

Bryan Preston

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Education

- 2012 M.S. Geography, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana.
Thesis: "Urban Gardening South of the Tracks in Middletown, USA: An Embedded Qualitative GIS Approach"
- 2000 B.A. Anthropology (Honors), Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa

Professional Appointments

- 2025-present *Visiting Senior Scientific Specialist, GIS and Data Stewardship*
Illinois State Archaeological Survey, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Clean and re-organize data for Historic & Architectural Resources Geographic Information System (HARGIS)
 - Create new HARGIS interfaces for public and non-public use
 - Coordinate and create data entry system for backlog of historic records for HARGIS
- 2022-2025 *GIS Manager*
Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Maintain and archive geospatial data for a wealth of geographic regions and data types from numerous sources
 - Prepared scripts (Python) and processes for transformation of early childhood program and demographic data in the form of maps, tables, and data visualizations
 - Part of team that developed a comprehensive data tool for Illinois early childhood data, see IECAM's Data Hub
 - Fulfill map and data requests from advocates, districts, and state government entities
- 2020-2022 *Visiting Data Specialist*
Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Prepare early childhood program and demographic data in the form of maps, tables, and data visualizations
 - Fulfill map and data requests from advocates, districts, and state government entities
 - Assist in supervision of graduate assistants
- 2013-2020 *GIS Technician*
Delaware County Government Office of Geographic Information, Muncie, Indiana

- Maintained all county parcel geometry based on property documents, legal descriptions, and surveys
 - Fulfilled cartographic/geospatial data requests from government units and community organizations
 - Assisted in supervision of interns and graduate assistants
- 2013 *Evaluator*
Social Science Research Center, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana
- Created evaluation plans for externally funded international projects
 - Coordinated with faculty and project partners, analyzed data, wrote reports on status of projects
- 2012 *GIS Consultant*
Common Cause Indiana, Indianapolis, Indiana
- Facilitated public input into legislative redistricting process in Marion County, Indiana by training community groups on the use of mapping software
 - Created user guide materials, troubleshoot DistrictBuilder software, led training sessions
- 2009-2010 *Library Page*
Muncie Public Library, Muncie, Indiana
- Organized and shelved library materials
 - Assisted patrons with library resources
- 2009 *Farmhand*
Ring Family Farm, near Muncie, Indiana
- Planted, maintained, and harvested produce at small-scale local organic farm
 - Delivered fresh produce to grocery for sale
- 2008-2009 *Personal Assistant*
Robert A. Roth, Chicago, Illinois
- Assisted in daily communications, office organization, filing
 - Maintained art collection database (named one of the 250 best art collections by Art & Antiques magazine in the “self-taught” category, 2008); prepared art shipments
 - Coordinated maintenance at Bob’s residence and rental properties (which are on the National Register of Historic Places)
- 2005-2007 *Program Coordinator*
Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago
- Oriented gallery visitors, provided gallery tours to school groups, coordinated and supervised volunteers, managed gift shop, handled correspondence, oversaw facility maintenance
 - Promoted all programming, wrote press releases, managed events, updated website
- 2005 *Teacher-Tutor*
The Princeton Review, Chicago
- Taught ACT test preparation skills to high school students

- Tutored fifth grade students after school as part of the federally funded Supplemental Education Services program

- 2003 *Archeological Field Technician*
Great Lakes Archeological Research Center, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- survey: Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie near Joliet, Illinois
- 2003 *Archeological Field Technician*
Quality Services, Inc., Rapid City, South Dakota
- surveys: Black Hills, South Dakota; BLM land near Gillette, Wyoming; Bridge-Teton National Forest near Lander, Wyoming
- 2001-2003 *Archeological Field Technician III*
The Louis Berger Group, Inc., Marion, Iowa
- surveys: near Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; near Sibley, Iowa
 - excavations: precontact site and historic farmhouse near Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
 - excavation: industrial site, Detroit, Michigan
 - survey: Fort Custer, near Battle Creek Michigan
- 2001 *Network Control Operator*
Minnesota Public Radio, St. Paul, Minnesota
- Oversaw general functioning of entire MPR audio network
 - Filled in as technical director for regional broadcast of All Things Considered

Teaching Appointments

- 2010-2012 *Graduate Assistant*
Department of Geography, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana
- Taught three lab sections of Geography 101 each fall and spring semester
 - Lectured, created presentations, graded papers, maintained office hours

Other Relevant Experience and Training

- 2022-present Education Justice Project, University of Illinois
- Assist incarcerated students at the Danville Correctional Center with the Writing and Math Partners program
- 2015-2024 Certified GIS Professional (GISP), currently lapsed
- 2011 Intern with Delaware County Department of Geographic Information Systems
- Completed food access analysis of food resources in the county
 - Delivered results to Community Development Office
- 2008 Volunteer field crew, archaeological field school in Coorong National Park in South Australia led by Professor Linley Wallis, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia

