

Benjamin Forest

Department of Geography:
McGill University
805 Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal, Quebec, H3A 2K6
Canada

Phone: 514-398-4953
Email: benjamin.forest@mcgill.ca

Current Position: Associate Professor, Department of Geography, McGill University

Education:

Ph.D. Geography -- University of California, Los Angeles. (1997).
Dissertation: *Mapping Democracy: Space, Region and Race in Contemporary Voting Rights Litigation.*

M.A. Geography -- University of California, Los Angeles. (1991).
Masters Thesis: *Political Territory and Symbol: West Hollywood, Gays and Rent Control.*

A.B. Geography, Honors and General Honors -- The College, University of Chicago. (1988).

Current Research Interests:

Identity and citizenship; the social impacts of Geographic Information Systems; geography and law; nationalism and national identity; race, gender, and sexuality; geographic thought.

Refereed Publications:

Jackson, Jeremy, Benjamin Forest, and Raja Sengupta (forthcoming 2008) "Agent-Based Simulation of Urban Residential Dynamics and Land Rent Change in a Gentrifying Area of Boston," *Transactions in GIS* 12 (4).

Forest, Benjamin (2005) "The Changing Demographic, Legal and Technological Contexts of Political Representation." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 102(43): 15331–15336.

- Forest, Benjamin, Juliet Johnson, and Karen Till (2008) "Post-Totalitarian National Identity: Public Memory in Germany and Russia," *Social and Cultural Geography* 5(3): 357-380. (2004).
- Forest, Benjamin (2004) "Information Sovereignty and GIS: The Evolution of 'Communities of Interest' in Political Redistricting." *Political Geography* 22(4): 425-451.
- Jain, Neelu and Benjamin Forest (2004) "From Religion to Ethnicity: The Identity of Immigrant and Second Generation Indian Jains in the United States,". *National Identities* 6 (3): 277-298.
- Reprinted in *Sociology of Diaspora: A Reader, volume II*, edited by Ajaya K. Sahoo and Brij Maharaj (Jaipur, India: Rawat Publications). (2007).
- Forest, Benjamin (2004) "Legal Logics of Scale and Racial Consciousness in Affirmative Action Jurisprudence." *Urban Geography* 25(1): 31-41.
- Forest, Benjamin (2004) "The Legal (De)Construction of Geography: Space and Race in Supreme Court Redistricting Decisions." *Social and Cultural Geography* 5(1): 55-73.
- Forest, Benjamin (2002) "Hidden Segregation? The Limits of Geographically Based Affirmative Action." *Political Geography* 21 (7): 855-880.
- Forest, Benjamin and Juliet Johnson (2002) "Unraveling the Threads of History: Soviet-Era Monuments and Post-Soviet National Identity in Moscow" *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 92 (3): 524-547.
- Forest, Benjamin (2001) "Mapping Democracy: Racial Identity and the Quandary of Political Representation." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 91(1): 143-166.
- Forest, Benjamin (1996) "Regionalism in Election District Jurisprudence." *Urban Geography*. 17(7): 572-578.
- Forest, Benjamin (1996) "Where Should Democratic Compromise Take Place? (Review essay of *The Tyranny of the Majority* (1994) by Lani Guinier)." *Social Science Quarterly* 77 (1): 6-13.
- Forest, Benjamin (1995) "Taming Race: The Role of Space in Voting Rights Litigation." *Urban Geography* 16 (2): 98-111.
- Forest, Benjamin (1995) "West Hollywood as Symbol: The Significance of Place in the Construction of a Gay Identity." *Society and Space* 13 (2): 133-157.
- Reprinted in *The City: Critical Concepts in the Social Sciences, volume IV*, edited by Michael Pacione (London and New York: Routledge (2002)).

Reprinted in *Political Geography: A Reader*, edited by John Agnew. London and New York: Edward Arnold. (1997).

Reprinted in *Undoing Place?: Geographical Reader*, edited by Linda McDowell. London and New York: Edward Arnold. (1997).

