

BRIAN J. SOMMERS, Ph.D.

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CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE FACULTY RESPONSIBILITIES

- DEPARTMENT CHAIR, CCSU, Department of Geography from August 2022 to present, and from 2001-2007. The department houses undergraduate and graduate programs in Geography as well as the interdisciplinary Hospitality-Tourism and Sustainability programs. Primary responsibilities include course scheduling, hiring and mentoring of new faculty and staff, departmental and program assessment, as well as the evaluation of faculty for promotion and tenure. Additional responsibilities have included program and course development, budget management, student recruitment, graduate advising, and undergraduate advising in the General/Regional and Planning tracks of the major.
- CO-DIRECTOR, CCSU, International Studies program from August 2022 to present. Currently serving as the director for the undergraduate program in International Studies. In the 2015-2016 academic year I served as the program director for both the BA and MS components of the International Studies program. I have also served as a member of the Slavic/East European Studies (1994-2008) and European Studies (2018 to Present) subcommittees.

PREVIOUSLY HELD ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

- INTERIM DEAN, CCSU, Carol A. Ammon College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences (CLASS), September 2016 to June 2018. Served as the chief academic and administrative officer for departments and programs in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. This included 17 academic departments, 209 full-time faculty/staff, and 65 academic programs (43 undergraduate, 14 graduate and 8 certificate) housed in the college. I worked with the faculty and administrative faculty unions (AAUP and AFSCME) of the college as well as with the shared governance structure of the university. During this time (May 2017 to June 2018) I also served as a member of the university-wide Steering Committee for our New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) assessment and accreditation reporting and as a member of the writing team for the 2018 CCSU NECHE Self-Study.
- ACADEMIC AFFAIRS BUDGET MANAGER, CCSU Division of Academic Affairs, 2009-2013 and from 2017-2018. Responsibilities included budget management for the Division of

Academic Affairs using the Banner INB system. In 2017-18, this entailed the management of \$7M in operating, \$8.5M in part-time lecturer, and \$54M in full-time faculty/staff budgets. Primary responsibilities involved assisting the provost in data gathering activities related to budgets within the Division of Academic Affairs and the management of the Provost's Office operating budgets. Secondary activities included providing research assistance to management staff within the Division of Academic Affairs on issues pertaining to their budgets.

- PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE (PMO) LEAD, Transform 2020 Project, Connecticut State Colleges & Universities (CSCU) System Office. June-December 2014. The Transform 2020 Project was the strategic planning program to transform Connecticut's 17 community colleges and state universities into a world class system of higher education. Direct reporting was to the System President of the CSCU and his chief of staff. The PMO lead worked with System Office and the system leadership (state university and community college presidents, provosts, deans, and other senior administrators) on the strategic planning initiatives that grew out of the Transform CSCU 2020 program.
- ASSISTANT TO THE DEAN, CCSU, Carol A. Ammon College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences (formerly the CCSU School of Arts & Science), 2007-2016. Responsibilities for this full-time administrative position included participation in faculty governance activities, faculty hiring processes, budget planning and management, assessment, student advising, oversight of Dean's Research Initiative grant program, and management of the Dean's supplemental conference faculty-travel program. Additional work included tracking infrastructure needs in departments, planning for two new teaching buildings, review of course abroad programs, as well as participation in student probation hearings.

UNIVERSITY AND SYSTEM-WIDE SERVICE

- COUNCIL MEMBER, State of Connecticut, Office of Higher Education, Open Educational Resources (OER) Coordinating Council, 2019 to Present.
- COUNCIL MEMBER, Connecticut State Colleges & Universities (CSCU) Open Educational Resources Advisory Council, 2019 to Present. Also served as a member of the council's Fair Use Task Force, Summer 2021
- BOARD MEMBER, CCSU, University Athletics Board (UAB) from 2019 to Present, and from 2009-2012. I served as UAB Co-Chair from 2021-2022, and 2009-2012. I also served as a member of the CCSU Athletic Appeals Committee from 2009-2012.
- CCSU Graduate Studies Committee member, 2019 to 2022
- SENATOR, CCSU Faculty Senate in 2019, and 1998-2000. I also served as the recording secretary of the CCSU Faculty Senate from 1998-2000.
- REVIEWER, Social/Behavioral Science Division of the Connecticut State University AAUP Research Grants program, and for the CCSU Summer Curriculum Development Grant and the CCSU Faculty Development Grant programs (2019-2022 and 2007-2016).

