

October 13, 2020

Dr. Eric Nost is recruiting a Master of Arts in Geography (MA) student with interests in nature conservation, digital technologies and environmental governance, to start in Fall 2021. The student will complete a SSHRC-funded research project on North American conservationists' practices with and perspectives on digital data technologies.

Background: The project assesses how conservation organizations are using new data technologies in an era when data and analytical capabilities are both proliferating and questioned. Big data and algorithmic analysis promise these organizations the ability to track species, monitor ecosystem services, and target ecological restoration with unprecedented precision across large geographic scales. Data can be communicated and shared in highly visualized ways with government agencies and the general public, offering support for a variety of natural resource-related decisions. This era of 'digital conservation' is touted as transformative, with the potential to dramatically improve the efficiency, efficacy, and timeliness of environmental management. But is this potential being realized? If so, under what conditions and at what cost? If not, why?

Experience: The MA student will develop extensive project management experience. They will work closely with an undergraduate assistant in Summer 2022 to execute their research. In addition, a key component of the project involves knowledge mobilization alongside research participants and collaborators, including reporting back to the conservation community and development of material for a "Conservation Tools and Technology" course in the Department's recently launched [Master's of Conservation Leadership](#). The student will join a department community that includes the [Nature.Culture.Politics](#) group.

Guelph: The Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics offers guaranteed funding for all graduate students for the duration of the program, comprehensive support for fieldwork and research expenses, outstanding faculty dedicated to a collaborative model of graduate education and research-intensive, collegial department in one of Canada's top comprehensive universities. For additional details about the MA in Geography, please see [our website](#).

Prospective applicants should contact me via email - enost@uoguelph.ca - and forward an unofficial transcript, a resume or CV, and a statement outlining their interests as they relate to the project.



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