# ALEC L. FOSTER, Ph.D.

School for Environment and Sustainability

University of Michigan

2544 Dana Building (440 Church Street) Ann Arbor, MI 48109

[alecfo@umich.edu](mailto:alecfo@umich.edu) (813)731-6917

# Education

August 2016 **Doctor of Philosophy, Geography and Urban Studies**

Temple University—Philadelphia, PA

Committee: Dr. Hamil Pearsall, Dr. Melissa Gilbert, Dr. Allison Hayes- Conroy

# August 2016 Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems

Temple University—Philadelphia, PA Dec 2010 **Master of Arts, Geography**

University of South Florida—Tampa, FL

Committee: Dr. Graham A. Tobin, Dr. Kevin Archer, Dr. Steven Reader May 2002 **Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Studies and Economics**

New College of Florida—Sarasota, FL

# Professional Appointments

2016- 2018 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**

University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources and Environment

**Research Interests** Urban Political Ecology, Environmental Justice, Environmental Identities, Urban Forests, Social Movements, Volunteered Geographic Information, Urban Agriculture, Green Infrastructure, Affect Theory

# Fellowships and Awards

2015 **Temple University**

College of Liberal Arts Graduate Travel Award ($200)

2014 **Temple University**

College of Liberal Arts Graduate Travel Award ($300)

2010-2012 **Temple University**

University Fellowship (Tuition remission and stipend)

2008-2009 **University of South Florida**

University Fellowship (Tuition remission and stipend)

# Publications

**Refereed Journal Articles**

1. Dunham, Ian M., **Foster, Alec,** Graves, Steven, and Michele Masucci. (Accepted). Navigating the Dual Financial Service System: Neighborhood Level Predictors of Access to Brick-and-Mortar Financial Services. *The California Geographer*.
2. **Foster, Alec**, Dunham, Ian M., and Charles Kaylor. (2017). Citizen Science for Urban Forest Management? Predicting the Data Density and Richness of Urban Forest Volunteered Geographic Information. *Urban Science*, 1(3), 30. [*http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/urbansci1030030*](http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/urbansci1030030)
3. **Foster, Alec**.(Ahead of Print). Volunteer Environmental Stewardship and Affective Labor in Philadelphia. Special Section of *Conservation and Society* on Affective Ecologies. DOI:10.4103/cs.cs\_16\_49
4. **Foster, Alec**, Dunham, Ian M. (2015). Urban Forests, Volunteered Geographic Information, and Environmental Justice. *Computers, Environment, and Urban Systems*, 53, 65-75. [*http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.compenvurbsys.2014.08.001*](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.compenvurbsys.2014.08.001)
5. Dunham, Ian M., **Foster, Alec** (2015). Proximal Landscapes of Economic Inclusion in Southeastern Pennsylvania. *The Professional Geographer*, 67(1), 132-144.

[*http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00330124.2014.907697*](http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00330124.2014.907697)

**Manuscripts in Preparation**

1. **Foster, Alec**. Volunteer Urban Environmental Stewardship, Emotional Economies of Care, and Productive Power in Philadelphia**.** *Geoforum.*
2. **Foster, Alec**, Newell, Joshua P. Detroit’s Green Infrastructure of Desire: Informal Footpaths in the Motor City. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers.*
3. Newell, Joshua P., **Foster, Alec**. A Review of Food-Energy-Water Nexus Approaches and Application to the Urban Context. *Environmental Research Letters*.
4. Newell, Joshua P., **Foster, Alec**, Borgman, Mariel, and Sara Meerow. Urban Agriculture as Equitable Green Infrastructure: Gardens, Ecosystem Services, and the Challenge of “Scaling-up” in Detroit and Beyond. *Landscape and Urban Planning.*
5. **Foster, Alec**, Campbell-Arvai, Victoria, and Mark Lindquist. Valuing the Relationships in Environmental Stewardship. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability.*

**Refereed Conference Proceedings**

**Foster, Alec**, Tobin, Graham A. (2013). A Contingent Valuation of Tampa’s Urban Forest.

*Papers in Applied Geography,* 36, 137-145.

**Other Publications**

1. **Foster, Alec**, Dunham, Ian M. (2013). Book Review of *Seeking the Greatest Good. The Pennsylvania Geographer,* 51(2), 112-115*.*
2. **Foster, Alec** (2012). Book Review of *Nature’s Entrepot. The Pennsylvania Geographer,* 50(1&2), 179-184*.*

# Teaching

**Temple University**

Environmental Policy Issues (Instructor: Spring 2016, 19; Fall 2015, 15; Spring 2015, 15; Fall 2014, 20 students)

This course exposes advanced undergraduate students to environmental policy issues from a global and critical perspective. The course is divided into four themes: defining policy and defining nature, major actors in environmental policy, paradigms in environmental policy, and evaluating specific environmental policies. Class sessions are run seminar style and the emphasis is on students participating in and leading discussions.

Fundamentals of Cartography (Instructor: Spring 2016, 19; Fall 2015, 19 students)

Students learn critical visual skills for and humanistic approaches to mapmaking and map analysis, expanding their visual design skills and critical conceptual framework for thinking about cartography and geovisualization.

