

Careers in Geography

Aerial Photo Interpreter	Map Analyst
Air Pollution Specialist	Map Librarian or Curator
Area Specialist	Mapping Designer
Cartographer	Meteorologist
Climatologist	Natural Historian
Community Developer	Physical Scientist
Community Planner	Planning Director
Computer Mapper	Political Analyst
Conservation Educator	Pollution Controller
Data Analyst	Park Ranger
Demographic Analyst	Real Estate Planner
Development Analyst	Recycling Coordinator
Ecologist	Redevelopment Staff
Energy Analyst	Regional Planner
Engineer	Remote Sensing Specialist
Environmental Manager	Resource Development
Environmental Planner	Resource Economist
Environmental Scientist	Resource Planner
Field Data Specialist	Site Researcher
Geographic Specialist	Soil Conservationist
Geographic Librarian	Topographic Engineer
Geography Educator	Surveying Technician
Geologist	Teacher
Geomorphologist	Tourism Developer
Geopolitical Specialist	Traditional elder interviewer
GIS Technician or Analyst	Transportation Planner
Hydrogeologist	Travel Consultant
Jurisdiction consultant	Treaty rights specialist
Land Surveyor	Water Resource Planner
Land Use Planner	Wetlands Supervisor
Location Analyst	Zoning Administrator/Inspector



Heiltsuk Nation GIS

Geography, GIS and Map Websites

Association of American Geographers
www.aag.org

Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group of the AAG
www.pacificworlds.com/ipsg/index.html
 IPSG Links (including programs, funding & scholarships):
www.pacificworlds.com/ipsg/links.html

Aboriginal Mapping Network www.nativemaps.org

ESRI Native Conservation Resources
www.conservationgis.org/links/native1.html
www.conservationgis.org/links/nativepaper1.html

Indigenous Geography as Discipline Arrives
www.indiancountry.com/content.cfm?id=1096409838

Indian Land Cessions
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/maps/cessions

Indian Land Working Group www.ilwg.net

American Indian Map Pages
www.americanindian.net/links7.html

Traditional Ecological Knowledge
shr.aaas.org/tek

Maps of Native American Nations (1997)
www.kstrom.net/isk/maps/mapmenu.html

Native Geographies and Countermapping links
www.uwec.edu/grossmzc/nations.html
www.uwec.edu/grossmzc/countermapping.html

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SPECIALTY GROUP
www.pacificworlds.com/ipsg/index.html

GEOGRAPHY:



Providing possibilities to defend Native lands

A growing and open field of opportunity for Native students

The Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers (AAG)



St. Regis Mohawk GIS

It's All About Place

Treaty rights, natural resources, environmental justice, protection of sacred sites, sovereign jurisdiction conflicts, traditional ecological knowledge, tribal economic development....

What do all these aspects of Native life have in common? They all have something to do with place. Native peoples have always had a strong connection to place, which often has not been understood or respected by Western society. Geography is the study of places, and their connections to human beings and the natural world. In choosing a career, and a path for your life, you are probably trying to sort out what will interest and benefit you, and what you can do for your people at home. You want to get the tools and skills necessary to make a difference, but also do not want to get boxed in by an academic discipline.

Geography is not just about memorizing places or reading maps. It asks questions about why people and natural features are where they are. Geographers are not limited by laws or documents on paper, but try to understand realities on the ground. Geography emphasizes the relationship between human beings and the rest of nature, instead of studying them isolated from each other. Geography allows you to compare different places, or to compare local places to the entire region or world. Geography also enables you to link past history to the situation in the present.

As a Native geographer, you can use data mapping technology such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), or interview elders about their traditional ecological knowledge. You can examine satellite

photos or map out the locations of medicine plants. You can study an environmental threat to your reservation, or plan environmentally sustainable development projects. You can document historic tribal place names, or use radar to locate burial sites (without disturbing them). You can research treaties and reservation boundaries for court cases, or conduct a health study of tribal members. In short, geography is a way to research whatever interests you and will benefit your tribe, if it has anything to do with place.

Gitskan Strategic Watershed Analysis Team



Geographic Research Project Examples

- Impacts of American Indian Land Transfers on Counties
- Removal Reversed: Native/non-Native joint land management
- First Nations and Ecotourism: Opportunities and Constraints
- Forestry Initiatives and Aboriginal Communities
- Satellite Mapping of Clearcuts on Indian Reservations
- Native Americans and maintenance of traditional foodways
- Geographies of justice: Indigenous dispute resolution
- The Failure of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
- The Globalization of Indigenous Knowledge: A Critique
- Hydroelectric dams and political geography in Quebec
- Indigenous Agency & the Construction of Nature
- Native Place Names and Cartographic Accuracy
- Columbia River Development & Modern Colonial Landscape
- Cross-Border Solidarity: The Case of the Tohono O'odham
- Economic Conditions and Writing inside Reservations
- Resistance on the Reservation: Space, Identity, Sherman Alexie
- American-Indian Community Planning at the Margins
- Social Constructions of Racism & Nez Perce/Nature relations

Indigenous Geographers

"Geography is a wide window through which to view the whole world. It is a discipline that describes the dialogue between humans and earth. Indigenous people know that the earth speaks. Geography explores the dialogue sometimes in a physical and measured way and other times in a physical and cosmological way. Geography embraces both dialogues. When I visit American Indian or Alaska Native land areas, the importance of the land equates to tribal origins and identity. I have learned about the importance of place. I am also interested in planning and the drive to settle new places. Among tribal people place-finding is not random. Geography and its relation to planning is not random; the relationship is an interplay, and is one that I enjoy exploring."

L. HoMana Pawiki (Hopi / Navajo)
Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff

"After working as a social worker I decided that I wanted to study the underlying problems in Native communities. Our connections to one another, our economies and our worldview is all based within our connection to the land. Studying geography has given me the opportunity to study about resource management, place names and our self-determination."

Dr. Jay T. Johnson
(Munsee Delaware / Western Cherokee)
University of Nebraska, Lincoln

"Geography is my passion! Since childhood, I dreamed of visiting and studying places such as Singapore, Moscow, and Alaska. As a professional geographer I can now apply my passion to the study of indigenous landscapes, and how they are represented by maps and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). With some luck and hard work, perhaps I can contribute to the betterment of society."

Mark H. Palmer (Kiowa)
University of Oklahoma, Norman

"Geography studies a people's relationship with the place where they live. For centuries, indigenous people have been the object of geographic study, often being misunderstood and misrepresented due to cultural differences. Today, indigenous geographers have the opportunity to speak on their own behalf; deciding for themselves what should and should not be the topic of research and from what perspective the knowledge of their elders should be shared. This opportunity, though, is still met with resistance in many geography departments. The IPSP provides indigenous students a sense of camaraderie, a chance to network with colleagues and to share methodological approaches, references, and resource materials."

Renee Louis (Hawai'ian)
University of Hawaii, Manoa

