



Developing a Local University Ecosystem: Transdisciplinary, Collaborative Local Scholarship

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Transdisciplinary collaboration between local universities can thrive when scholars combine resources and begin to create projects with a local audience in mind. The Atlanta Studies Network supports an interdisciplinary group of scholars, students, instructors, professionals, and community members who engage with the Atlanta metro area as a space for research, teaching, and activism. Through the development of digital resources, events, methods, projects, and platforms this network seeks to promote research and understanding of Atlanta's past, present, and prospective future. Over the past 8 years, the network has created a geospatial storytelling platform that combines thousands of maps from multiple institutions, a teaching site where

k-12 and college instructors can share assignments and syllabi focused on our city, an online journal with thousands of readers, digital museums about historically significant spaces in the city, and many other events, projects, and resources. This presentation will provide an overview of the Atlanta Studies Network with a particular focus on mapping, 3D visualization, and digital curation.

Brennan Collins is the Associate Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at Georgia State University for Digital Pedagogy and Atlanta Studies. The interdisciplinary nature and technology focus of these program allows him to work with a diverse faculty in exploring inventive pedagogies. He is particularly interested in creating transdisciplinary and interinstitutional projects and platforms that explore the urban landscape to develop student critical thinking and create opportunities for community engagement. This work explores the intersection of the Humanities with the emerging fields of mapping, digital heritage, data visualization and curation, and immersive learning. He teaches courses in Multiethnic U.S. Literature and comics.