- CCSU Department of Geography, Department Evaluation Committee (DEC) member from 2020-2021 and from 1999-2015.
- Provost's Student Success Team (SST) member for Retention and Graduation, 2015-2016.
- CCSU Curriculum Committee member (1994-1998 and 2015-2016). Also served as the recording secretary of the Arts & Sciences Subcommittee (1994-1998).
- E-Leadership Team (ELT) Co-Chair, Connecticut State University System (CSUS), 2007 to 2008. The ELT was responsible for strategic planning and leadership in online learning within the four state universities of the CSUS (later the CSCU) system.
- CCSU Academic Standards Committee member (1998-2002). I served as committee Vice-Chair (1999-2000) and as Chair from 2000 to 2002.

COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- EXTERNAL REVIEWER for the Towson University Department of Geography (2016), the Fitchburg State University Department of Geophysical Sciences (2015), and the Grand Valley State University Department of Geography (2014).
- UNIVERSITY LIAISON/AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBER on the Executive Committee of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association (1995-2005).
- Supervised student internships in 21 Connecticut towns as well as with the Capital Region Council of Governments, Connecticut Mid-State Regional Planning Association, Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments, Connecticut State Department of Environmental Protection, and the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.
- BOARD MEMBER, Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of New Britain (1996-2003)
 - CHAIR of the Project Development Committee (2001-2003).
- CHAIR of the Association of American Geographers, Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group (RDPSG), 2000-2001 and Vice-Chair (1998-2000).
 - Recipient of the 2002 RDPSG Distinguished Service Award.

FACULTY POSITIONS HELD

2004 to Present, Professor, CCSU, Department of Geography
 1999-2004, Associate Professor, CCSU, Department of Geography
 1994-1999, Assistant Professor, CCSU, Department of Geography

EDUCATION

1995, Ph.D., Geography with an emphasis in Urban Planning, University of Arizona
 1989, MA, Geography with an emphasis in Urban Planning, Miami University
 1987, B.A., Geography, University of Akron, Akron, Ohio

GEOGRAPHY COURSES OFFERED AT CCSU

GEOG 110*-Introduction to Geography (Includes First Year Experience course offerings)
GEOG 220*-Human Geography
GEOG 241*-Introduction to Planning
GEOG 420/430*-Internship in Planning/Internship in Geography
GEOG 439*-Urban Geography
GEOG 441*-Community/Regional Planning
GEOG 442-Field Methods (Projects in East Hampton, Bloomfield, & Manchester, CT)⁺
GEOG 444*-European Union
GEOG 445*-Environmental Planning
GEOG 447-Geographic Perspectives on Israel/Palestine
GEOG 448-Russia and Neighboring Regions
GEOG 455-New Directions in Tourism
GEOG 458-Cultural Heritage Tourism
GEOG 459/559-Field Studies in Regional Geography
GEOG 471-Topics in Human Geography (“Geography of Wine”, “Geography of Food”)⁺
GEOG 483-Topics in Planning (“Urban Design & Historic Preservation”)
GEOG 500*-History of Geographic Thought

OTHER COURSES OFFERED AT CCSU

EDL 730-Education Leadership-Budgeting & Resource Management
HON 210-Western Culture II: Topics in Western Culture-“City as Text in Western Culture”
HON 250-Western/World Cultures III: Comparative Topics-“Museums and Memory”
URS 300-Introduction to Urban Studies⁺

*Indicates courses taught within the last 2 years

⁺Indicates team-taught courses

PUBLICATIONS and PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

In Preparation:

- Sommers, Brian J. and Wolff, Robert. Landscapes of Evil: The Holocaust and African Enslavement in European and American Memory, book manuscript in development.

