Susan (Su) Burtner is currently a student in the Department of Geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), as well as a trainee in the NSF-funded Network Science and Big Data fellowship. She is currently serving as a Research Assistant for the What Every1 Says Project, which uses topic modeling and other text analyses to find how different topics and people are positioned by various American media sources. Burtner is interested in how communities create places through vast networks of interlinked travel and communication activity, and how network visualizations can challenge perceptions of boundaries. Her background is in Operations Research and Urban Spatial Analytics, and she spent two years at Oak Ridge National Laboratory before coming to UCSB.

Position Statement

The exercise of cataloguing spatial data is no trivial feat, as it carries with it vast assumptions about the “where” and “who” of a source, versus the “where” and “who” of the content. I am interested in how techniques in spatial search and discovery can advance the link creation between what sources are about, where they occur, and the implications for varying geographic distances between the two. Within this context, I think it is also important to strive for further inclusion of media from marginalized groups, and the types of changes to geographic information systems and library infrastructure that might be needed to properly represent these sources.