

Project title: Mapping the Geographies of White Supremacism in the United States, 2001-2008

Duration of Project: From: 1/16/2008  
Month / Day / Year

To: 5/10/2008 (completion date)  
Month / Day / Year

Funds Requested: (max. \$3000): \$996.00

**Description of Project:**

(In this space or on one separate sheet, provide a descriptive plan of the work you propose to undertake.)

A description of my research project is enclosed on a separate sheet.

**Project Goal:**

(Provide an explanation of what the final product/goal is for the project and how/when it will be demonstrated.)

The goal of this project is to demonstrate the analytical capabilities of cutting-edge Geographic Information Science (GIS) software in the examination and mapping of hate groups in the United States (U.S.) at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Boston, MA . Ultimately, the project will utilize advanced GIS technology to map the current extent of white supremacist hate groups in the U.S. and correlate them to census and hate crime data in order to uncover distinct spatial patterns. This project will also demonstrate how GIS technology can be used in conjunction with the new Adobe Creative Suite 3, specifically Illustrator and Flash, to create a series of static and interactive maps available to the public online. The series of static and interactive maps created from this experience along with a detailed 20-35 page paper explaining how to utilize new technology for monitoring hate groups and hate crimes, will be presented in a twenty minute speech during the AAG's Political Geography paper session. It is hoped that with feedback and suggestions from professional geographers at the AAG meeting, there will be the potential to continue this research project for publication in a scholarly journal.

**The proposal you submit with this application must include an itemized budget:**

(In the space provided or on a separate sheet, provide an itemized budget for your proposed project.)

\$165.00 for AAG conference registration

\$281.00 Round-trip airfare from Minneapolis to Boston on Northwest Airline

\$400.00 Hotel (4 nights at \$100.00/night)

\$150 for meals (5 days at \$30.00/day)

**Total Requested \$996.00**

Yes      No      Have you previously received a CLA Tech. Fund Grant? If yes, give date, project title, amount.

Past award recipients must have completed a final report and evaluation for all previous projects before they will be considered for another award.

Yes      No      Have you investigated the availability of other funds? If yes, please provide details:

I have presented my itemized budget to the Geography Department Chair Dr. Scott Freunds Schuh, who has informed me that there is not funding set aside for student travel in the Geography Department. Dr. Freunds Schuh agreed to forward my itemized budget to the CLA Dean in hopes of obtaining some funding. Dr. Freunds Schuh also suggested the CLA Technology Grant program, as my research project is based solely on the use of cutting-edge GIS and Graphic Design software.

Yes      No      Does this project involve the use of human subjects? If yes, you must receive approval from the Committee on the Use of Human Subjects in Research using their *Request for Approval* form. For more information about this topic go to the *Research Subjects' Protection Programs* webpage <http://www.research.umn.edu/subjects/index.cfm>  
Date Applied: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



## Project Description

### **Mapping the Geographies of White Supremacism in the United States, 2001-2008**

Within the last seven years, some white supremacist hate groups have experienced a tremendous revival in the United States (U.S.). This revival draws on so-called “hot button” issues to further perpetuate racist ideologies and white superiority. These issues include race, immigration, sexual orientation, and religion among others. White supremacist hate groups have successfully exploited these issues to their advantage and are rapidly increasing their presence throughout the U.S. While these groups still represent a fairly small portion of the American population, their resurgence has largely been ignored by mainstream American society. They are mythically viewed as “backward” extremist cults on the fringe who practice their beliefs of “Aryan Rule,” “Racial Holy War,” and “White Power” far away from the spaces of mainstream American Culture. With this research project, I hope to abolish this mythical view by demonstrating, through maps, that these groups are in fact directly present (and prefer to be so) in the spaces of mainstream American Culture. I will utilize cutting-edge Geographic Information Science (GIS) and graphic design software to create a series of maps that will explore the contemporary geographical patterns of white supremacist hate groups, and demonstrate that the vast majority of them are present and active in some of the most metropolitan areas of the U.S. Specifically, I will utilize the ArcGIS desktop Suite, in conjunction with Adobe Creative Suite 3, to develop several static and interactive maps for display online. The Internet provides an excellent medium for the dissemination of my maps, and ensures the broadest possible access to my research and conclusions. In addition to creating a series of maps, I will utilize the analytical capabilities of ArcGIS to correlate the distribution of hate groups with census and hate crime data, to uncover distinct spatial patterns of activity. Ultimately, this research will be used to uncover how current technological tools can be utilized to monitor criminal activity, and develop a methodology that can be replicated by any sector of society.