TAs (both fall and spring semesters), health insurance.

Students in the PhD program are typically given preference over students in the Master's Program in this appointment process. Ranking and selection is based on program GPAs, performance in past TA assignments, progress toward degrees, level of participation in the program, the current needs of a particular assignment and the TA's own training and experience. These particular TA appointments are made on an annual basis. Being appointed for one year is no guarantee of reappointment the following year.

There is a graduate program-wide orientation for TAs in late August/early September, and additional workshops on teaching-related matters are sponsored throughout the year by the Department and by TA Project. Additional information including workshops can be found on the [TAP](#) website.

TAs in Geography may be assigned a role as a sole instructor, co-instructors with another TA, or as assistants to professors/instructors. Regardless of the nature of the appointment, a TA's workload should amount to no more than an average of 15 hours a week (which may be more during high-intensity periods of the semester, but should then be less in-between). TAs are permitted to take a

maximum of 10 credits of coursework per term; they register for an additional 6E ("empty") credits, under 16:450:877, to indicate the teaching appointment on their transcripts. (E credits are exempt from degree credit and payment, but indicate the time commitment of a TA-ship). In addition, full-year TAs can receive summer tuition remission for up to 6 credits (See "**Tuition Remission**" and "**Summer Tuition Remission**").

Geography students have been successful in obtaining TA positions in other programs, including Human Ecology, Freshman Writing Program in the English department, Women's Studies, etc.

### **Dissertation Teaching Assistantships**

In addition to the regular TA assignments described above, the Department may also award a limited number of Dissertation TAs to PhD Candidates. These awards provide a stipend, tuition remission for *only 3 credits of research per term* (in addition to 6E credits), and health insurance. Dissertation TAs do *not* include summer tuition remission.

### **Part-time Lectureships**

Advanced graduate students are sometimes asked to teach individual undergraduate courses for remuneration on a course-by-course basis. Similar opportunities may also exist in the summer and winter sessions.

### **Grading and Proctoring of Undergraduate Examinations**

Occasional work in grading and proctoring is available, for an hourly wage, per email requests from the Department Administrative Assistant.

### **Graduate Assistantships (GAs)**

Some faculty members have external grants that may provide funding for Graduate Assistantships to support them on their research projects. These GAs are provided a stipend, tuition remission, and health insurance. GAs are permitted to take a maximum of 10 credits of coursework per term; they register for 6E ("empty") credits, under 16:450:866, to maintain their status as fulltime students. In addition, full-year GAs can receive summer tuition remission for up to 6 credits. (See "**Tuition Remission and Summer Tuition Remission**")

## **7. Housekeeping**

**Program Location:** The Geography department is headquartered on the second floor of the B-wing of Lucy Stone Hall on the Livingston Campus. The Graduate Director, Department Chair, Administrative Assistant, Department Administrator, Staff Cartographer, Unit Computing Manager, most departmental faculty offices, and computer labs for graduate research and teaching are all located on this floor, as are several classrooms.

**Office space:** Most all graduate students, especially those that are fellows and teaching assistants are assigned office space in the department.

**Keys and Room/Lab Codes:** Arrangements for all room keys and security codes, may be made through the Administrative Assistant. The outside door of Lucy Stone Hall is accessible through a swipe card security system. Room B-120, and the computer labs are all accessible with a security code.

**Mailboxes/ Copying:** Located in B252. A copier code is required for use, which should be requested from the Unit Computing Manager.

**Rutgers NET ID:** The NetID is an online identification used for campus services and to set up your computer account. In order to access many of the electronic services available to you at Rutgers, you must activate your Rutgers NetID at <https://netid.rutgers.edu/activateNetId.htm>

**Computer accounts:** Students may create a computer account through the Unit Computing Manager, in order to gain access to any of the departmental computers in individual offices, or in either of the labs. You must first set up and activate your NetID in order to establish your computer account.

**Student RUconnection ID card:** To be eligible, you must be registered for classes. Rutgers students have access to Rutgers University libraries, computer labs, recreation centers, RU Express accounts, and meal plans via their [RU Connection Card](#).

**Graduate Student Email Listserv:** All graduate students are included in the Geography Graduate Students Email Listserv, used for departmental announcements and communications.

**Student Contact Information:** Your current address, phone and email is maintained by the Graduate Administrative Assistant. Any changes should be communicated and updated as needed.

**Building Security:** Occasionally thefts have occurred in Lucy Stone Hall in past years, so students should take care that they not leave offices open and unattended. Students working in computing labs at night are advised not to admit strangers to the building, and to work with lab doors closed, especially when working alone.