Edited Volumes:

Johnson, Juliet, Marietta Stepaniants, and Benjamin Forest (2005) *Religion and Identity in Modern Russia: The Revival of Orthodoxy and Islam*. Post-Soviet Politics series, Ashgate Publishing. A 160-page collection by Russian and American scholars addressing the historical and contemporary relationships between national identity and the two major religions of Russia.

Forest, Benjamin, editor. (2000). *Historical Geography 28: Geography, Law and Legal Geographies*, with editorial introduction, "Placing the Law in Geography." A 150-page compilation with seven articles on topics including privacy, citizenship, welfare obligations, and property.

Book Chapters:

Forest, Benjamin (forthcoming 2009). "Political Representation", in the *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, edited by Rob Kitchin and Nigel Thrift. Elsevier.

Forest, Benjamin (forthcoming 2008). "Concepts géographiques dans la loi: échelle, ségrégation et les minorités raciales", in *Droit et Géographie*, edited by Parick Forest. Collection Dikè. Presses de l'Université Laval.

Forest, Benjamin (2008). "The Territorial Politics of Representation", in *The Handbook of Political Geography*, edited by Kevin Cox, Murray Low, and Jennifer Robinson. SAGE Publications: 375-388.

Forest, Benjamin and Juliet Johnson (2007). "Post-Soviet Monuments" (p. 395); "Mamaev Kurgan" (p. 372); "Iurii (Mikhailovich) Luzhkov" (p. 367); and "Zurab Tsereteli" (p. 640), in the *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Russian Culture*, edited by Tatiana Smorodinskaya, Karen Evans-Romaine, and Helena Goscilo. Routledge.

Forest, Benjamin (2002). "A New Geography of Identity? Race, Ethnicity and American Citizenship" in *American Space/American Place: Geographies of the United States on the Threshold of a New Century*, edited by John Agnew and Jonathan Smith. University of Edinburgh Press: 231-263.

Editorial:

Forest, Benjamin (2003). "A Policy That Depends on Segregation." *New York Times* Op-Ed page, March 29.

Reprinted in *The Best American Political Writing 2003*, edited by Royce Flippin. New York: Thunder's Mouth Press. (2003).

Work in Progress:

Forest, Benjamin (forthcoming 2009). "Electoral Geography" in *Encyclopedia of Geography*, edited by Barney Warf. Sage Publications.

Forest, Benjamin. "Geographic Narratives and Principles of Political Representation: Constructing Constituencies in Boundary Commission Hearings."

Forest, Benjamin. "Redistricting, Population Deviation and Minority Representation in Canada and US", in *Revitalizing Electoral Geography*, edited by Barney Warf and Jonathan Leib.

Reviews:

Review of *Who Am I? An Autobiography of Emotion, Mind and Spirit* (1999) by Yi-Fu Tuan. *Cultural Geographies* 9(4) (2002).

Review of *Geography and Ethics: Journeys in a Moral Terrain* (1999) edited by James D. Proctor and David M. Smith. *Society and Space* 19(3): 376-377. (2001).

Review of *Race, Place, and the Law, 1836-1948* (1998) by David Delaney. *Professional Geographer* 52(3) 570-572. (2000).

Review of *Mapping Desire: The Geographies of Sexualities* (1995) edited by David Bell and Gill Valentine. *Society and Space* 16(2): 249-251. (1998).

Review of *City Life: Urban Expectations in a New World* (1995) by Witold Rybczynski. *Historical Geography* 26. (1998).

Review of *Vancouver's Chinatown: Racial Discourse in Canada, 1875-1980* (1991) by Kay J. Anderson. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 86(4): 794-96. (1996).

Review of *Law, Space, and the Geographies of Power* (1994) by Nicholas K. Blomley. *Social Science Quarterly* 77(4): 941-42. (1996).

