

Torsten Wiedemann

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Personal Details

Date and place of birth: 22 July 1965 in Hamburg/Germany

Nationality: Belgian

Civil state: Married, 2 children

Experience

GIS-EXPERT | GHENT UNIVERSITY & FREE UNIVERSITY OF BRUSSELS 1997– PRESENT

- I worked at different departments (Geography, Geology, History, Human Ecology) for different projects (see chronological list below).
- In each project, my principle tasks were map design for publications, map vectorization, data collection, statistical (spatiotemporal) data-analysis and database management.
- I was involved in the development of various websites, f.e. [Poppkad](#) and [Stream](#).
- At the Queteletcentrum at Ghent University (<https://www.queteletcenter.ugent.be>), my responsibilities are the development and maintenance of the central geographical database, which enables the processing of digital statistics and the creation of historical maps.
- Furthermore, I create maps on demand for scientists looking for maps which visualize historical data at different territorial levels.
- I presented papers about GIS and mapping techniques at various international congresses.
- I organized customized GIS workshops for historical scientists.

Since December 2020

Employer: Ghent University, Quetelet Center for Quantitative Historical Research, Prof. Isabelle Devos and Prof. Eric Vanhaute

Tasks: Processing and cartographic representation of the data of the center.

January 2015 – December 2020

Employer: Ghent University, Department of Modern History, Prof. Isabelle Devos and Prof. Philippe De Maeyer

Project: “**STREAM. Spatiotemporal research infrastructure for early modern Flanders and Brabant**”

Tasks: Vectorization of the Ferraris map. Development of a website. Presentation of the project at various international scientific congresses.

Output: Website [Stream](#)

January 2013 – December 2018

Employer: Ghent University, Department of Modern History, Prof. Eric Vanhaute and Prof. Philippe De Maeyer

Project: “**POPPKAD. Development of a digital historical cadaster of Belgium in the 19th century**”

Tasks: Datacollection and vectorization of historical maps. Development of a website, which is connected to a MySQL/PHP database, allowing for family name searches in the historical cadaster.

Output: Website [Poppkad](#)

January 2011 – December 2014

Employer: Ghent University, Department of Modern History, Prof. Eric Vanhaute

Project: **“LOKSTAT. Database of local statistics in Belgium, 1800-1970”**

Tasks: Development and maintenance of a MySQL/PHP database, a data system that enables the processing of digital statistics and the creation of historic maps. Development of a website, which makes the database accessible for researchers.

Output: Website [Lokstat](#)

September 2007 – December 2010

Employer: Free University of Brussels, Department of Human Ecology, Prof. Luc Hens

Role: IT-expert, Website-management, Database-management, teaching environmental learning.

Tasks: Responsible for the maintenance of the soft- and hardware of the department, update and improvement of the department’s website, development, update and analysis of databases. Ground truth checks of environmental learning projects at schools in South Africa and Mozambique (I visited 30 schools in both countries in 2008 and in 2010 respectively).

August 2006 - March 2007

Employer: Free University of Brussels, Department of Human Ecology, Prof. Luc Hens

Project: **“Mapping of all public green spaces in Flanders region”**

Tasks: Responsible for the organization of the project, calculation of geographical data, producing maps. Contact governmental institutions to get information about public green spaces in Flanders Region. Printing maps, final report.

December 2005 - August 2006

Employer: Free University of Brussels, Department of Human Ecology, Prof. Luc Hens

Project: **“Creating a blueprint for the Belgian federal environmental report”**

Tasks: Development of a database for federal environmental indicators. Analysis of indicators for the preparation of the federal environmental report.

February 2005 - July 2006

Employer: Free University of Brussels, Department of Human Ecology, Prof. Luc Hens

Project: **“An inventory of green space indicators in Flanders Region”**

Tasks: Responsible for the organization of the project, controlling data qualities. Contact governmental institutions to get information about green space indicators. Presenting papers at national workshops. Building a database for the inventory and analysis of green space indicators. Writing reports and articles.

October 2003 - February 2005

Employer: Free University of Brussels, Department of Human Ecology, Prof. Luc Hens

Project: **“A refined indicator for accessible and attractive green spaces in urban areas”**

Tasks: Responsible for the organization of the project, recruitment of thesis students, organization of field work, controlling data qualities. Contact governmental institutions to get information about green

management. Presenting papers at national and international workshops. Building a GIS for urban green spaces and neighbourwoods. Calculating results for the accessibility of green areas in the cities of Aalst, Antwerp, Bruges, Ghent, Kortrijk, and Louvain. Writing reports and articles.