## **8. The Graduate Program as a Professional Community**

### **Graduate Geographers Project (GGP)**

All graduate students are invited to participate in the activities of the GGP, which elects officers on a yearly basis, draws funds from the university-wide Graduate Student Association (GSA), and organizes and hosts a range of formal and informal events. For more information, and a link to the GGP website: <http://ggp.rutgers.edu/>

### **Speaker Series**

Every semester the department sponsors a series of workshops and presentations. The “Speaker Series” is an ideal way to learn about the diversity of Geography, aid in the professional development of students, network with other geographers, and enhance the program as an intellectual community. All students and faculty are strongly encouraged to attend.

## **9. Additional Resources**

**School of Graduate Studies New Brunswick (SGS) Personnel:** The office of the SGS, offers additional services and resources to graduate students. For a complete listing of officers and staff of the SGS along with specific contact information visit: <http://gsnb.rutgers.edu/contact-us-0>

### **Student Association (GSA)**

The Graduate Student Association, of which all graduate students are automatically members, advocates graduate student concerns to the greater Rutgers University community and provides financial support to recognized graduate student organizations. The GSA sponsors a variety of social and cultural activities for graduate students. All programs and activities are funded by graduate student activity fees. For more information, visit the website at [Rutgers Graduate Student Association](#)

### **Teaching Assistant Project (TAP)**

TAP is designed to promote excellence in undergraduate and graduate education at Rutgers, New Brunswick, through the professional development of the graduate student teaching staff. All TAs and other interested graduate students are encouraged to become involved with the Teaching Assistant Project (TAP), run by the Graduate School. TAP offers an orientation for new TAs, certificate programs, workshops and seminars, performance assessment and feedback for improvement, technology training and resources, TAPProject Blog, the TA Handbook and an array of useful resources and publications. For more information visit their website at <http://tapproject.rutgers.edu>.

### **Centers for Global Advancement and International Affairs**

Rutgers Global is comprised of multiple units. The Center coordinates services for international faculty, staff, students and scholars. It assists with all matters of special concern to them and serves as a referral source to other university offices and academic departments. Center staff members provide direct support with employment, immigration, and personal, family, financial and health care matters. In addition, the Center sponsors a variety of programs throughout the year, sponsors an orientation program and publishes a newsletter, <https://global.rutgers.edu/about-gaia>

### **Career Services**

Career Services can help you prepare for a productive and meaningful career following the completion of your graduate degree at Rutgers. Career counselors provide individual counseling sessions, as well as a variety of seminars, programs, and resources designed specifically for graduate students, <https://careers.rutgers.edu/>

### **Counseling Services CAPS**

Counseling services are offered through Counseling, Alcohol and Other Drug Assistance Program & Psychiatric Services (CAPS), our University mental health support service, for all students of Rutgers University in New Brunswick/Piscataway. Services are free, and confidentiality is guaranteed within legal and ethical guidelines. CAPS offices are located at 17 Senior Street on College Avenue and 61 Nichol Avenue on the Cook/Douglas campus (848-932-7884). For a comprehensive list of counseling services available visit their website at <http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/>.

### **Graduate Certificate Programs**

Geography faculty members participate in a number of interdisciplinary programs offering graduate certificate programs featuring one of the field's sub disciplines. For more information on the requirements of these certificates contact the following graduate faculty: Certificates are currently available for concentrated study in: **Cartography**- Michael Siegel, [misiegel@geography.rutgers.edu](mailto:misiegel@geography.rutgers.edu); **Geomatics**- Richard Lathrop, [lathrop@crssa.rutgers.edu](mailto:lathrop@crssa.rutgers.edu) or Lyna Wiggins, [lyna@ejb.rutgers.edu](mailto:lyna@ejb.rutgers.edu); **Quaternary Studies**- David Robinson, [drobins@geography.rutgers.edu](mailto:drobins@geography.rutgers.edu), or Gail Ashley, [gmashley@eps.rutgers.edu](mailto:gmashley@eps.rutgers.edu).

## 10. Geography Graduate Program Faculty

---

### GRADUATE DIRECTOR

*Laura Schneider, Ph.D., Clark University, 2004, Associate Professor - land-change science, biogeography, remote sensing, GIS, Latin America*

### DEPARTMENT CHAIR

*Robin Leichenko, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University, 1997, Professor – economic geography, climate change vulnerability, human dimensions of global environmental change*

**CORE FACULTY** (geography core teaching faculty who are automatically members of the graduate faculty in geography)

*D. Asher Ghertner, Ph.D., University of California- Berkeley, 2010, Associate Professor- urban informality and governance, political economy of displacement, political ecology, governmentality and rule, ethnography, Indian politics*

*Robin Leichenko, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University, 1997, Professor – economic geography, climate change vulnerability, human dimensions of global environmental change*

*Åsa Rennermalm, Ph.D., Princeton University, 2007, Associate Professor - physical geography, hydrology, climatology, Arctic region, Greenland ice sheet*

