

Rupert Allan CV

Rupert Allan is a humanitarian project lead, visual anthropologist, and critical geographer, working in cultural sustainability and digital justice. He collaborates with communities to define their own needs, assets and visibility through community-designed OpenSource archives, advocating for public data sovereignty whilst embedding skills and capacity into future generations.

The people-centred creativity and DIY ethos of this work is informed by fabrication, materials and design expertise, and decades of site-specific, high-profile operations in precarious, resource-poor contexts.

Rupert's research promotes cultural ethics in terms of place-based technical insight. It connects hyper-local practices with global change-making narratives. A member of Cymdeithas y Cymod (International Fellowship for Reconciliation) and Missing Maps, Rupert's institutional collaborators include MSF, Red Cross, UNHCR, UNESCO, NHS and counter-mapping and environmental think-tanks.



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Community Mapping, Collaborative Design, Humanitarian Leadership:

2026: Project consultant/Design lead: [Cwm Rheidol Emergency Plan](#) - Wildfire Risk Community Mapping. (RSPB and Woodland Trust)

2026: Consultant: Aberystwyth University, [Heolydd Heddwch/Peace Pathways](#) - *Mapping the Peace Heritage of Aberystwyth, City of Literature* (UNESCO)

2026: Project consultant: [Stori Wylt Project](#), Ceredigion Nature Partnership - Aiming to embed nature recovery into school life in Primary Schools (Ceredigion County Council)

2025: Consultant/Field Facilitation: Cambridge University and University of Sassari, *Citizen Science Mapping - Giara plateau and Capo Testa* (Progetto e.INS: Sardinia)

2025: Consultant/Research Co-investigator: ['Public Map Platform'](#), University of Cambridge/Wales (AHRC)

2024: Consultant: Heddwch ar Waith - Peace Action Wales. [Community Mapping for Peace](#) (Ongoing pro bono)

2024: [Mapping Land Voices/Mapio Lleisiau'r Tir](#): Multi-Ethnic Community [Archive-Mapping](#): *geo-placing cultural fabric, language, and indigenous land memory* (Her Arfor/Welsh Language Commissioner)

2023: OSM Mentorship program support (pro-bono consultation), Community Resilience Mapping in Maleny, Australia - [Bushfire, landslides and flooding vulnerability](#)

2023: Consultant/Research Co-investigator: [Community Mapping Multi-Ethnic Climate Memory](#) - Royal Scientific Society, Jordan (UNESCO)

2019: Consultant to National Health Service(NHS)Wales: [Contextual Public Health by Community-Mapping - Food Deserts, Wellbeing, Deprivation Resilience](#) (NHS Wales)

2019: Project Manager: National Library of Wales: ['Mapping Land Voices' Pilot: Tangible and intangible heritage mapping amongst displaced Cambrian Upland communities](#) (British Library/Heritage Lottery)

2017: Country Manager, Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team Uganda. Advocacy leadership as senior representative, maintaining multi-agency data relationships, business development and program design.

2017: Missing Maps *West Africa Motorcycle Mapping Project*, Sierra Leone (MSF/Ministry of Health), Project Manager/Field-Mapping Operations. Data relationships, communications strategy and field tactics.

2016: Missing Maps [Ebola Community Mapping](#), Sierra Leone (American Red Cross/MSF OCA-OCB OCBA) Field Mapping Coordinator. Team training, management, geographical coordination, ethnographic coding.

2016: OpenStreetMap: *Pre and Post-Natal Community Health Intervention*, Niger (Alima).

2015: Missing Maps [Epworth Community \(HIV\) Project](#) – MSF Zimbabwe (OCA). Field Mapping Coordinator.

2010: MSF OCA Lankien Mission, South Sudan, Logistics: Community Technologies coordinator, Project management, Security, Air Traffic, Construction, Sanitation, and Disease Control.

1988: Liberia Inland Mission, Technical Logistics Intern. Traditional West African Design, Construction.

Media/Film Production:

1997-2019 Film/Theatre Art Director for award-winning film/media productions, collaborating with global, film industry leads (e.g. Cruise, Damon, Spielberg.) IMDB [Online Industry Profile](#)

Practical Skills:

Journalism Coordination, International film production coordination, Cinematography Design/Composition, Post production, Script-editing, Continuity, Budgeting (legals, health and safety), Scheduling, Logistics, SFX, Prop-making, Construction, Sculpture

Materials Expertise

- Carpentry, Marine Engineering, Welding, Fabrication, Architectural Ceramics
 - Traditional Conservation, Oak/Timber Frame, Stick and mud construction
 - Renewable Energy expertise (Solar, Wind, Thermal)
 - Maritime Passage-Making, Meteorology, Navigation, Ocean Skipper
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Humanitarian Communications - Embedded Broadcasts/Collaborations:

- Equator From the Air, Africa Episode, [In Uganda, satellite tech is helping a vast refugee camp become a thriving community](#), BBC2
- National Geographic Magazine, [A City Rises](#), Feature, April 2019. (Cartographic Description - [NACIS](#))
- [HOT Uganda](#), Interview by BBC World
- Newsweek: [Mapping Poverty to Save More Than a Billion Lives in the World's Most Remote Slums](#) (feature)

Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team Programmes:

- [Crowdsourcing Non-Camp Refugee Data](#), (UNHCR/OPM and USSD)
- Uganda Open Mapping: [Community Disaster Risk Management](#) (National Bureau of Statistics and World Bank)
- [Bridging Development and Emergency Data Gaps for the Refugee Crisis](#) (UNHCR/OPM and GFDRR)
- GPSDD/Refugee Context Risk Information: [National Risk Atlas](#) (UNDP/OPM/NECOC and Japanese Embassy)
- [Refugee Points of Entry/Ebola Data Preparedness Mapping](#) (IOM)

Sample Advocacy/Campaign Maps (QGIS, uMap):

- [Ebola Refugee Influx Services](#)
 - UNHCR Portal: [Distance to Education](#)
 - Map: [Community-Defined Wellbeing and Resilience/Vulnerabilities](#)
 - Map: [Land Voices, Endangered Technical Culture, Intergenerational Community Land-Memory](#)
 - Map: [Community-Defined Micro-Hydro Insights, West Wales](#)
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Conferences, Panels, Keynotes:

2025: Panel: *Knowing Infrastructures* (University of London)

2025: Presentation: Living Maps (University of London) *Community-Mapping Climate Memory*

2020: Keynote: Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Conference, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala: *Citizen Participation in OSM*

2019: Workshop: Missing Maps Prague - Inaugural Hackathon - [Czech Tech Saving Lives](#)

2019: TedX: [Solving the Missing Map Problem with OpenStreetMap](#)

2019: Workshop: Plymouth University: *The Reciprocal Benefits of Global Health Partnerships*

2017 - 2019: Presentations/Workshops: Ugandan Govt Ministries and implementing partners, (UNHCR, WFP, UNHCR, UNDP, IOM, WFP, UNICEF, FAO)

2018: Keynote: *Applied Geo-Informatics for Society and Environment*, Namibia University

2018: Keynote: FOSS4G - International Data Science Convention, Dar es Salam, Tanzania

2017: State of the Map, Ottawa, Canada *West Africa Motorcycle Mapping*

Creative Commons - Publications, Interviews:

2026: Wales Future First Webcast Interview: *Welsh projects aligned with the Future Generations Act*

2025: Chapter: The Routledge Handbook of Humanitarian Action: *Humanitarian Mapping* (upcoming)

2025: Paper: Science Direct: *Participatory Geoscience: emerging applications of community-centered mapping in geohazard and geoheritage studies* (upcoming)

2023: Chapter: The Routledge Handbook of Geospatial Technology and Society: [*Mapping Oceans: Taxonomies of the Fluid Spatial*](#)

2019: Interview/Consultation: ODI Humanitarian Policy Group: *Digital Mapping and Inclusion in Humanitarian Response*

2020: Chapter: Mapping Crisis: [*Modalities of United Statelessness*](#) (Human Rights Consortium - University of Westminster/Chicago)

2017: Panel: Geovation (Ordnance Survey) Benchmark: *The Ethics of Data Management in Mapping Crisis*

2021: Interview: Devex: Inside Development [*Why we need to think about ethics when using satellite data for development*](#)

2018: Paper: Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene [*Determination of true patient-origin through motorcycle mapping; Sierra Leone*](#)

2018: Paper: Uganda Water and Environment Ministry Conference: *Citizen geo-science, and the centrality of water access for livelihoods and resilience in (non-)settlement refugee contexts*

Geospatial/Digital Skills:

- UNHCR/IOM/UNDP data systems
- Kobo/ODK Xform survey building
- Full OpenSource Geospatial Skillset: QGIS, HTML, CAD, JOSM, uMap Data Visualisation, Visual Ethnography

Working Groups:

- UNGEGN Focus Group on Indigenous Geographical Names
- Community Resilience and the Dyfi Estuary - TRACC, Aberystwyth University
- Cymdeithas y Cymod/Peace Action Wales
- DiEM 25: Mapping Collective for Change

Formal Teaching:

2019-Present: Community Mapping adult educator/facilitator - under-resourced and marginalised communities

2019-2020: Higher Education Supervision - Masters Dissertation; Stuttgart University (HFT)

2017: Practical: H.E. Teaching - Undergraduate Dissertation Supervisor

2016-2017: Plymouth University: ITL/PGCAP - Certificate in Higher Education for University Teaching

1997 (YMCA): Full Qualifications - Youth and Community Work

Academic Qualifications:

2016: AHRC-Funded 3D3 Doctoral Scholarship. Research: *Media Archaeologies of Refugees as Pioneers: Ethics of United Statelessness* Plymouth University (Studies ongoing)

1995: University of Wales - MA: Visual Anthropology: Narratives of Spatial/Visual Imagination (Distinction)

1993: Sheffield Hallam University - BA(hons) - English (with Cultural/Media Studies) 2:1