Grants, Awards and Fellowships:

Grant, Co-Principal Investigator, Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2008-2011)

Three-year grant to study the dynamics of national identity in the post-Communist region through an analysis of symbolic landscapes. Project title: *The Power of Symbolic Capital: Political Struggles over Monuments and Memorials in the Post-Communist World* (\$104,000)

Grant, Principal Investigator, Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2007-2010)

Three-year grant to study the role of GIS technology in the creation of electoral districts in Canada and the United States. Project title: *Geographic Information Systems and Political Representation in Canada and the United States* (\$96,000).

SPACE Instructional Development Award (2006)

Award from the Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science to develop a GIS-based redistricting exercise for undergraduate students (\$1250).

Fellow in the “Cyber-Disciplinarity” Institute, Leslie Center for the Humanities, Dartmouth College (2005).

Jack E. Thomas '74 Fellowship, Dartmouth College (2004).

Award from the Dean of Faculty to support teaching and research (\$2,000).

J. Kenneth Huntington Memorial Award, Dartmouth College (2004).

Award for excellence in teaching for newly tenured faculty (\$2,000).

Rockefeller Scholar, Rockefeller Center for the Social Sciences, Dartmouth College (2002-04).

Fellowship program for junior faculty providing a research stipend. (\$2,500-3,000 annually).

Grant, Computing Technology Venture Fund, Dartmouth College (2003).

Award to develop a website, GIS application and computer simulation to display and analyze racial and ethnic residential segregation. Project title: *Visualizing Segregation: Understanding Population Segregation and Diversity with GIS* (\$6,000).

Grant, College Course Committee, Dartmouth College (2003).

Grant to develop an interdisciplinary class with Jennifer Richeson (Psychological and Brain Sciences) on race, racialization and racism (\$1,000).

Faculty Fellowship, Dartmouth College (2002).

Competitive fellowship providing release from two classes in winter quarter 2002.

Grant, Rockefeller Center for the Social Sciences, Dartmouth College, Urban and Regional Studies Grant (2001-2002).

Principal investigator. Competitive grant funding to study the legal and political impacts of GIS on redistricting and representation. Project title: *Shaping Representation: Geographic Information Systems and Electoral Redistricting After the 2000 Census*. (\$20,000).

Grant, Ford Foundation (2001-2003).

Co-principal investigator. Grant to organize, administer and coordinate a network of Russian and American scholars with research interests in nationalism and national identity in Russia and areas of the former Soviet Union. The Russia group is part of the multi-regional Collaborative Research Network (CRN) on "Identifications," whose other research teams work in France, Thailand, and China. Included conferences and workshops in Moscow (December 2000, June 2001) and Chiang Mai, Thailand (July 2001). Project title: *Situating Russia: Imperial Spaces, National Boundaries* (\$130,000).

Grant, Rockefeller Center for the Social Sciences, Dartmouth College, Urban and Regional Studies Grant (1999-2001).

Co-principal investigator with Juliet Johnson. Competitive grant funding for a study of Russian national identity. Project title: *Unraveling the Threads of National Identity: The Politics of Russian and Soviet Monuments*. (\$10,000).

Grant, Association of American Geographers, Anne White Fund (1999).

Co-principal investigator with Juliet Johnson. Competitive grant funding for a study of Russian national identity. Project title: *Unraveling the Threads of National Identity: The Politics of Russian and Soviet Monuments*. (\$2,000).

Grant, Walter and Constance Burke Research Initiation Award for Junior Faculty, Dartmouth College (1998-2004).

Substantial six-year grant to purchase computer equipment and to fund ongoing research activities.

Finalist, Nystrom Dissertation Award Competition. Association of American Geographers. (1998). One of nine finalists selected to present dissertation research at Annual Meeting.

Grant, American Philosophical Society, H. M. Phillips Committee on Jurisprudence. (1998)

Competitive grant funding a study of the use of GIS technology for redistricting in Texas and Illinois. Project title: *Shaping Representation: The Role of Geographic Information Systems Technology and Racial Consciousness in Congressional Redistricting*. (\$2,400).

