Dinner and Awards Banquet Speaker

Saturday, 14 October 2017, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Alerus Conference Center Ballroom #5

On Makin’ It REAL: Engaging Geographies of Race, Memory, and Heritage Tourism

Dr. Derek H. Alderman
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Derek H. Alderman (dalderma@utk.edu) is Professor of Geography at the University of Tennessee and President of the American Association of Geographers (AAG). His research and teaching specialties include race, public memory, heritage tourism, critical place name study, and the African-American experience—including slavery, the Jim Crow and Civil Rights eras, and more contemporary social and spatial justice campaigns. He is the author of over 110 articles, book chapters, and other essays along with the award-winning book (with Owen Dwyer), *Civil Rights Memorials and the Geography of Memory*. Alderman is part of a multi-university team completing a study of the politics of remembering slavery at southern plantation museums and identifying places for making interventions in the historical neglect of enslaved identities and struggles. He is also engaged in a project (with Josh Inwood) that explores the role of resistant geospatial intelligence and counter-mapping within SNCC (Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee), one of the important organizations of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. The National Science Foundation has funded both projects. Alderman is a strong advocate of a greater incorporation of civil rights, social justice, and critical race study within geographic education. He is the recent recipient of the Distinguished Mentor Award from the National Council for Geographic Education and the Distinguished Career Award from the Ethnic Geography Specialty Group of the AAG. As President of the AAG, Alderman is developing the “Geography is REAL (Responsive, Engaged, Advocating, and Life-Improving)" initiative, which encourages and supports greater public intellectualism, communication savviness, and disciplinary promotion. Alderman can be followed on Twitter @MLKStreet.