*Kevon C. Rhiney, Ph.D., University of the West Indies, 2010, Assistant Professor—global environmental change, social and environmental justice, climate adaptation pathways, environmental disasters, small island developing states, Caribbean*

*David A. Robinson, Ph.D., Columbia University, 1984, Distinguished Professor and N.J. State Climatologist – climatology, cryosphere, regional climates, physical geography*

*Laura Schneider, Ph.D., Clark University, 2004, Associate Professor - land-change science, biogeography, remote sensing and GIS, Latin America*

*Kevin St. Martin, Ph.D., Clark University, 1999, Associate Professor - economic geography, diverse economics, political ecology, community and commons, critical cartographies, GIS*

**ADDITIONAL GRADUATE FACULTY** (faculty members whose teaching responsibilities are not part of the core geography department, but whose training and research interests qualify them as members of the graduate faculty in geography)

*James DeFilippis, Ph.D., Rutgers University, 2000, Associate Professor - community development, housing, urban social movements, community organizing, urban labor markets, immigration*

*Michael R. Greenberg, Ph.D., Columbia University, 1969, Distinguished Professor -environmental health and risk analysis, nuclear waste management*

*Wolfram Hoefler, Ph.D., Technical University of Munich Germany, 2000, Associate Professor and Co-Director Center for Rutgers Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability, landscape Architecture, cultural interpretation of brownfields, the role of public spaces in social relations*

*David M. Hughes, Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley, 1999, Professor – environmental anthropology, political ecology, climate change, oil, energy, extractive industries, Southern Africa, Caribbean, Europe*

*Robert W. Lake, Ph.D., University of Chicago, 1981, Professor - urban and political geography, environmental politics, planning and social theory*

*Richard G. Lathrop, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1988, Professor - remote sensing and spatial modeling of terrestrial/aquatic ecosystems, GIS, landscape ecology*

*Pam McElwee, Ph.D., Yale University, 2003, Associate Professor - global environmental change, biodiversity, conservation and climate change in Asia*

*Kathe Newman, Ph.D., CUNY, 2001, Associate Professor - urban politics, urban revitalization, gentrification, community development, community food security and financialization*

*Karl F. Nordstrom, Ph.D., Rutgers University, 1975, Distinguished Professor - coastal geomorphology and management, environmental restoration*

*Karen O'Neill, Ph.D., University of California- Los Angeles, 1998, Associate Professor- environmental policy, water, environmental restoration, biodiversity*

*Frank J. Popper, Ph.D., Harvard University, 1972, Professor - Land use, environmental and regional policy, natural resources management*

*Edward Ramsamy, Ph.D., Rutgers University, 2001, Associate Professor – development, social theory, race, culture and identity, Southern Africa*

*Ethan Schoolman, Ph.D., University of Michigan 2013, Assistant Professor- environmental and social dimensions of local, regional and alternative food systems*

*Mi Shi, Ph.D., Rutgers University, 2010, Assistant Professor - land development and property rights, city redevelopment, social protests and citizenship in China*

*David Tulloch, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1997, Associate Professor - geo-spatial technologies, environmental and land use planning*

*Lyna Wiggins, Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley, 1981, Associate Professor -geographic information science, computer applications in planning*

*Ming Xu, Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley, 2000, Associate Professor - ecosystem ecology, modeling and management, remote sensing and GIS spatial modeling*

#### **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE GRADUATE FACULTY**

*Nathanial Gabriel Ph.D., Rutgers University, 2012, Assistant Teaching Professor- political ecology, urban socio-natural systems, economic development and urban environmental politics*

*Melanie Hughes McDermott, Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley, 2000, Assistant Research Professor- human ecology, political ecology, community forestry, climate change*

*Paul O'Keefe, Ph.D., West Virginia University, 2015, Instructor- development geography, political ecology, human-environment relations, adaptation to climate change, vulnerability, livelihoods approaches, Tanzania*



## **EMERITUS FACULTY**

*Gail M. Ashley, Ph.D., University of British Columbia, 1977, Distinguished Professor - quaternary, sedimentology, glacial geomorphology, environmental planning*

*Briavel Holcomb, Ph.D., Colorado, 1972, Professor Emerita-urban redevelopment, inequalities, tourism*

*Bonnie J. McCay, Ph.D., Columbia, 1976, Professor Emerita- property and environment, marine governance, fisheries, North Atlantic, Mexico*

*James K. Mitchell, Ph.D., Chicago, 1973, Professor Emeritus - environmental hazards, human-environment theory, environment and public policy, global environmental change*

*Thomas Rudel, Ph.D., Yale, 1977, Distinguished Professor Emeritus - Latin America, environment, development, land use*

*Richard Schroeder, Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley, 1993, Professor – Africa, political ecology, development, conservation, race, gender, nationality, tourism, hunting, mining, forestry, agriculture*