June 2001 - September 2003

Employer: Ghent University, Department of Modern History, Prof. Eric Vanhaute

Project: **“A GIS for 200 years of Belgian territorial structures (1796-2000)”**

Tasks: Development of a historical GIS for historical census data from the last 200 years (population, economic and social statistics), linked to territorial units (ranging from municipalities to provinces), covering the Belgian territory. Application of state-of-the-art techniques to integrate "time" within a relational, spatio-temporal database management system. Organizing and participating at international workshops. Preparing a European project for the 6th European Framework in the field of historical GIS and Information Society technologies. Development of a website to make the database accessible via the internet.

January 2001 - May 2001

Employer: Ghent University, Laboratory for Soil Science, Prof. Eric Van Ranst

Project: **“Critical Loads”**

Tasks: Analyzing different parameters, stored in a relational database management system, describing soil, climate, drainage, pollution etc. at over 400 locations in Belgian Flanders region to calculate critical loads for different flora species. Visualization of results in GIS.

May 2000 - December 2000

Employer: Ghent University, Forest Co-ordination center (FSCC), Prof. Eric Van Ranst

Project: **“Confrontation of the Soil Geographical Database of Europe (SGDBE) with the FSCC Level I soilplots”**

Tasks: Receiving data about forest soil parameters from over 20 different countries in Europe, collected at 5900 locations, integrating and analyzing these data in an (ORACLE) database. Visualization of results in a GIS. Streamlining and comparing two different huge database management systems. Participating actively at different international workshops.

November 1999 - 30 April 2000

Employer: Free University of Brussels, Department of Human Ecology, Prof. Luc Hens

Project: **“A GIS-based Monitor for the detection of accessible green areas in urban regions”**

Tasks: Digitizing and interpret of different maplayers and orthophotographs. Development of a GIS-tool for the calculation of true distances between green areas and urban cores, including barrier effects. Reconstruction of the evolution of green supply vs. Demographic trends. Construction of a database for the qualitative and quantitative supply of green areas.

January 1997 - December 1999

Employer: Ghent University, Department of Geography and Department of Archaeology, Prof. Marc Antrop and Prof. Frank Vermeulen

Project: **“A GIS for the detection and reconstruction of Roman roads and field systems in the Civitas Menapiorum”**

Tasks: Collecting, digitizing, vectorizing, georeferencing and interpretation of different (historical) maplayers, excavation plans, oblique aerial photographs and orthophotographs. Development of a GIS-tool for the prediction of locations of Roman roads and field systems. Integration of all collected data in a database. Presentation and discussion of results at different workshops in France, Slovenia and Spain.

January 1997 - December 1999

Employer: Ghent University, Department of Geography, Prof. Marc Antrop

Project: **“An Atlas for the relics of traditional landscapes in Eastern and Western Flanders and Antwerp”**

Tasks: Detecting and vectorizing of relics of traditional landscapes. Collecting landscape descriptions in a database. Designing an interface to make the maps and database accessible for governmental institutions. Plotting resulting maps. Presentation of results on posters, published at different workshops in Belgium.

Education

MASTER OF GEOGRAPHY | JULY 1996 | GHENT UNIVERSITY

MASTER OF ECONOMICS | JULY 1992 | UNIVERSITY OF HAMBURG

Skills & Abilities

- GIS (QGIS, ArcGIS Pro)
- Programming languages (R, Python)
- Web design (HTML, PHP)
- Database management (MySQL, Access)
- Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint)
- Languages (German, Dutch, English, Spanish)
- Driver's licenses (A, B, C (<7,5 ton))
- PADI Diver

Selected Publications

- Devos, Isabelle, et al. “*STREAM (Spatiotemporal Research Infrastructure for Early Modern Brabant and Flanders) : Sources, Data and Methods*” (2018), in: International Journal of Humanities and Arts Computing, vol. 12, no. 2, pp. 102-19.
- Sven Vrielinck and Torsten Wiedemann, “*Making maps with HISSTAT, the database of local statistics in Belgium since 1800: a project in progress*” (2010), in: European Social Science History Conference, Abstracts.
- Luc Hens, Torsten Wiedemann, Schalk Raath, Riana Stone, Paul Renders, Eric Craenhals, Barry Richter, “*Monitoring environmental management at primary schools in South Africa*” (2010), in: Journal of Cleaner Production, Volume 18, Issue 7, pp. 666-677
- Ann Van Herzele, Eva De Clercq, Torsten Wiedemann, Luc De Bruyn, Hanne Degans, “*Stedelijk Milieu*” (2004), in: MIRA-T, Lannoo Campus, pp. 355-365.
- Frank Vermeulen, Marc Antrop, Beatrijs Hageman, Torsten Wiedemann, “*Ancient roads and fields in northwestern Gaul - A GIS-based analysis*” (2001), in: Computing Archaeology for Understanding the Past, Proceedings, p.187-196.