Co-winner, Cultural Geography Specialty Group Student Paper Competition. (1996).

Award for best paper in Cultural Geography presented by a student at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers.

Law and Society Association Summer Institute in Sociolegal Studies. (1996).
Invitation and funding to attend a four-day institute for sociolegal scholars to promote the study of democratic theory, practice and institutions.

Law and Society Association Graduate Student Workshop. (1996).
Invitation and funding to attend a two-day workshop for graduate students. Held in conjunction with the Law and Society Association meeting in Glasgow, Scotland.

Grant, Association of American Geographers, Otis P. Starkey Dissertation Research Fund. (1996).
Competitive grant for dissertation research.

American Bar Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. (1994-96).
Two-year residential fellowship with substantial stipend and research funds to facilitate completion of dissertation.

Henry J. Bruman Fellowship in Cultural Historical Geography. (1994-95).
Annual award with stipend for outstanding student in Cultural Historical geography.
Granted by Department of Geography, UCLA.

Ford Foundation's Ethnic-Women Curriculum Transformation Project. (1991).
One semester seminar to incorporate the study of ethnic and gender issues in social science education.

Chancellor's Fellowship for Graduate Study. (1988-91).
Three-year fellowship with substantial stipend and tuition support for graduate study at UCLA.

Phi Beta Kappa. (1988).
Elected at the University of Chicago during final year of college.

Outstanding Senior in Geography. (1988).
Annual award granted by the Illinois Geographical Society.

Invited Lectures:

“Redistricting, Population Deviation and Minority Representation in Canada and the US”

Revitalizing Electoral Geography Miniconference, Florida State University. May 2008

“Geographic Narratives and Principles of Political Representation: Constructing Constituencies in Boundary Commission Hearings”

L'espace Politique: Concepts et Echelles, l'Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne (URCA). May 2008

“The Power of Symbolic Capital: Political Struggles over Monuments and Memorials in the Post-Communist World”

Fourth Interdisciplinary Symposium on Knowledge and Space: Cultural Memories, Villa Bosch Studio, University of Heidelberg. September 2007

“Spatial Dimensions of Political Representation: Understanding Gerrymandering Through GIS”

University Consortium for Geographic Information Science, Summer Assembly. June 2006

“Building a Better Gerrymander? The Use of Geographic Information Systems for Political Redistricting.”

McGill University, Department of Geography. May 2005.
Arizona State University, Department of Geography. May 2005.
Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic), Department of Social Geography and Regional Development. May 2004.
Dartmouth College, Rockefeller Center for the Social Sciences. January 2004.

“Segregation, Racial Consciousness and the Limits of Geographically Based Affirmative Action, or ‘One Cheer for the Texas Plan’.”

Department of Geography, UCLA. February 2003.

“Unraveling the Threads of History: Soviet-Era Monuments and Post-Soviet National Identity in Moscow” (with Juliet Johnson).

Middlebury College, Rohatyn Center for International Affairs, April 2005.
Czech Geographical Society and Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic), Department of Social Geography and Regional Development. May 2002.
Stanford University, Center for Russian and East European Studies. November 2001.
Chiang Mai University (Thailand), Collaborative Research Network. June 2001.
Dartmouth College, Rockefeller Center for the Social Sciences. March 2001.

“A Critical Geopolitics of American Electoral Redistricting in the 1990s.”

Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic), Department of Social Geography and Regional Development. May 2000.

“Hidden Segregation? The Limits of Geographically Based Affirmative Action.”

University of Connecticut, Department of Geography. April 1999.
Dartmouth College, Department of Sociology. March 1999.

“Mapping Democracy: Political Representation and the Quandary of Racial Identity.”

University of Wisconsin at Madison, Department of Geography. March 1999.

“Mapping Democracy: Space, Region and Race in American Political Representation.”

Texas A&M University, Department of Geography. March 1998.

Dartmouth College, Department of Geography. February 1998.

