

Eden Kinkaid, Human Geographer

"ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES, IF YOU HAVE THE IMAGINATION"

**GEOACTION
HEROES**



If Eden Kinkaid were a superhero, they might be able to stretch long distances or move at light speed. "I often joke that I am a "human geography grab bag" or "geographer of all trades," they say.

They started out seeking a degree in biology. A college friend tipped them off to geography, and two influential teachers led further. Soon Eden found themselves studying sustainable farming in India. When the pandemic hit, Eden was getting their doctorate in Tucson, Arizona, so they shifted to the food systems and urban development there. They also found profound answers in geography to their pressing questions as a genderqueer person: "I started thinking a lot about how gender shapes space and how transgender people navigate it. That is all possible in geography – and so much more!"

Lately, Eden has been waking up to zines in their inbox. Zines are DIY booklets made simply and inexpensively. These zines come from all over the world, for an international project called GEOZONE. "This is so much fun," Eden says. "You get to see how people think about geography out in the world and in the streets, in activist struggles and everyday life." Eden is also writing their first book, partly about "how it is to move around the world as a transgender person." Eden is currently a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Delaware. There, they work to tell better stories about climate and environmental change and use creative methods to communicate science.

"There are a lot of possibilities in geography – endless possibilities in fact, if you have the imagination," says Eden. "If any of this sounds interesting to you, take a geography class and see what you think! It could really open up a new perspective on your world and lead you in unexpected directions."



Read our full member profile of Eden Kinkaid at <https://bit.ly/3oMZ6fU>

Discover more of AAG's GeoAction Heroes at aag.org/geoweeek

Discussion Activity Questions

1. After reading Eden's description of their interests and work, what are some interests of yours that you could explore using geography?
2. Eden is working right now on telling stories about climate change and action. Why would geography be a good tool for telling stories?



Image: Eden Kinkaid posing in front of the “Rough Gems: Against Nature” Exhibit at Union Hall in Denver, Colorado, where they participated as an artist.

About the American Association of Geographers (AAG)

The American Association of Geographers (AAG) brings together members of the global geographic community. As a non-profit organization, we provide students, educators, practitioners, and partners with the resources they need to enter the field, develop their careers, and form professional friendships that can last a lifetime.

Through annual and ongoing programs, events, and meetings, we aim to create a space in which all geographers—wherever they come from—will know they are valued, heard, and welcomed.



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