Accepted for Publication:

- Sommers, Brian J, ‘Acquisition of Citizenship’, in Modern Global Migration: An Encyclopedia of People on the Move
- Sommers, Brian J, ‘Israel’, in Modern Global Migration: An Encyclopedia of People on the Move
- Sommers, Brian J, ‘Lithuania’, in Modern Global Migration: An Encyclopedia of People on the Move

In Print:

- Sommers, Brian J. 2008 The Geography of Wine: How Landscapes, Cultures, Terroir, and the Weather Make a Good Drop. Plume Press, Penguin Prentice-Hall.
 - Sommers, Brian J. 2018 The Geography of Wine (Korean Language Version). Plume Press, Penguin Prentice-Hall.
 - Sommers, Brian J. 2023 (assumed publication year) The Geography of Wine (Chinese Language Version-*Translation work is currently underway and copyright agreement is in place between Plume Press and the Chinese publishers.*)
- Sommers, Brian J. 2004 (Assistant Editor to Timothy J. Rickard) Proceedings: New England-St. Lawrence Valley Geographical Society (Volume 33).
- Sommers, Brian J. 2003 ‘Rules for the Road’ in Establishing Successful Study Abroad Programs’ Chapter in Study Abroad: A Road to Lifetime Learning. CIBER-Center for International Business Education and Research, U.S. Department of Education
- Sommers, Brian J. 1999 ‘Sustainability and Urban Communities.’ In Preserving the Legacy: Planning for Sustainable Development. Columbus, OH: OSU Press, 141-156.
- Sommers, Brian J. and Timothy, Dallen 1999. ‘Economic Development, Tourism, and Urbanization in the Emerging Markets of Northeast Asia.’ In Trends in Asian Urbanization, G. Chapman & A. Dutt (eds). Brookfield: Ashgate Publishers, 111-131
- Sommers, Brian J. 1998 ‘Connecticut.’ Chapter in International Manual of Planning Practice Volume 3. Lisbon: International Society of City & Regional Planners, 195-208.
- Sommers, Brian J. 1998 ‘Jamaica.’ Chapter in International Manual of Planning Practice Volume 3. Lisbon: International Society of City & Regional Planners, 81-92.
- Sommers, Gail A., Costa, Frank, and Sommers, Brian J. 1998 ‘The University Park Neighborhood Association, A University-Community Partnership.’ Growing Smart: Neighborhood Collaborative Planning, PAS Report, American Planning Association
- Sommers, Brian J. 1997 ‘The Freshman Year Experience and Geography: Linking Student Retention and the Introductory Geography Curriculum.’ The Journal of Geography 96 (5).
- Sommers, Brian J. 1996 ‘Geography Course Incorporates Orientation Activities.’ The Freshman Year Experience Newsletter, 9(1).
- Sommers, Brian J., Ki-Suk, Lee and Lay James Gibson. 1995 ‘Development Opportunities and Challenges in Northeast Asia: The Case of the Tumen River Project.’ Studies in Regional Science, 25(1).
- Plane, David, Rogerson, Peter, and Brian J. Sommers. 1994. The ‘Demographics’ chapter in The Geographical Analysis of Population: with Applied Techniques for Planning and Business. New York: John Wiley and Sons.
- Costa, F., Monroe, C., and Brian J. Sommers. 1993. Impact of New Suburban Construction on the Akron Area Housing Market. University of Akron, Center for Urban Studies.
- Sommers, Brian J. 1992. Introduction to Physical Geography: Laboratory Manual. Phoenix: Kendall-Hunt Publishing Company.
- Sommers, Brian J., and Laura McCarthy. 1992. Introduction to Physical Geography: Laboratory Manual. Phoenix: Kendall-Hunt Publishing Company.

