

Sonja Heer Yow

Home Address: 220 Savanna Drive
Richmond, KY 40475

Business Address: Department of Geography and Geology
Eastern Kentucky University
211A Roark Building
521 Lancaster Avenue
Richmond, KY 40475
Sonja.Yow@eku.edu

Present Position: Lecturer, Geography and Geology
Eastern Kentucky University

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

August 2003- University of Kentucky Lexington, KY
May 2008 Department: Curriculum and Instruction
Ed.D. Major: Social Studies Education
Concentration: Geographic Education
Dissertation: Making Sense of Human/Environmental Interaction:
Student Dialogue Focused on Visual Representations
of Environmental Change Over Time

June 1997- University of South Carolina Columbia, SC
May 1998 Department: Geography
I.M.A. Major: Geographic Education

August 1992- University of South Carolina Columbia, SC
May 1997 Majors: Geography & Secondary Education
B.A. Minor: German
Grade Point Average: 3.6 *cum laude*

Summer 1995 Kantonales Lehrer/Lehrerinnen Seminar Luzern, Switzerland
Study Abroad Focus: Teacher Education

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Students' and teachers' conceptions of different geographical and environmental phenomena, K-12 in national contexts
- The development of geographic thinking
- The use of educational technology in social studies instruction

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

- June 2008 **Salvatore J. Natoli Dissertation Award**
National Council for Geographic Education
- June 2007 **E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Research Grant**
National Council for Geographic Education
- May 1997 **Julian J. Petty Award for Scholarly Excellence**
Department of Geography, University of South Carolina

CERTIFICATIONS

- South Carolina State Teacher's Certificate, EA Social Studies,
valid through 2013
- Kentucky Commonwealth Teacher's Certificate, Social Studies
Grades 5-12, valid through 2008
- Kentucky Teacher Internship Program Teacher Observer, 2004
- National Board Certified Teacher for Early Adolescence Social
Studies/History, 2002
- Gifted and Talented Teaching Endorsement, 2001
- South Carolina Geographic Alliance Teacher Consultant, 1997

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2008 University of Kentucky Lexington, KY
University Supervisor, MIC Secondary Social Studies Program
Responsibilities include supervising and teleconferencing via i-
chat with Master's level secondary social studies student teachers.
- Fall 2007 University of Kentucky Lexington, KY
Graduate Assistant, Kathy Swan, Ph.D., Secondary Social
Studies
Responsibilities included continuous assessment and mentoring of
undergraduate and Master's level secondary social studies
students.
- Fall 2006–
Spring 2007 University of Kentucky Lexington, KY
Program Coordinator I, Office of Field Experiences & School
Collaboration
Responsibilities included placing practicum and student teachers in
the field and acting as the liaison between the university and public
schools.

Spring 2006	<p>University of Kentucky Lexington, KY Instructor and University Supervisor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction Responsibilities included teaching EDC 326 (Teaching Social Studies in the Elementary School) and supervising middle school student teachers.</p>
Fall 2005	<p>University of Kentucky Lexington, KY Instructor and University Supervisor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction Responsibilities included teaching EDC 349 (Middle School Practicum Seminar) and supervising middle school student teachers.</p>
Summer 2005	<p>Eastern Kentucky University Richmond, KY Instructor, Department of Geography Responsibilities included teaching GEO 200 (World and Regional Geography) & GEO 701 (Geography for Teachers)</p>
Summer 2005	<p>University of Kentucky Lexington, KY Research Assistant, Penny Howell, Ed.D., Middle School Program Responsibilities included research and data collection related to National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)</p>
Spring 2005	<p>University of Kentucky Lexington, KY Teaching Assistant and University Supervisor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction Responsibilities included assisting with EDC 346 (Subject Area Instruction in the Secondary School) and supervising Master's level secondary social studies student teachers.</p>
Fall 2004	<p>University of Kentucky Lexington, KY Teaching Assistant and University Supervisor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction Responsibilities included assisting with EDC 343 (Middle School Practicum) and supervising middle school practicum students.</p>
2003-2004	<p>Estill Middle School Irvine, KY Teacher Responsibilities included teaching vocational skills, grades 6-8.</p>
2002-2003	<p>Lexington High School Lexington, SC Teacher</p>

