

CALL FOR PAPERS

Spatial Autocorrelation in Environmental Justice Research: Problems, Prospects, and Future Directions

2009 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers
March 22-27, Las Vegas, Nevada

This session is co-sponsored by the Hazards Specialty Group, the Spatial Analysis and Modeling Specialty Group, and the Urban Geography Specialty Group.

Organizers:

Jayajit Chakraborty, University of South Florida, jchakrab@cas.usf.edu
Sara Grineski, University of Texas at El Paso, segrineski@utep.edu
Tim Collins, University of Texas at El Paso, twcollins@utep.edu

Description:

Due in part to the advent of readily available spatial data analysis tools (e.g., GeoDa) that allow the implementation of spatial econometric techniques, progress has been made in controlling for spatial autocorrelation (SA) in quantitative analysis of environmental justice (EJ). This development has not been accompanied by a systematic discussion and examination of theoretical, analytical, and practical issues involved in controlling for the effects of SA in EJ research. This paper session thus intends to provide a forum for conceptual, theoretical, and empirical research on addressing SA in the assessment of EJ. In addition to case studies that control for SA in EJ analyses, we seek contributions that include, but are not limited to, the following questions:

- Why is SA an important consideration in EJ research?
- What techniques exist for detecting and addressing SA in EJ research?
- What are the limitations of current analytical techniques for addressing SA?
- How do theoretical assumptions for addressing SA correspond to and/or conflict with conceptions of EJ?
- What is the significance of considering SA for prior, foundational research in EJ?
- What are the implications of SA for future quantitative research in EJ?
- Can we articulate “best practices” for treating issues of SA in EJ research?

If you are interested in presenting a paper in this sponsored session, please follow these steps:

1. Register for the meeting at <http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2009/registration.htm>.
2. Submit your abstract online to the AAG to receive a Presenter Identification Number (PIN).
3. Send your PIN via email to any one of the organizers on or before October 10, 2008.

(Note: this is five days before the AAG abstract submission deadline in order to allow time to organize papers and submit the session).