- 2005 Volunteer, The Field Museum in Chicago
- Assisted Dr. Scott Demel of the Collections Resource Center
 - catalogued early 20th Century artifacts collected during construction at The Field Museum
- 2004 Volunteer field crew, archeological field school in Central Mongolia led by Professor Francis Allard, Indiana University of Pennsylvania.
- Assisted in training and supervision of U.S. and Mongolian undergraduate students in survey methods and practice
 - Identified, recorded and mapped over 230 burial and ritual sites
- 1999 Lab technician, Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory, Salsbury Cove, Maine
- Summer lab research under the direction of Dr. Robert Preston, Illinois State University, Normal
 - Part of lab team running assays on d-amino acid concentrations of various marine tissues

Peer-Reviewed Publications and Reports

- 2014 Practicing GIS as mixed-method: affordances and limitations in an urban gardening study. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 104 (3): 510-529. (B. Preston and M. Wilson)
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00045608.2014.892325>

Other Publications and Reports

- 2023 Equity Analysis: Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Project. Erikson Institute, commissioned by Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development. Created maps, tables, and charts.
https://www.erikson.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Equity-Analysis-Report_FINALv2.pdf
- 2022 Prenatal to Three Supplement to the Illinois Risk and Reach Report. Erikson Institute. Created maps, tables, and charts.
<https://www.erikson.edu/applied-research/policy-leadership/early-childhood-data-reports/risk-reach-reports/>
- 2021 Illinois Risk and Reach Report (2019 Data). Erikson Institute. Created maps, tables, and charts.
<https://www.erikson.edu/applied-research/policy-leadership/early-childhood-data-reports/risk-reach-reports/>
- 2012 Urban gardening south of the tracks in Middletown, USA: an embedded qualitative GIS approach. M.S. Thesis. Ball State University, Department of Geography.
<http://cardinalscholar.bsu.edu/handle/20.500.14291/195945>

Professional Presentations

- 2025 A Long Way to Child Care: Examining Travel Times for Families Using the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Paper presented at the Sharing a Vision Conference, East Peoria, Illinois. (R. Covarrubias, **B. Preston**, and K. Dolan)
- 2024 Free tools for using data to tell a story. Paper presented at International Conference on Education and New Developments, Porto, Portugal. (R. Covarrubias, K. Andrew, G. Boise, and **B. Preston**)
- 2024 Developing the early childhood participation data set. Poster presented at International Conference on Education and New Developments, Porto, Portugal. (K. Andrew, **B. Preston**, and K. Dolan)
- 2023 Using IECAM to Connect Families and Practitioners. Paper presented at the Sharing a Vision Conference, East Peoria, Illinois. (D. Thomas, B. Koenig, and **B. Preston**)
- 2023 Developing the Illinois Early Childhood Participation Data Set. Paper presented at National Center for Education Statistics, NCES STATS-DC Data Conference, Bethesda, Maryland. (K. Andrew, **B. Preston**, and R. Covarrubias)
- 2016 'These Covenants are to Run with the Land...' Racially Restrictive Home Ownership in Delaware County, Indiana. Paper presented at URISA GIS-Pro 2016 Conference, Toronto.
- 2015 The Proposed Damming of the White River, Indiana. Poster presented at ESRI User Conference, San Diego, California.
- 2012 The Secret History of Urban Gardening in Muncie. Public program presented at Maring-Hunt Public Library, Muncie, Indiana.
- 2012 The Military-Industrial-Tomato Complex: urban gardening and political economy in Muncie, Indiana. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers, New York City.
- 2011 Mapping Food Access Disparities in Delaware County. Paper presented at the Association of American Geographers West Lakes Division, Chicago.
- 2011 A Qualitative GIS Approach to Documenting Edible Gardens in Middletown, USA. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Seattle, Washington.

Awards

- 2011 First Place, Association of American Geographers West Lakes Division Conference, Master's Student Paper Competition.

2010-2011 HASTAC Scholar, Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Advanced Collaboratory.

Independent Research

2021 The True Tale of Harry Gomer Young, a Child Worker in Muncie Who Died a Gruesome Death. Early 20th Century local history, Muncie, Indiana, published online at Medium.com.
<https://bryanprestonbryanpreston.medium.com/the-true-tale-of-harry-gomer-young-a-child-worker-in-muncie-who-died-a-gruesome-death-ec5260006ed5>

2018 Three-part series of articles in *The Star Press* newspaper, Muncie, Indiana, on the geography of racial segregation and housing development during the 20th Century in Muncie.
Part 1:
<https://www.thestarpress.com/story/opinion/contributors/2018/01/20/racial-restrictions-muncie-subdivisions-hidden-history-segregation/1048642001>
Part 2:
<https://www.thestarpress.com/story/opinion/contributors/2018/01/27/muncies-hidden-history-segregation-social-change/1068226001>
Part 3:
<https://www.thestarpress.com/story/opinion/contributors/2018/02/03/muncie-legacy-segregation-and-wealth-inequalities/301132002>