

Olivia Ildefonso, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Earth and Environmental Sciences (Geography Specialization)

The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, January 2022

Dissertation: "Unraveling the Geographies of the US Public Education System: an analysis of scale, segregation, and hegemony"

Advanced Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Hunter College, 2017

Certificate comprised of eight courses in GIS theory and technology

Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Ethnic Studies

Brown University, 2009

Honors Thesis: "Local 1329 : Protecting the Livelihood of Providence's Longshoremen"

RESEARCH AND MAPPING

Co-Founder and CEO

North Arrow

- Lead sales and marketing of North Arrow, a data visualization and analytics consultancy that builds impact maps and interactive impact reports for changemakers
- Co-lead product development

Data Visualization and GIS Consultant

Finding Common Purpose, April 2022 - Present

- Research the most suitable datasets for coalitions of nonprofits, elected officials, and community organizations that are working to reduce social inequities
- Create interactive public dashboards with maps and graphs that are used to track progress toward reducing inequities

Research and Communications Consultant

ERASE Racism, July 2013-December 2021 and June 2022 - Present

- Develop and execute mixed-method research projects that demonstrate racial inequities on Long Island, NY. Findings have been used to advocate for policy changes
- Conduct demographic research for housing discrimination lawsuits and fair housing advocacy. Findings have been used to support favorable settlements

- Establish methods for communicating research to the public, such as creating interactive maps
- Design and facilitate workshops about structural racism for students and adults
- Write grant proposals

GIS Consultant

Marya McQuirter's book projects and digital archive, January - April 2022

- Worked on three distinct mapping projects for scholar Dr. Marya McQuirter – two for her upcoming books on the history of bicycles and one for her digital archive "[dc1968 project](#)"
- Researched historical data to accompany data on 18th-century bike clubs and created an interactive map
- Developed and executed a research strategy to create a map layer that showed the route taken by 5 cyclists in 1928 from NYC to Washington DC, with only knowing the main cities they visited. Created a series of high-quality print maps for publication
- Organized stories from a digital archive and created an interactive map

Project Co-Lead and GIS Specialist

COVID and Cages, Summer 2020

- Designed a series of maps that showed the spread of COVID in the U.S prison population
- Offered policy recommendations

Research Consultant

Poverty Race Research Action Council (PRRAC), January - April 2020

- Designed and performed an in-depth demographic analysis to identify high opportunity school districts on Long Island for the organizations housing mobility program
- Created a reference map to accompany the statistical analysis

GIS Consultant

Fox Point Cape Verdean Project, November 2019

- Created maps that compared the Tockwotton Fox Point neighborhood in 1962 to today to show the effects of "urban renewal" and displacement

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AND ADVOCACY

Chair of the Board of Directors

S.T.R.O.N.G Youth, June 2023-Present

- Develop a strategic vision for the board
- Recruit new board members

Board Member

S.T.R.O.N.G Youth, September 2014 - Present

- Organized personal fundraising events that have raised over \$20,000 for the organization
- Assisted with the organization's public relations and communications, including helping two website relaunches

Communications Coordinator and Housing Project Coordinator

ERASE Racism, September 2010 - June 2013

- Coordinated and executed all of the organization's written communications, including newsletters, web development and social media outreach
- Developed and executed strategic plans and research for the organization's Housing Project to enforce fair housing on Long Island, NY

TEACHING

Digital Fellow

City College of New York, September 2022 - June 2023

- Assisted with the development of a Digital Humanities minor
- Designed and taught workshops on incorporating mapmaking, data visualizations, and visual storytelling into the classroom

Adjunct Assistant Professor

Data Analysis and Visualization Master's Program, CUNY Graduate Center, Summer 2022

- Designed and taught a hands-on course called "Mapmaking and Visual Storytelling" that teaches students theoretical and technical skills

GIS Instructor

The Digital Humanities Research Institute (DHRI), Summer 2021

- Designed an [asynchronistic mapping workshop](#) that included ethics, theory, and technical skills
- Taught a live full-day workshop on how to make an interactive map

Digital Fellow

GC Digital Initiatives, September 2018 - May 2021

- Assisted students and faculty at the Graduate Center with their digital research projects
- Led the GIS Working Group on CUNY Academic Commons
- Developed and led workshops on digital research methods with a focus in GIS and mapping

Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) Fellow

John Jay College, September 2017 - May 2018

- Assisted professors with developing curricula and assignments to improve students' critical writing and reading skills

- Researched the current capstone classes and offered recommendations for incorporating critical reading and writing assignments into the curricula

Adjunct Professor

Queens College, September 2014 - May 2017

- Taught and facilitated sections of 18-35 undergraduate students for an introductory course to the field of Urban Studies

WRITING AND TALKS

INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Keynote Presenter

Ramapo College's Digital Humanities Institute, May 2022

- The talk "The External and Internal Power Dynamics of Mapmaking" introduced the audience to important concepts from critical cartography, feminist GIS, and Indigenous countermapping

Panelist and Co-Organizer for Keynote Talk

Critical Geographies of Education Keynote at the AAG, March 2022

- Organized the keynote "The Long Struggle for Black Education, and Abolition"
- Participated as a panelist to discuss the connection between geography, racial capitalism, and schooling in the U.S.

Conference Presenter

The American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, March 2019

- The paper presentation "The Uneven Geography of New York's 'Opt Out' Movement" was based on my dissertation research, which traces the resistance to high-stakes testing in New York and its connection to political power, race, and class

Conference Presenter

The American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, March 2018

- The paper presentation "Imagining Beyond Racially Integrated Schools: Racial Capitalism and the Failure of School Integration Efforts" established racial capitalism as a powerful theoretical framework for studying school segregation

PRINT PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapter

Ildefonso, O. (Forthcoming, Sept. 2023) "Understanding New York's Opt Out Movement: How school segregation shaped the nation's largest resistance to standardized testing" in Youth, Law and Politics, West Virginia University Press

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

Social Theory

["Gramsci 101: Part 1"](#) June 2021, Peoples Anti-Colonial Press

["Gramsci 101: Part 2"](#) September 2021, Peoples Anti-Colonial Press

["Whiteness Isn't Just About Privilege"](#) February 2021, An Injustice!

["Why We're Not Trending Towards a Second Civil War"](#), January 2021, 3Streams

["What the Selfie Generation Can Teach Us About Self-Love"](#) October 2019, The Startup

GIS/Mapmaking

["Finding the Right Tools for Mapping"](#) June 3, 2019, Tagging the Tower

["Mapping the Effects of COVID-19"](#) November 2, 2020, Tagging the Tower

["Top Mapping Mistakes"](#) May 12, 2021, Tagging the Tower