

# Kyle Davis

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## OBJECTIVE STATEMENT

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Here is my basic, all-encompassing, rationale for studying geography: I am interested in how human societies vary over space and time, and I hope to share my curiosity and findings with others. My goals are twofold: teaching college-level geography courses in ways that foster student engagement and interest while using spatial frameworks to conduct research on political science, cultural phenomena, and demographic change. To achieve this, I plan to obtain a PhD in Geography by 2029.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- Political Science / Electoral Geography
- Population Geography
- Urban / Rural Contrasts
- Latin America
- Cultural and Historical Geography
- Tourism
- Mountaineering

## EDUCATION

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<b>Doctor of Philosophy in Geography (in progress)</b> <i>University of Kansas</i>	2025 – Present Lawrence, KS
<b>Master of Arts in Geography</b> <i>University of Kansas</i>	2023 – 2025 Lawrence, KS
<b>Bachelor of Arts in Geography: Tourism Studies</b> <i>Brigham Young University</i>	2017 – 2023 Provo, UT

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Davis, K.S., Otterstrom, S.M., and Reeves, D.** 2025. Imported Toponymy and the FamilySearch Place Name Database: Mapping North American Communities with European Capital Namesakes. *Cartographica: The International Journal for Geographic Information and Geovisualization* 60(2): 78-92.

**Davis, K.S.** 2025. Homeless Republicans: Haley Voters and the 2024 Presidential Primary in Coastal South Carolina. *Southeastern Geographer* 65(1):101-118.

**Davis, K.S.** 2024. The Big Peach Divided: Demographic-Electoral Transitions and Geographic Polarization in Atlanta Metropolitan Area Counties. *Southeastern Geographer* 64(3):312-332.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**University of Kansas** Lawrence, KS  
*Graduate Teaching Assistant for Physical Geography Lab (Geog 105)* Aug 2025 – Present

- Supervised in-person lab.

*Graduate Teaching Assistant for Culture & Health (Geog 201)* Aug 2023 – May 2025

- Graded 120-150 assignments per week.
- Coordinated with students who fell behind on class work to get them caught up.
- Assisted in transition of the course from fully online to hybrid learning model.
- Experience with in-person teaching and online class format.

**Brigham Young University** Provo, UT  
*Teaching Assistant, Department of Geography* Sept 2021 – Apr 2023

- Created assignments and training materials to teach geographic concepts.
- Graded tests, essays, and other work for more than 20 students per semester.
- Led 3-4 discussions and test reviews each term.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Brigham Young University** Provo, UT  
*Research Assistant, Department of Geography* Dec 2017 – May 2023 (intermittent)

- Contributed findings to 2 geographic journal articles.
- Recorded data for more than 200 historic highway markers.
- Wrote a literature review and pioneered statistical methods for forthcoming article on toponymy.

## HONORS & AWARDS

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GTA Full Tuition Scholarship - KU Fall 2023 – Present

AAG World Geography Bowl Winning Team (GPRM Division) 2023

Utah Conference on Undergraduate Research: 2023  
Best in Social Sciences Poster Award (\$300)

Tuttle Scholarship Award (\$3,060) 2022-2023

Winter Teaching Assistant Award (\$500) 2022

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

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**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** Salt Lake City, UT  
*Full-Time Ecclesiastical Service* July 2018 – June 2020

- Provided over-the-phone patron support for FamilySearch, a non-profit genealogical website.

- Served as a tour guide in a history museum.
- Provided one-on-one tech training for seniors.

## PRESENTATIONS

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**Kyle Davis** and Samuel Otterstrom. 2023. “Now Growing Grapes: The Post-2012 Political Realignment of Orange County from Red to Purple”. Utah Conference of Undergraduate Research (UCUR), Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT. February.

**Kyle Davis.** 2022. “Red Halo in Retreat: The Emerging Republican Trend in Georgia’s Exurban Counties”. Mary Lou Fulton Conference, Provo, UT. December.

**Kyle Davis** and Samuel Otterstrom. 2022. “From Borrowing to Creating: The Evolution of American Toponyms, 1600 – 1870”. Association of American Geographers, Great Plains / Rocky Mountains Division Meeting, Denver, CO. October.

**Kyle Davis.** 2021. “Utahan, Utahn, Utahite: Evaluating Cultural Contrasts in the Beehive State”. Utah Conference of Undergraduate Research (UCUR), Annual Meeting [Virtual]. January.

**Kyle Davis.** 2018. “Similar Stories, Different Tales: Comparing Historical Highway Markers in Western and Eastern Oregon”. Mary Lou Fulton Conference, Provo, UT. April.

## REFERENCES

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Barney Warf  
University of Kansas  
Professor, Department of Geography and Atmospheric Science  
Graduate Mentor  
[bwarf@ku.edu](mailto:bwarf@ku.edu)

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