PRESENTATIONS and WORKSHOPS

- Travelling the Highlands & Islands of Scotch Whisky, CCSU Scholars for Life! Series (2021).
- Geography of Wine, CCSU Scholars for Life! Series (2020).
- Geography of Wine public service programs for the libraries and/or continuing education programs for the towns of Avon (June 2017), Farmington (2017), North Haven (2020), Simsbury (2017), and Windsor (2018) Connecticut.
- How We Conducted Our Self-Study, (presented with Yvonne Kirby, CCSU), NECHE Accreditation Self-Study Workshop (Southbridge MA, 2019)
- Incorporating Data into the Self-Study Narrative, (presented with Yvonne Kirby, CCSU), NECHE Accreditation Self-Study Workshop (Southbridge MA, 2019)
- Landscapes of Traumatic Pasts: Memorialization of the Holocaust in Comparative Perspective, (presented with Robert Wolff, CCSU), conference on “Dark Tourism: Sites Related to the Holocaust, the Nazi Past and World War II” (Glasgow UK, 2017)
- Geography of Wine-Series Instructor for the University of Hartford’s, President’s College, (Hartford, CT, 2016).
- Wooden Synagogues and Historic Preservation in Lithuania’s Countryside, the Association of American Geographers Conference (San Francisco, CA, 2016)
- Presenter and Host, Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA), American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) test preparation class (New Britain, CT, 2010) (also each spring from 1997 to 2012).
- Presenter and Panelist, ‘Is Regionalism Still a Dirty Word’ Regionalism Conference sponsored by the CCSU Institute for Municipal & Regional Policy (New Britain, CT, 2006).
- Predatory Lending and Neighborhood Investment. The Association of American Geographers Conference (Philadelphia, PA, 2004).
- Urban Revitalization Session Chair. NESTVAL Annual Meeting (Hartford, CT, 2003).
- Hartford Walking Tour Presenter. NESTVAL Annual Meeting (Hartford, CT, 2003).
- Predatory Lending in Summit County, Ohio: A Geographic Appraisal. The Association of American Geographers Conference (New Orleans, LA, 2003)
- Program Co-Coordinator, New England Regional APA Conference (New Haven, CT, 2000).
- The Good, Bad, and the Ugly of Town-Gown Planning (Session Moderator) New England Planning Conference (New Haven, Connecticut, 2000).
- Issues in Regional Development and Planning (Session Chair and Organizer) Association of American Geographers Conference (Pittsburgh, PA, 2000).
- Conference Co-Organizer, CCAPA 1999-2000 Winter Conference (New Britain, CT, 2000).
- Is Historic Preservation just another Economic Development Tool? (Presenter, Session Chair, and Organizer) Association of American Geographers Conference (Honolulu, HI, 1999).
- Regional Development and Planning in the 1990's (Panelist) Association of American Geographers Conference (Honolulu, HI, 1999).
- Conference Co-Organizer, CCAPA 1998-1999 Winter Conference (New Britain, CT, 1999).

- Sustainability and Responses to Central Cities in Crisis: A Case Study of Hartford, CT, Association of American Geographers Conference (Boston, MA, 1998).
- New Trends in Planning Instruction, CCAPA, Winter Conference (New Britain, CT, 1998).
- Conference Co-Organizer, CCAPA 1997-1998 Winter Conference (New Britain, CT 1998).
- Professional Experience in Planning Instruction, Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association, Annual Conference (Enfield, CT, 1997).
- First Year Experience Program and Application, 3rd Annual Conference of the Connecticut Consortium for the Enhancement of Learning & Teaching (New Britain, CT, 1997)
- Economic Development, Tourism, and Urbanization in the Emerging Markets of Northeast Asia, the 5th Asian Urbanization Conference (London, UK, 1997).
- Urban Planning in Jamaica: A Case Study of Planning in the Developing World, Association of American Geographers Conference (Ft. Worth, TX, 1997).
- SIMCITY 2000 and Urban Geography (Panel Session), Association of American Geographers Conference (Ft. Worth, TX, 1997).
- Conference Co-Organizer, CCAPA 1997 Winter Conference (New Britain, CT, 1997).
- Planning Applications, Instruction, and the Internet, CCAPA 1996-1997 Winter Conference (New Britain, CT, 1997)
- Regional Development in the Russian Far East: A Comparative Perspective, the Association of American Geographers Annual Conference (Charlotte, NC, 1996).
- Patterns of Change: A Study of Cleveland, Ohio 1970-1990, the Association of American Geographers Annual Conference (Chicago, IL, 1995).

