

## **DR. BENJAMIN NORRIS SMITH**

**Assistant Professor**

**Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies**

**Florida International University**

**Modesto Madique Campus**

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### **Education**

**Ph.D. Geography**, Graduate School, University of Kentucky (May 2008)

*Dissertation:* “Dubai, Landscape and the Production of Attractive Markets.” Advisor: Richard Schein.

**M.A. Geography**, Graduate School, University of Kentucky (May 2003)

*Masters Paper:* “If there were no tourists in Oaxaca then we could ‘really’ learn on our fieldtrips.” Advisor: Richard Schein.

**B.S.J. Public Relations**, E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University, Geography minor, (May 2000)

#### **Education Abroad:**

*Kentucky/Nottingham Geography Graduate Student Exchange*, Nottingham, United Kingdom (Dec 2005)

*UK Geography Oaxaca Semester Program*, Oaxaca, Mexico Spring (2001)

*University of Wales, Swansea, Student Exchange*, United Kingdom (1998-9)

### **Academic Specializations**

**Cultural Landscape** and how it impacts the production of differences such as regionality and gender

**Cultural Economy** and how business cultures reflect and effect everyday life

**Persian Gulf Oil Cities** and their position in processes of, and discourses about, globalization

### **Research Funding, Academic Honors and Awards**

#### **Professional:**

New Faculty Research Support Grant, Florida International University “Production of Landscape and Markets in Dubai.” (2007) \$3000

Summer Faculty Development Award, College of Arts and Sciences “Impacts of the Global Financial Crisis on the Urban Geography of Dubai” (2009) \$6500

#### **Graduate:**

Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award for project “Dubai, Landscape, and the Production of Attractive Markets (BCS-0526240),” National Science Foundation, (2005-2007) \$11,865

Presidential Fellowship, Graduate School, University of Kentucky, (2004 – 2005) \$14,400

Research Challenge Trust Fund Fellow, The Graduate School, University of Kentucky, (2000-2001) \$11,000

## Publications

- Smith, Benjamin. "Scared by/for/of/in Dubai". *Social and Cultural Geography*. (Accepted)
- Smith, Benjamin. "Engineering New Geographies with the Burj Dubai" in *Engineering Earth: The Impact of Mega-Engineering Projects*, edited by Stan Brunn and Andrew Wood. Kluwer. (Forthcoming 2009)
- Smith, Benjamin. "The Great Ports Panic of 2006" *Middle East Report*, 247. (2008)
- Smith, Benjamin. "Visualizing Wal-Mart as Home: *Where the Heart Is* and *King of the Hill*." in *Wal\*Mart World: The World's Biggest Corporation in the Global Economy*, edited by Stan Brunn. Routledge. (2006)
- Gillen, James, Smith, Benjamin and Walker, David. "Geographies of Globalization: The *disClosure* Interview with Neil Smith." *disClosure*, 13, pg. 121-141 (2004)
- Smith, Benjamin. "Fantasy and Desire in the Age of Terrorism: Verso's series on September 11<sup>th</sup>." *disClosure*, 13, pg. 157-163 (2004)

## Conference Presentations & Invited Talks

- "Building Hope in Dubai" AAG Annual Meeting, Las Vegas (March 2008)
- "Materializing the 'Middle Eastern Market' in Dubai" Colloquium given to King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. (October 2008)
- "Accommodating Bachelors in Dubai?" AAG Annual Meeting, Boston (April 2008)
- "The Rise of Dubai and the Transformation of the Middle East" Florida International University Middle East Society Lecture Series, Miami. (March 2008)
- "Who's Afraid of Persian Gulf Investors? Dubai Ports World and the Cultural Economy of the Middle East" MESA Annual Meeting, Montreal (November 2007)
- "Who's Afraid of Persian Gulf Investors? A Case Study in Cultural Economy" AAG Annual Meeting, San Francisco (April 2007)
- "Dubai, Landscape and the Aesthetics of an Attractive Market" MESA Annual Meeting, Boston (November 2006)
- "Current Topics Roundtable – Democracy in the Middle East: Prospects, Promises and Problems" Invited Panel Participant. AAG Annual Meeting, Philadelphia (March 2006)
- "Labor Camps and Seven-Star Hotels: Migrants and the Making of the World City of Dubai" AAG Annual Meeting, Philadelphia (March 2006)
- "Dubai, Landscape, and the Production of Attractive Markets" University of Nottingham, Department of Geography Colloquium, Nottingham, UK. (December 2005)
- "Why you build ski slopes in the desert: Dubai, landscape and the production of attractive markets." East Lakes Division of the AAG, Annual Meeting, Athens, OH (October 2004)
- "Kentucky Fried Regionalism and the Commercial Imaginary of Harland Sanders." AAG Annual Meeting, Philadelphia (March 2004)
- "Race Horses? AAG Annual Meeting, New Orleans." (March 2003)
- "If there were no tourists in Oaxaca then we could 'really' learn on our fieldtrips." AAG Annual Meeting, Los Angeles (March 2002)

## Professional Appointments

Assistant Professor, Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies, Florida International University. (2008-Present)

Instructor, Department of International Relations and Geography, Florida International University. (2006-2008)

Teaching Assistant/Primary Instructor, Geography 160: Lands and People of the Non-Western World, University of Kentucky. (2003-2004)

Research Assistant, Anna Secor's NSF Grant BCS-0137060 "Reshaping Civil Society: Islam, Democracy and Diversity in Istanbul." (2002-2003)

Contracted Researcher, Julie Riesenweber's Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Grant for The Establishment of Guidelines for the Qualification of Farm Properties for the National Register of Historic Places. (2002)

Teaching Assistant, University of Kentucky Environmental Studies Program. (2001-2002)

## Departmental, University and Disciplinary Service

Member, Undergraduate Committee, Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies (2009-Present)

Co-President, Middle East and North Africa Specialty Group of the AAG, (2008-2010)

Advisor, FIU Geography Club (2006-2008)

Member, Steering Committee for FIU Center for Middle East Studies (2007-Present)

"The Middle East and Globalization" Lecture given to Seminar for Teacher Training in Middle East Conflict Resolution, FIU Jack C. Gordon Institute (2006)

Secretary/Treasurer, Middle East and North Africa Specialty Group of the AAG, (2006-2008)

*disClosure* Correspondence Editor, 2004 Issue