

Innovations in Teaching Using Technology Grant 2017

1. Title of proposal: From Projection Mapping to Creative Placemaking: Visualizing Urban and Environmental History in Place
2. Courses/Curriculum affected: Sensing the Sustainable City (GEOG 16250), Urban Geography (GEO 16302), Enviro/Sustain Planning (PLAN 31389), Cultural Geography (16110) Certificate of Undergraduate Study (CUGS) in Sustainable Urbanism and Environmental Humanities (forthcoming)
3. Name of applicant: Jennifer Kitson, Department of Geography, Planning, & Sustainability
4. Objectives of the proposal: This proposal seeks to utilize "projection mapping" technology as place-based urban

In the first proposed use of this technology students will be tasked with a project titled "projecting change." The goal of this project is to make the otherwise incomprehensible spatial and temporal scale of environmental change sensible to human bodies. This project will get students engaged the themes of extinction, environmental change, and earth history, which are emphasized this year in the Rowan Common Reading selection of Elizabeth Kolbert's book *The Sixth Extinction* (nominated by the School of Earth and Environment). The documentary film *Racing Extinction*, another inspiration, profiles artists who project images of endangered species on iconic urban surfaces, such as the [Empire State Building](#). Students will explore the possibility of utilizing 3D models of fossils discovered at the Edelman Fossil Park in projection mapping software as part of creating a Meditation Walk video projection. Rather than simply reading about the species that once inhabited what is now south Jersey during the Cretaceous period, imagine the visceral effect of a 35-foot long Mosasaur swimming down Meditation Walk!

This proposal is scalable and adaptable because the equipment purchases can be used for completely different course curriculum, class sizes, disciplines, and learning environments. The technology is completely programmable by any discipline to engage with a vast array of concepts and topical themes. Ideally, this proposal will pilot the use of projection mapping on campus with two projectors, in the hope that long-term, projection becomes a cultural practice at Rowan University. Not only will this technology afford profoundly new ways for stud