

Neil Alejandro Anderson

Background

Dual Citizenship: United States, Venezuela

Place of Birth: Boston, United States

Date of Birth: February 8, 1986

Address

23114 Park Contessa

Calabasas, CA 91302, USA

Mobile

+1 (818) 268-7650

Online

nano.anderson@gmail.com

Undergraduate Education

► Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey — May 2008

Bachelor of Arts

Major: Information Technology / Informatics

Minor: Women's and Gender Studies

Dean's List

Work Experience

► Teaching Assistant, Rutgers University, Web Design With XML Technologies; New Brunswick, NJ — Summer 2008

Assisted two professors in Rutgers University's School of Communication, Information, and Library Studies in a course regarding the usefulness and implementation of XML technologies within the realm of web design and web programming.

► Web Programmer, Rutgers University, Office of Institutional Research; New Brunswick, NJ — Summer 2007

Worked as part of a team which built and maintained websites used by the OIRAP (Office of Institutional Research and Academic Planning) department of Rutgers University. Primary was usability and user interface development, with an emphasis on cross-platform usability. Projects included online surveys for students and faculty for research purposes and a cross-department online CV management application. Made using XHTML, ASP.NET, C#, MSSQL, & Visual Studio.

► Webmaster, the-pine.com — 2006-2007

Created a unique design under the art direction of Roger King, using his distinct art as the basis for a site for his band, The Pine. Concept was centered around the idea of a "burlap window", which was representative of the burlap cases the band created for the limited edition "tour" copies of their CDs and LPs. Old url expired as the band went on hiatus in 2007, but the site is still available at staticpulse.com/pine. Made using XHTML, Javascript, & Photoshop.

► Webmaster, Jessiepoland.com — 2003-2005

Designed, programmed, and managed jessiepoland.com (edit: as of early 2006, url is j-poland.com; 2007: charlottesometimesmusic.com), the website for singer/songwriter Jessie Poland (known as Geffen Records recording artist *Charlotte Sometimes*) from 2003 until 2005. The website used a Content Management System I designed and implemented from the ground-up to manage news, users, photo galleries, mp3s, concerts, etc. and is continually growing to control new aspects of the site.

► Webmaster, Static Pulse; New Brunswick, NJ — 2002-Present

As my personal website, Staticpulse.com has served as a playground to test new ideas and programs on the web. Currently, it is serving as a simple photography weblog for my favorite photos, updated three times weekly. In the past it served as a platform to study automated color scheme techniques by analyzing my personal digital photo collection and searching for appropriate colors to build websites around. Made using XHTML, PHP, ASP, ASP.NET, MSSQL, MySQL, jQuery, & Wordpress.

► E-Commerce Programmer & Designer, Dickson Supply Co.; Brielle, NJ — 2001-2004

During high school, I was referred to this local plumbing & heating wholesale distributor by my programming teacher. I worked on many projects including maintaining a perl-based web store, building and maintaining a web store on Yahoo!Stores, and programming for multiple in-house-hosted web stores (using Microsoft Web Technologies such as ASP/.NET/MSSQL/Server 2000/2003). Current site: accentshopping.com

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Skills

► **Web Programming**

ASP/VBScript; ASP.NET/VB.NET/C#; SQL/MSSQL/MySQL; PHP; CodeIgniter; Ruby on Rails; MS Visual Studio; Microsoft Windows Server (2000/2003); Mac OS X; Coda; Dreamweaver

► **Website Design**

HTML/XHTML; CSS; XML; ECMAScript/Javascript; Pen & Paper

► **Graphic Design**

Print, Screen, & Multi-Media; Photoshop; Illustrator; Fireworks; Pen & Paper

Language Proficiency

► **English**

Fluent — Speaking, Reading, Writing

► **Spanish**

Fluent — Speaking, Reading, Writing

► **French**

Serviceable — Speaking, Reading, Writing

Information Visualization Works

► **World War II Military Deaths by country and reporting source — April 2008**

An online, interactive chart which allows the user to compare reported military death tolls for countries in WWII, as reported by Ellis, Eckhardt, et al. It follows a similar structure to the WWI chart (below), but keeps a consistent scale and is based on percentage differences from the median as the differentiating factor instead of actual death tolls. Made using XHTML, Javascript, & jQuery.

[Chart at staticpulse.com](http://staticpulse.com)

► **World War I Military Deaths by country and reporting source — February/March 2008**

Researched the death tolls of participating nations in World War I as reported by Gilbert, Eckhardt, Brzezinski, et al. The chart I created shows the vast difference in numbers reported by each source and lists notes which may help reveal the reasons behind the disparities. Made using OmniGraffle & Illustrator.

