Tracing Georgia's Evolving Regional Innovation and Entrepreneurship Landscape

Host Community Project Lead(s):

Dr. Paige Clayton, Assistant Professor, City & Regional Planning, Georgia Tech

Physical Project Work Location:

Atlanta, GA and remotely

Project Description:

The Georgia Entrepreneurship project is a part of a longer-term project focused on tracing Georgia's entrepreneurship and innovation landscape. The objectives of the research are to:

1) Characterize the geography of innovation and entrepreneurship in Georgia with a focus on strategic, targeted industries,

2) Understand patterns and reasons for movement of entrepreneurs and innovative activity across, out, and into Georgia, and

3) Use the knowledge gained from objectives (1) and (2) to create a needs and opportunity assessment with actionable recommendations to promote cooperation for equitable technology and entrepreneurship-based economic development.

The interns will support these objectives by collecting data and assisting the development of the relational PLACE: Georgia Database. Data collection will involve compiling and cleaning secondary sources, scraping and web-based searches, and interviews with entrepreneurs and individuals that support entrepreneurs, such as those working at incubators, economic development agencies, and maker spaces. There may be opportunities to visit these sites.

The project is looking for interns who are interested in data collection and data analysis from a quantitative and qualitive perspective. Preferred candidates will be interested in learning more about technology and entrepreneurship-based economic development and engaging in local communities to collect data and conduct interviews. The interns should expect to work together. Learn more about the project here.

Project Learning Goals:

Greater understanding of how innovation and entrepreneurship happen, of their role in economic development, and of barriers to inclusion and how they can be overcome. Improved skills in coding, writing and communication, interviewing, and qualitative data analysis. Experience in gathering difficult to trace data and in relational database building.

Top Desired Intern Skills:

Strong communication and interpersonal skills, self-motivated, timely, and diligent. Either strong coding skills (preferably R, Stata, or Python) and web scraping background *or* exceptional communication skills, interviewing and interview analysis/coding (Atlas.ti or similar) experience, and an interest improving data skills.

Intern Deliverables:

The interns will produce research material related to the GA database project and may also take part in informational presentations about the project and contribute to a report. Interns will keep a weekly log of activities and summarize their progress and learnings in a brief report at the end of the summer.