Digital Mapping (Teaching Assistant: Spring 2014, 60; Fall 2013, 60 students)

**University of South Florida**

Multivariate Statistical Analysis (Teaching Assistant: Spring 2010, 20 graduate students)

Gepgraphic Research Methods (Teaching Assistant: Fall 2009, 20 students)

**Professional and Work Experience**

Summer 2016 **Temple University**

InternshipProgram Coordinator**:** bITS (Building Information technology Skills)

*Coordinate 5 faculty leads and 13 graduate and undergraduate mentors in delivering a Work-Ready Program for 53 Philadelphia high school students*

Summer 2014 **Temple University**

Faculty Lead: bITS (Building Information technology Skills) *Coordinate 2 undergraduates in mentoring 7 youth in applying digital technologies to researching urban environmental issues*

Summer 2012 **Temple University**

Summer 2013 Research Team Coordinator: bITS (Building Information technology Skills) *Lead & Coordinate 3 undergraduates mentoring 12 youth in applying digital technologies to researching urban environmental issues.*

# Summer 2009 University of South Florida

# Summer 2010 Graduate Research Assistant: Center for Urban Transportation Research

# *Research national, state, and local planning processes and regulations with a goal of implementing carbon footprint as criteria in said processes. Document Florida planning processes for transportation and the best practices of other states to implement carbon footprint reduction in Florida’s transportation planning.*

# Conference Presentations

2017 *Citizen Science for Urban Forest Management? Predicting the Data Density and Richness of Urban Forest Volunteered Geographic Information.* East Lakes Division American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Ypsilanti, MI. October 13th.

2017 *Detroit’s Green Infrastructure of Desire: Informal Footpaths in the Motor City.* Michigan Regional Postdoctoral Symposium, Detroit. September 22nd.

2017 *Mapping Detroit’s Lines of Desire: Informal Footpaths in the Motor City.* Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Boston. April 8th.

2017 *Detroit’s Green Infrastructure of Desire: Informal Footpaths in the Motor City.* Dimensions of Political Ecology (DOPE) Conference, Lexington, KY. February 25th.

2017 *Desire Lines in Detroit: Vacant Land, Green Infrastructure & Mobility.* Michigan University-Wide Sustainability and Environment Conference, Ann Arbor, MI. February 10th.

2016 Panelist: *Futurity, Prefigurative Politics, and Utopia.* 23rd Annual Conference on Critical Geography, Lexington, Ky. October 15th.

2016 *Blank Spaces in Tree Maps: Digital Inclusion, Poverty, and Urban Forest Volunteered Geographic Information.* Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, San Francisco. March 30th.

2016 Panelist: *Critique, Praxis, and Power in Urban Social-Ecological Systems.* Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, San Francisco. March 29th.

2015 *Emotional Ecologies and Economies of Care in Philadelphia.* Affect Theory Conference, Lancaster, PA. October 17th.

2015 *Socialism and Ecology.* US Social Forum, Philadelphia. June 27th.

2015 *Urban Environmental Volunteers and Emotional Economies of Care in Philadelphia.* Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Chicago. April 25th.

2014 *Dialogues in Urban Political Ecology.* Critical Geography Conference, Philadelphia, PA. November 9th.

2014 *Doing Identity in Urban Political Ecology.* Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Tampa. April 8th.

2014 *Doing Identity in Urban Political Ecology.* Dimensions of Political Ecology (DOPE) Conference, Lexington, Ky. February 28th.

2013 *A Contingent Valuation of Tampa’s Urban Forest.* 36th Annual Applied Geography Conference, Annapolis, Md. October 30th.

2013 *Proximal Landscapes of Economic Inclusion in Southeastern Pennsylvania.* Ian

M. Dunham and **Alec Foster**. Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Community Development Graduate Research Forum, Philadelphia. October 22nd.

2013 *Urban Forests, Volunteered Geographic Information, and Equity.* Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Los Angeles. April 12th.

2013 *Tree People? Exploring Environmental Identifications in Philadelphia.* Fifth Annual Krueckeberg Doctoral Conference in Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University. February 28th.

2012 *Inside the Green Panopticon: Creating Environmental Subjects Through Urban Forest Science and Education.* Mid-Atlantic Regional Group of the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Salisbury, MD. November 2nd.

2012 *A Contingent Valuation of Tampa’s Urban Forest.* Temple University Graduate Fellows Research Symposium, Philadelphia. September 15th.

# Service

2018 Manuscript Reviewer: *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*

2017 Manuscript Reviewer: *Annals of the American Association of Geographers, Sensors, Growth and Change, Environment and Planning B, Action Research Journal, Sustainability, Urban Geography, Water, Air, & Soil Pollution*

2017 Session Organizer (With Sara Meerow): Reweaving the Urban Socio-ecological Fabric: Green Infrastructure, Urban Agriculture, and Social Justice, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting

2016 Manuscript Reviewer: *Action Research Journal*, *The Professional Geographer*

2015 Manuscript Reviewer: *Papers of the Applied Geography Conference, International Journal of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities*

2014 Session Organizer (With Rich Kruger): Dialogues in Urban Political Ecology, 21st Annual Critical Geography Conference

2014 Manuscript Reviewer: *Papers of the Applied Geography Conference*

2014 Member: Intellectual Steering Committee, 21st Annual Critical Geography Conference

2014-2016 Departmental Steward, Geography and Urban Studies, Temple University Graduate Students’ Association

2014-2016 Activities Chair: Temple Geography and Urban Studies Graduate Association 2013-2016 Member: Student Advisory Committee: Tyler Contemporary, Temple

University.

2013-2016 Community Steward, South Kensington Community Partners