[PDF Version](http://staticpulse.com/graphics/WWI.pdf) (recommended) [900KB] <http://staticpulse.com/graphics/WWI.pdf>

[JPG Version](http://staticpulse.com/graphics/WWI.jpg) [19MB] <http://staticpulse.com/graphics/WWI.jpg>

Research Experience

► **Photographing and Recording Shifting Land Law Structure and its Effects on Small-Scale Farmers' Land-Use in Dębica Kaszubska, Poland — January/February 2008**

Under authorization of the Institutional Review Board and Human Subjects Certification to participate in the first ethnographic study (by Edyta V. Materka of Dębica Kaszubska, a rural village in the Pomeranian Voivodeship of northwest Poland, I photographed economic development, agricultural institutions, small and medium sized private farms, ecotourism venues, and recorded eight interviews with small, medium, and large-scale family farmers who narrated their personal experiences with the post-Communist economic and political transformations which have penetrated their village since 1989.

1,000 photographs which include century-old German homes (still legally unprotected by heritage preservation foundations like UNESCO's World Heritage Foundation) are physically being demolished due to escalating property taxes imposed on poor Polish farmers (who migrated to Dębica Kaszubska after the Potsdam Conference in 1946

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and settled on previously occupied German land).

[Link to Paper](#)

Other Interests

▶ **Classical Guitar Studies under Michael Newman — 2005-Present**

Extracurricular study of classical guitar. Pursuing my love of music and the desire to create and understand it better.

▶ **Concert Organizer for The Abdab, New Brunswick, NJ — 2005-2007**

Goals: to foster community-building, creative expression, and safe environments for alternative artistic expression. Invited bands/artists (from many locations, including EU & USA) to perform in basement of my home, provided free food and facilities to anybody who made a donation to bands/acts on tour.

▶ **Carpenter, Blue Nova Woodworking; Dunnellen, NJ — Summer 2006**

Learned the craft of furniture-building and cabinetry. Was part of a three-person team which consulted on custom woodworking jobs and then built and installed cabinets, benches, shelves, etc.

Current Research Interests

▶ **Making Invisible Borders Visible**

Goal: to make understanding borders and their myriad effects easier, and to convey their importance to the educators people rely on for information on border disputes of all kinds.

Method: the creation of software to combine textual (history, psychology, etc.) and geographical (maps) information with the goal of doing for border theory what Google Maps and Google Earth have done for geography and cartography. Specifically, design the software to do 2 things: (a) explain/educate the user(s) about physical and/or mapped borders; its primary visual content would be comprised of maps with complementary information visualizations to describe how those borders affect daily life. (b) create an element of the software in such a way to educate the user on the nonphysical/metaphysical borders in an interactive, engaging manner.

Challenge: to determine the best ways to abstract the physical borders of the earth and nations from invisible borders, while making the transition from one type to the other smooth to the users.

Travel

▶ **United States — Ongoing**

Traveled extensively throughout the continental United States July/August 2006, August 2007, and June 2008, in addition to various shorter excursions to many destinations in the U.S. I wanted to see the country I grew up in. I felt that in order to understand the world and different cultures, I should start by understanding the country I live in, especially given its prominence on the world political-economic stage. It has also been a journey in perceptions of all the U.S. history I have been taught since elementary school.

▶ **Venezuela — Ongoing**

Having completed over two dozen trips to Caracas to visit my extended family in the Distrito Federal, I have developed a mental map of the culture, local music, architecture, social gatherings, and political demonstrations of Venezuela in its cities, countryside and coastal regions and have experienced the economic and political oscillations which have been shaping the country since 1986.

My knowledge of Venezuela has also been constructed by my travels outside the capital, such as the street and university culture of Maracaibo, the expansion of the Caribbean tourist industry on Isla Margarita, and multifarious usage of shared farms (i.e. respite vacation spots and sustenance farming) in Aragua state.

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► **Poland — January 2008**

As noted under “Research Experience”, took over 1,000 photos of interviews with industrial and family agricultural workers in rural Poland, as well as of homes and buildings, many built in the early twentieth century or earlier, and at risk of being demolished due to deteriorating economic conditions for farmers in the EU.

► **Turkey — January 2008**

Experienced first-hand the trenches and battlefields in Gallipoli (World War I) to understand more intimately the meaning and feelings of war, defense, and borders. It served as inspiration for my first projects in information visualization, discussed below under “Information Visualization Works”.

► **Canada — July 2006**

Wanted to visit the primary vacation destination for my Buffalo, NY-born father during his youth, as well as see a natural wonder that I had never before seen — a waterfall.

► **France, Holland, Spain — My Youth**

As a child, I spent time in these countries where my father would play concerts (guitar), and got to experience various cultures and explore many historical centers of Europe during my formative years, before I had begun to discover my identity as a Venezuelan-American.