Arizona State University, School of Justice Studies. January 1998.

Ohio State University, Department of Geography. January 1998.

“Race and Regionalism.”

University of Illinois at Chicago, Department of Sociology. March 1997.

“Mapping Democracy: Space, Region and Race in Contemporary Voting Rights Litigation.”

University of Washington, Department of Geography. January 1997.

Positions, Teaching Experience, and Service:

McGill University, Department of Geography.

University Service: *SSHRC/McGill Majors Evaluation Committee* (2007-)

Department service: *Graduate Admissions and Recruitment Director* (2008-); *Undergraduate Honors Advisor* (2008-); *Graduate Affairs Committee* (2007-), *Equity Committee* (2006-)

Teaching: *Advanced Political Geography* (graduate); *Methods of Geographical Research* (graduate); *Political Geography* (undergraduate); *The Canadian City* (undergraduate).

Dartmouth College, Department of Geography.

Associate Professor (2004-2006).

Assistant Professor (1998-2004).

Rockefeller Scholar (2002-2004).

Service: *Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid* (2004-2005); *Council on Graduate Studies* (1999-2000).

Teaching: *Power, Territoriality and Political Geography*; *Race, Rights and Identity: Geographic Perspectives on Law*; *Introduction to Human Geography*; *Geography Foreign Study Program, Prague, Czech Republic*; *Monuments, Memorials and*

Memory (first-year seminar); Introduction to Quantitative Techniques in Geography; Research and Field Geography.

Stanford University, Visiting Scholar (2001-2002).

University of Illinois at Chicago, Department of Sociology.

Visiting Assistant Professor (1997-98); Visiting Lecturer (1996-97).

Service: *Graduate Committee; Race, Ethnicity and Gender Concentration Committee*

Teaching: *Race and Ethnic Relations, Social Problems, Introduction to Sociological Statistics.*

Northwestern University, Department of Sociology. Adjunct Lecturer. (1997).

DePaul University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Part-time Instructor (1997)

American Bar Foundation, Chicago, Illinois. Doctoral Fellow. (1994-96).

University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Geography. Instructor. (1993).

University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Geography and the Honors College.
Teaching Assistant. (1989-94).

University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Geography. Graduate Research Assistant
(1992-93).

University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Geography. Reader. (1992-93).

Professional Service:

Constitution and By-laws Committee, Association of American Geographers (2008-)

Editorial Board Member, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* (2007-)

Editorial Board Member, *Law and Society Review* (2004-2006).

Discussant, "Symbolic Landscapes and Contested Sovereignty, II." Annual Convention of the
Association of American Geographers, April 5-9, Denver, Colorado. (2005).

Discussant, "Placing Race and Identity: Politics and Performance." Annual Convention of the
Association of American Geographers, March 4-8, New Orleans, Louisiana. (2003).

International Activities Committee, Law and Society Association. Member (2003-04), Chair (2002-2003).

Co-organizer, “Organizing Identity: Race in Institutions and Popular Perception” and “Commemoration, Memory and the Creation of Political Community.” Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, February 27-March 3, New York, New York. (2001).

Judge, Cultural Geography Specialty Group Student Paper Competition. (1998).

Organizer, “The Law of Space and Place: Towards an Interpretive Legal Geography.” Joint Meetings of Law and Society Association and Research Committee on Sociology of Law, July 10-13, Glasgow, Scotland. (1996).

Organizer and Chair, “Culture and the Critical Geographies of Law I and II.” Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, April 9-13, Charlotte, North Carolina. (1996).

Discussant, “Historical Geography of American Elections: 20th Century and Longitudinal Perspectives.” Social Science History Association Meeting, November 16-19, Chicago, Illinois. (1995).

Graduate Student Representative, UCLA Geography Department Colloquium Series. (1992-94).

Co-Chair, UCLA Geography Graduate Students Lecture Series. (1990-92).

Professional Membership:

Association of American Geographers
Canadian Association of Geographers
Law and Society Association