Rupert Allan CV

Rupert Allan is a humanitarian lead and design anthropologist. His work advocates for practical social justice and data democracy. Connecting community narratives with systemic changemaking, his work is characterised by people-centred creativity in resource-poor settings, and informed by several decades of deep-field assignments.

Working within the disciplines of contextual public health, disaster management and resource allocation, he facilitates co-production of inclusive and innovative data solutions with communities in precarious contexts. A seasoned communicator, his growing portfolio of publications benefits from human rights research interests and a background in creative collaborations with global film industry leads.

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Humanitarian/Health Anthropology
Field Intervention Leadership:

2023: Visiting Consultant to the Royal Scientific Society, Jordan: 'Community Mapping Multi-Ethnic Climate Memory and Practice' - Al Azraq - Field Delegation: Project Inception

2020-2021: Consultant to National Health Service (NHS) Wales: determining Contextual Public Health by Community-Mapping COVID Vulnerability, Food Deserts, Wellbeing and Deprivation

2019-2020: Project Manager: British Library: 'Mapping Land Voices' Pilot: Tangible and intangible heritage-mapping amongst displaced community assets in the Cambrian Uplands, Wales

2017-2019: Country Manager, Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team Uganda. Advocacy leadership as senior representative, maintaining multi-agency data relationships, business development, program design.

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

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

2017: Hurricane Irma first response, clean-up, infrastructure logistics, Florida Keys, USA, Volunteer. Maritime impacts management, community advocacy, technical/architectural and marine engineering.

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

2016: Pre and Post-Natal l Fatalities Community Health Intervention, Niger (Alima). Survey coding/empathic community engagement, ethnographic survey building.

2015: Missing Maps Epworth Community (HIV) Project – MSF Zimbabwe (OCA). Field Mapping Coordinator. Represent but also protect marginalised migrant groups in precarious circumstances.

2010-2011: MSF OCA Lankien Mission, South Sudan, Technical/Logistics-Admin. Project management, team leadership, Solar, ColdChain, Air Traffic, WASH, Buildings design, Cholera Mitigation, Security, Payroll.

1998-1989: Liberia Inland Mission, WEC International, Technical Logistics Intern. Technical Design, Construction, Mechanics,

Communications

Field Blog/Personal writing examples:
- MSF Logistician Field Blog - South Sudan
- Missing Maps - Sierra Leone 2016
- West Africa Motorcycle Mapping - Sierra Leone 2017
- HOTOSM Post - BodaBodas and 'The Knowledge'
- HOTOSM Post - Community Mapping in North Uganda

Features/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)
- ODI: Digital mapping and inclusion in humanitarian response

Conferences/Appearances:
- October 2020 - Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Conference, Mahatma Ghandi University, Kerala: Citizen Participation in OSM - Keynote
- November 2019 - Missing Maps Prague - Czech Tech Saving Lives - Inaugural Missing Maps hackathon for Czech Republic
- October 2019 - TedX: Solving the Missing Map Problem with OpenStreetMap
- May 2019 - 2022 Plymouth University: The Reciprocal Benefits of Global Health Partnerships yearly workshop
- October 2017 - March 2019 Presentations at Ugandan National events, including UNHCR, WFP, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water and Environment, UNDP, UNICEF, OPM
- November 2018 - Applied Geo-Informatics for Society and Environment, Namibia University of Science and Technology: Citizen Participation in OSM

Keynote/Workshops:
- August 2018 - FOSS4G - international data scienceconvention, Dar es Salam, Tanzania: Uganda Community Mapping: Conference Presentation
- September 2017 - State of the Map, Ottawa, Canada: West Africa Motorcycle Mapping
- October 2016 - Mentorship and Prize-Giving: Crisis Hack: Geovation/Ordnance Survey
- July 2014 Sensi Hub Open Mapping and Digital Innovation, Freetown, Sierra Leone
- 2011-2013 Visiting Lecturer/Public Speaker to schools and universities in the UK, on behalf of Friends of Médecins Sans Frontières. (FoMSF)

Publications, Interviews, and Panels:
- Chapter: The Routledge Handbook of Geospatial Technology and Society: Chapter 29: Mapping Oceans: Taxonomies of the Fluid Spatial
- Chapter: Mapping Crisis: Chapter 9: Modalities of United Statelessness (Human Rights Consortium - University of Westminster/Chicago)
- Geovation (Ordnance Survey) Benchmark Panel: The Ethics of Data Management in Mapping Crisis
- Devex: 'Inside Development' Interview: Why we need to think about ethics when using satellite data for development - Malia Politzer
- Journal Article (Co-author): Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Determination of true patient-origin through motorcycle mapping; Sierra Leone
- Chapter (March 2019): Uganda Water and Environment National Conference: 'Citizen geo- science, and the centrality of water access for livelihoods and resilience in (non-)settlement refugee contexts.'

