



AAG Annual Meeting

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Panel Session:

2553 Looking Backwards and Forwards in Participatory GIS: Session II

is scheduled on Wednesday, 4/22/2015, from 3:20 PM - 5:00 PM in Stetson D, Hyatt, West Tower, Purple Level

Sponsorship(s):

Cyberinfrastructure Specialty Group
Geographic Information Science and Systems Specialty Group
Spatial Analysis and Modeling Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

[Bandana Kar](#) - University of Southern Mississippi
[Rina Ghose](#) - University Of Wisconsin Milwaukee

Chair(s):

[Bandana Kar](#) - University of Southern Mississippi

Panelist(s):

[Renee Sieber](#) - McGill University
[Nancy J. Obermeyer](#) - Indiana State Univ
[Muki Haklay](#) - University College London
[Melinda J. Laituri](#) - Colorado State University

Session Description: In the 1990s, participatory GIS (PGIS) emerged as an approach and tool to make geospatial technologies more relevant and accessible to marginalized groups. The goal has been to integrate the qualitative and experiential knowledge of local communities and individuals, thereby, empowering local peoples and non-profit organizations to participate in political decision-making. By enabling the participation of local people from different strata of life, PGIS has provided a platform where these people can share their view points and create maps depicting alternative views of the same problem, but from a local perspective.

Over the years, numerous applications integrating GIS and social and spatial knowledge of local groups have been developed. PGIS appears well articulated as a technique. However, with the growth of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), from an epistemological view point the relationship of PGIS constructs (society, technology and institutions) and the use of components (access, power relations, diverse knowledge) in PGIS necessitates an exploration of what PGIS means in 21st century.

This session focuses on emergent research that examines the historical and newer perspective on PGIS and counter-cartography, and seeks to contribute to current debates on the theoretical and applied aspects of PGIS. Researchers focusing on the following questions, as well as related topics, are welcomed to submit their papers for this session:

1. Did we miss something? Are there characteristics of PGIS that have emerged or new theories that better explain GIS?
2. What social theories form the basis for the current implementation of PGIS?
3. To what extent do spatial theories, such as Tobler's law of spatial relations, influence the success of PGIS?
4. To what do emergent technologies, such as 3D mapping influence PGIS and its implementation? What has changed with the introduction of new technologies?
5. What are the different methods to connecting local people's indigenous knowledge and spatial information with political and economic changes of communities?
6. Which knowledge is included vs. should be included in data collection, mapping and decision-making and knowledge production?
7. What role do the growth of ICTs and crowdsourcing plays in the inclusion of

indigenous and local knowledge? Does it hinder the participatory process or enable empowerment of local communities?

8. How often do PGIS projects need to be revisited to address the dynamic nature of society and political factors and to allow future growth?

9. Does action-oriented research play a role in the integration of local knowledge in counter-mapping and decision-making? What is our role as researchers in PGIS activities?

10. With growth of Participatory Geoweb, volunteered geographic information and citizen science, should there be a PGIS? What is and should be the future of PGIS?

11. To what extent are rural, developing country, or marginalized communities really involved in the counter-mapping process? Are they represented when this action is undertaken by volunteers?

12. How effective have PGIS and Citizen Science been in addressing issues of environmental and social justice and resource allocation, especially, from a policy making perspective?

Additional information regarding the conference may be found at:
http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting/call_for_papers

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Organizers: Rina Ghose, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee; Muki Haklay, University College London, UK; Bandana Kar, University of Southern Mississippi - Hattiesburg; Renee Sieber, McGill University.

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