- Responsibilities included teaching block World Geography and World History classes, grades 9-12.
- 1998–2002 Dent Middle School Columbia, SC
Teacher
 Responsibilities included teaching social studies & literature in a gifted and talented, extended-day, magnet program, grade 7.
- Spring 1998 South Carolina Geographic Alliance Columbia, SC
Graduate Assistant
 Responsibilities included creating a database of geography lesson plans for K-12 teachers.
- Fall 1997 Southeast Regional Climate Center Columbia, SC
Graduate Assistant
 Responsibilities included creating climate and weather-related lesson plans & activities for K-12 teachers.
- Spring 1997 Lexington High School Lexington, SC
Student Teacher
 Responsibilities included teaching World Geography, grades 10-12.
- Summer 1994-
 Summer 1997 Carolina Country Club Spartanburg, SC
Summer Swim League Coach & Instructor
 Responsibilities included coaching beginning, intermediate and advanced swimmers, ages 4-18.

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Journal Article

Yow, S.H. (Submitted). Making Sense of Human/Environmental Interaction: Student Dialogue Focused on Visual Representations of Environmental Change. *Journal of Geography*.

Book Chapter

Yow, S.H. & Swan, K.O. (Forthcoming). If You Build It, Should I Run?: A teacher's perspective on implementing a student-centered, digital technology project in his ninth-grade Geography classroom. In Lee, J. & Friedman, A. (Eds.) *Research on technology and social studies education*. Greenwich, CT: Information Age Press.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- November 2006 **College and University Faculty Assembly of the National Council for the Social Studies**
If You Build It, Should I Run?: A teacher's perspective on implementing a student-centered, digital technology project in his ninth-grade Geography classroom
- September 2006 **Kentucky Council for the Social Studies**
Using Geographic Inquiry in the Secondary Classroom
- November 2005 **College and University Faculty Assembly of the National Council for the Social Studies**
A Window to the World: Teacher's Conceptions of Technology Use in the Geography Classroom
- October 2005 **National Council for Geographic Education**
Our View: Creating Geographical Documentaries
- September 2005 **Kentucky Council for the Social Studies**
Capturing Geography: Using Digital Technologies in Today's Classroom
- March 2004 **American Association of Geography**
Geography and Citizenship
- January 2002 **South Carolina Teachers of English**
The Paperback Safari: Exploring Africa through Juvenile Literature
- September 2001 **National Council for Geographic Education**
A Novel Way to Study Geography
- August 2001 **South Carolina Geographic Alliance**
An Integrated Approach: Using Literature in the Geography Classroom
- August 1998 **South Carolina Geographic Alliance**
Summer Institutes and the Pre-service Experience

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- October 2007 **EDC 632 (Secondary Social Studies Methods)**
Theory into Practice—Geography in the Secondary Classroom

October 2006 **EDC 724 (Guiding and Analyzing Effective Teaching)**
The National Board Certification Process

October 2006 **EDC 632 (Secondary Social Studies Methods)**
What is Where, Why There, and Who Cares?

November 2005 **EDC 632 (Secondary Social Studies Methods)**
Geography—Who Cares?

CONSULTING

Summer 2005 **American Legacies II: Teaching American History Research Grant**
Responsibilities include participating in and evaluating a three-day bus tour designed to help teachers strengthen their knowledge of Kentucky and U.S. History.

SERVICE

2008 – Present Kentucky Geographic Alliance Steering Committee

2003 – 2008 Program Faculty: Master’s in Curriculum (MIC) Social Studies
University of Kentucky

2003 – 2008 Program Faculty: Middle School Program
University of Kentucky

2002-2003 Site-Based Decision Making Council Team Representative
Estill Middle School, Irvine, KY

2000-2002 National Beta Club Sponsor
Dent Middle School, Columbia, SC

Spring 1997 Junior Varsity Cheerleading Coach
Lexington High School, Lexington SC

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- The American Association of Geographers (AAG), Geography Education Special Interest Group (SIG)
- The American Educational Research Association (AERA)
- The Kentucky Council for the Social Studies (KCSS)
- The Kentucky Geographic Alliance (KGA)
- The National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE)

- The National Council for the Social Studies & College and University Faculty Association (NCSS & CUFA), Geography SIG, Graduate Student SIG
- The National Geographic Society (NGS)
- The South Carolina Geographic Alliance (SCGA)
- The Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers (SEDAAG)