Sample Data Narratives:
- Ebola Refugee Influx Services
- UNHCR Portal Distance to Education
- Community-Defined Public Health Vulnerabilities

Humanitarian Networks

As a longstanding contributor to Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team, Missing Maps, and MSF innovation, Rupert's humanitarian advocacy is broad in scope. It includes various MSF sections, Red Cross associations, think-tanks, tech services, and environmental groups (Greenpeace, Sea Shepherd, Cynefin, Blue Anarchy). He advocates for community justice and digital rights in national libraries, educational institutions, research cohorts and state bodies (e.g. RSTMH, RGS, and RSS Jordan), and with hyper-local mapping projects around the world (e.g. Indigeohack Brazil, OSGeo Oceania, OSM Uganda).

His mentoring and honorary roles keep him abreast of the trajectories of colleagues in communities across Africa and the Middle East, and inform research into Climate, Global Health, and Politics of Representation. Associating research with the Sustainable Earth Institiute and MSF Manson Unit, he also maintains institutional relationships inside multiple UN agencies and is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

Media/Film

including DreamWorks (Spielberg), Universal Pictures (Damon), Warner Bros (Cruise)

Rupert has had a professional career in award-winning film/media production, allowing him to manoeuvre media creatives and journalists in deep field situations with ease. Indexing contemporary ethics, frames concise and persuasive verbal and visual narratives for publication, broadcast and audience engagement.

Film industry work depends on friendly professionalism and demands excellent collaborative resourcefulness. This skillset brings a creative yet structured approach to cross-cultural project management.

Academic Qualifications and Educational Experience

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

2016-2017: AHRC-Funded 3D3 Doctoral Scholarship(Interrupted) - Plymouth University/Transtechnology Research: Media Archaeologies of Refugees as Pioneers: Ethics of United Statelessness

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

2016-2017: H.E. Teaching- Undergraduate Dissertation Supervisor - iDAT BA(hons); Plymouth University

1997: Full Youth and Community Work Qualifications (YMCA)

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

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

Diplomacy/Statecraft:
- High-level negotiation experience in digital ethnography and human rights.
- Climate, Refugee and Disaster Risk Management leadership
- Govt partner trainings, community innovation, digital inclusion and autoethnography advocacy
- SDG-indexed grant-writing expertise

Technical/Digital:
- UNHCR/IOM/UNDP data systems e.g. M-Track.
- Kobo/ODK Xform survey building
- JOSM, QGIS, HTML, CAD, uMap Data Visualisation
- Maritime Command Ocean Passage-Planning, Navigation and GIS, Ocean Communications, International Displacement Legals/Documentation.

Environmental, Conservation, Climate:
- Planetary Meteorology, practical oceanography
- Ocean-based and land-based Off-grid lived experience and self-sufficiency expertise
- Renewable Energy expertise (Solar, Wind, Thermal etc)
- Traditional ethno-technology expertise (oak frame, mud/stick, lime, boatbuilding/off-grid marine engineering, welding, fabrication)

Referees - available upon request

Audio/Visual:
- Journalism Coordination and Media production expertise Cinematography Design and visual narrative - framing and pace
- Post production - Avid/Final Cut Pro
- Script editing, supervision, technical writing
- International film production coordination - budgeting (legals, health
- and safety), scheduling, logistics, props, SFX, Continuity
- Licensing, permissions, intellectual property, clearances

Language Proficiency:
English (Native), French (Proficient), Spanish, Welsh, Nuer (basic)

Active Memberships:
- HOT Risk Management Committee
- OSGeo Oceania - Mentorship
- Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society (FRGS)
- Voting member/Risk Management Committee
- HOT/OSM
- Member - London Hackspace