GRANTS RECEIVED

- World War II Memorialization as it is Impacted by Modern Balkan Politics, Connecticut State University (CSU)-AAUP Research Grant, (2019).
- Recreation and Resort Planning-Geography 453 Curriculum Development Proposal, CCSU Summer Curriculum Development Grant, (2019)
- Museums of Traumatic Pasts; The Holocaust and African Slavery in Comparative Perspective, CSU-AAUP Faculty Development Grant (2016) *(With Robert Wolff)*
- Jewish/Holocaust Heritage in Places with Checkered Pasts, Connecticut State University-AAUP Research Grant, (2016) (Grant and associated research deferred until Summer 2019)
- Jewish Philanthropies and Holocaust Site Conservation, CSU-AAUP Research Grant, (2013)
- Museums & Memory-An Interdisciplinary Honors Course, CCSU Summer Curriculum Development Grant, (2013) *(With Robert Wolff)*
- Holocaust Sites, the Eyewitness Generation, and the Story of Dark Tourism, CSU-AAUP Research Grant (2012)
- Jewish Heritage & Dark Tourism, Salem Fund, Jewish Community Board of Akron (2012)
- Manchester Connecticut Field Methods Outreach Course, CCSU Outreach Grant, (2007) *(Co-authored with Charles Button)*

- Urban Development Consortium with Bridgewater State College, Universidad do Estado de Santa Catarina and Universidade Federal do Rio Grande de Sul, U.S. Department of Education, Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE), (2006-2010) \$200,000. *(Co-Co-Principal Investigator with James Hayes-Bohanan from Bridgewater State College)*
- Joint M.S. Program for In-Service Teachers at Sam Sharpe Teachers College, CCSU Summer Curriculum Development Grant, (2006)
- European Union Policies on Accession and their Planning Impacts, CSU-AAUP Research Grant, (2005) *(With Richard Benfield, CCSU)*
- CCSU Department of Geography Course Development Grant Application, CATAL Funding for OnlineCSU, (2003) \$20,000 *(Lead Author with David Truly, CCSU)*
- Remote Sensing and Digital Image Processing Course Proposal, CCSU Summer Curriculum Development Grant, (2003) *(With Peter Kyem, CCSU)*
- Current Events ID Course, CCSU Summer Curriculum Development Grant, (2003) *(With Carol Jones, Paul Petterson, Susan Seider, and Jane Stoneback)*
- Field Research in Tourism, Public History, and Economic Development through Planning, CSU-AAUP Research Grant, (2002)
- Linking Preservation, Development, & Tourism, CCSU Faculty Development Grant, (2001)
- Land Use Planning and the Tourism Onslaught in Holmes County, Ohio: Development Controls for Amish Community Preservation, CSU-AAUP Research Grant, (2000)
- The Disappearing New England Village, CSU-AAUP Research Grant, (1998)
- Economic Development, Tourism, & Urbanization in the Emerging Markets of Northeast Asia- CSU-AAUP Research Grant, (1997)
- The Development of Interdisciplinary Courses and a Concentration in Urban Studies, CCSU Summer Curriculum Development Grant, (1996)
- Metropolitan Studies Colloquium Proposal-Connecticut Institute for Municipal Studies, (1995) *(Co-Author with Antonia Moran)*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- MEMBER of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) from 1999-2004. Passed certification exam in 1999.
- VISITING FACULTY FELLOW in Urban Design and Historic Preservation with the Yale School of Architecture, 1998-1999.
- RESEARCH FELLOW, Slavic & East European Studies, Yale Libraries, 1996-1997.

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- PROJECT COORDINATOR and CARTOGRAPHER (1985-1988) for the University of Akron, Center for Urban Studies, Akron, Ohio.