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College of Earth
and Mineral Sciences

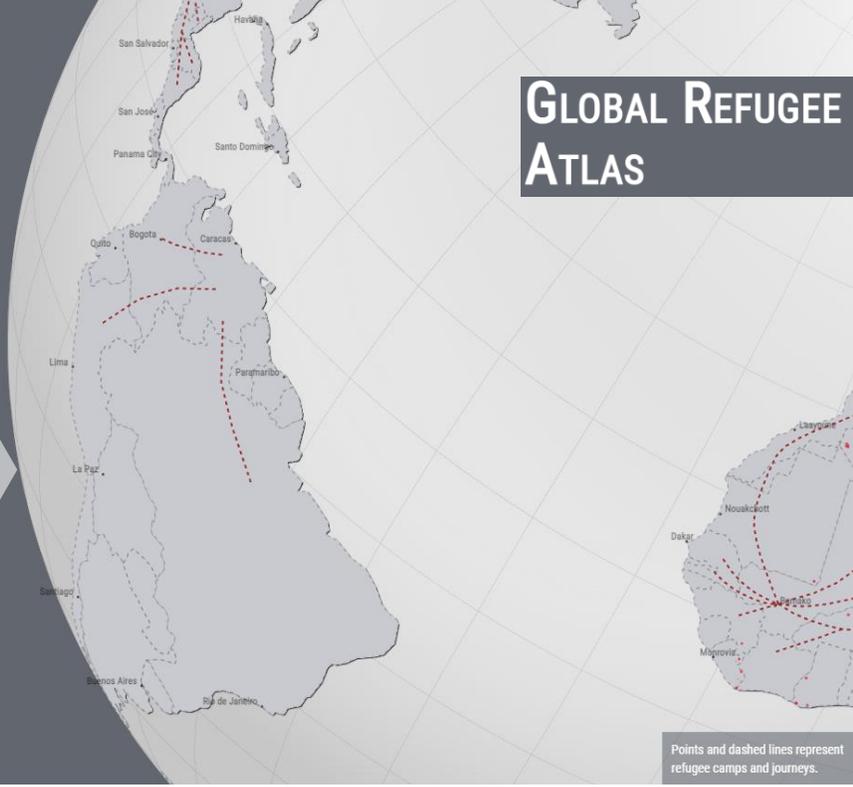
Department of Geography

Feb 3 | 3:30 PM

112 Walker
Building and Live
on [Zoom](#)

Refreshments at
3:20pm

**GLOBAL REFUGEE
ATLAS**



HUMANISTIC GIS: TOWARDS A RESEARCH AGENDA

Speaker: Dr. [Bo Zhao](#), Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Washington. Director of [Humanistic GIS Lab](#).

Abstract: The accelerated proliferation of geographic information systems (GIS), especially in the last decade, has greatly expanded the connotation of GIS technology from primarily a diverse suite of digital objects, representations, and devices that create or make use of geographical information to a mediated means with which we humans experience, explore, or make sense of the world. The research perspective of humanistic GIS is proposed to better encompass the expanded category of GIS technology as well as the opportunities and challenges that go with it. Humanistic GIS offers a coherent and systematic framework that integrates existing fragmented humanism-related GIS studies and reorients the epistemological foundation by situating GIS in its mediation of human experience. This epistemological configuration not only categorizes GIS through its embodiment, hermeneutic, autonomous, and background relations with the involved human and place but it also provides an analytical structure for examining the intertwined implications of a particular instantiation of GIS. This newly proposed humanistic perspective demonstrates a sincere quest to develop and use GIS in ways that will be more empathetic and better for humanity. Moreover, drawing inspiration from this humanistic perspective, Dr. Zhao has undertaken several web cartographic and geovisual projects, such as [the global refugee atlas](#), [the shifting LGBTQ+ urban spaces](#), and [the Archiving the CHOP](#). He will discuss these projects in the talk.