



## The Association of American Geographers Spatial Analysis and Modeling Specialty Group Newsletter 2018

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### FROM THE CHAIR

Dear SAM Members,

Happy new year, and many thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of the SAM newsletter. I would like to express special appreciation to Daoqin Tong, our newsletter editor, who has put together another excellent SAM newsletter. As many of you know, SAM has grown into one of the largest specialty groups within AAG, owing to the efforts of our dedicated and creative members. From sharing research at AAG, to sponsored events, to outreach in schools and communities, our members are engaged. And much of our recent growth has been due to new student members, which now account for just about 50% of our total membership. This is a great balance, and highlights the exciting future in store for SAM and its many disciplines. For those members looking to stay even more engaged, consider interacting on our SAM Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/spatialanalysisandmodelling/>) or other social media platforms. Additionally, I encourage you to check out SAM activities in 2019 posted in our group website, and as always, keep up on the latest SAM news by joining our Community (<http://community.aag.org/home>).

AAG 2019 in DC is just around the corner, and as always SAM will sponsor many events at the meeting. We expect to sponsor a record number of paper and panel sessions, plus at least one additional student-focused poster session. A big thanks to all members who asked for SAM sponsorship; we tried to respond to requests as quickly as possible, and are happy to discuss further sponsorships as we get closer to the final schedule. In related news, SAM will have two student paper competition sessions. After a very successful set of papers last year, the SAM board members are looking forward to evaluating this year's excellent set of papers. SAM will also be sponsoring a number of additional awards, including our yearly SAM travel awards, our emerging scholar award (stay tuned for a call for nominations), and our prestigious service award. On top of these, we have our 2019 SAM plenary speaker already scheduled and ready, so please make sure to attend Dr. Alan Murray's lecture. As always, thank you to all who nominated qualified candidates for our various awards this year.

In terms of the SAM board, we will soon be sending out the final vote and announcement for the student board member position, which was originally solicited last year. I would also like to take the time to thank our past student board member, Alexander Hohl, who spearheaded our most recent social media

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and website updates. Thanks also to past board members Heejun Chang (Chair) and Debarchana (Debs) Ghosh for their service over the past several years; the SAM community is enriched through their efforts.

In closing, I would like to remind you all to attend our 2019 SAM business meeting (tentatively scheduled on Friday, April 5th during lunch time), to share your ideas on how the specialty group may advance and better serve the SAM community. Additionally, if you have any other ideas related to SAM activities, please contact me at [carson.farmer@gmail.com](mailto:carson.farmer@gmail.com) at any time. Thank you for continuing to engage with SAM, and I look forward to seeing many of you in DC and working with you closely on SAM business.

Sincerely,

Carson Farmer  
**SAM Chair**  
**University of Colorado Boulder**

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## AWARDS

[Dr. Richard Church](#) received the 2018 **Isard Award** from the **North American Regional Science Council** at its annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, November 7-10, 2018. The Isard Award is named in honor of Professor Walter Isard, the founder of the Regional Science Association. The award was established in 1994 to acknowledge “regional scientists who have made significant theoretical and methodological contributions to the field of Regional Science throughout their careers.”

[Dr. Alan Murray](#) was elected Fellow of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) at its annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, November 7-10, 2018. “RSAI fellows are distinguished scholars with a proven and recognized research record in the field of regional science during a considerable part of their scientific career. Such honored members of the RSAI are appointed after a careful nomination and selection procedure, based on a

broad consultation of the RSAI membership. The RSAI fellowship is a world-wide sign of scientific recognition that is bestowed on a regional scientist with outstanding research credentials in his/her field.”



Alan Murray and Richard Church

[Dr. Daniel A. Griffith](#) Ashbel Smith Professor of Geospatial Information Sciences, University of Texas at Dallas, was elected an AAG Fellow. Dan is a founding member of SAM, when it was the MM&QMSG. He also has served as its chair, been selected as one of its SAM-GA keynote

speakers, and is the recipient of one of its distinguished service awards.

[Dr. Qunshan Zhao](#) received the Nystrom Award at the 2018 AAG annual meeting. Founded by former AAG Executive Director J. Warren Nystrom, the award recognizes the excellence of a paper based on a recent dissertation in geography. Dr. Zhao's dissertation is entitled "Impact of tree locations and arrangements on outdoor microclimates and human thermal comfort in an urban residential environment." His dissertation attempts to understand how to better design tree locations and arrangements to improve the urban thermal environment in Phoenix.

## CELEBRATION

[Richard Church](#) UCSB Geography celebrated the retirement of Richard Church on October 5, 2018. Dr. Church started his career as an assistant professor in 1974 and retired in 2018. He has made significant contributions in fields of location modeling, spatial optimization, transportation and land use planning, interdiction and critical infrastructure modeling, forest management and nature reserve siting, among others. The inscription on Rick's commemorative globe reads "Excellence in scholarship, mentoring and service in Geography, at UCSB and across the community." His research productivity includes 270+ publications, \$16 million in grants (60+ as PI or Co-PI), and more than 14,000 citations (h-index=56) to date. At UCSB he has taught a range of courses, including GEOG 5 (Introductory Human Geography), 101 (Transportation Futures), 146 (Introduction to Transportation), 153D (Spatial Decisions in Retailing), 185B (Environmental Issues and Location Decision Making), 190 (Location Theory and Modeling), 191 (Introduction to Optimization Methods for Geographic Problems), 291 (Optimization Models for

Geographic Problems) and 294 (Advanced Topics in Location and Transportation Systems). He has advised some 43 MA and Ph.D. students, and served on many, many more graduate student committees. More details can be found at <https://geog.ucsb.edu/celebrating-the-retirement-of-richard-church/>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

[2019 Plenary Speaker](#) Dr. Alan Murray has been selected by the SAM Specialty Group and the Editor of Geographic Analysis as the 2019 Plenary Speaker. Dr. Murray (BS, MA, PhD UC Santa Barbara) is a Professor in the Department of Geography at University of California at Santa Barbara. His previous academic appointments include Drexel University, Arizona State University and Ohio State University. He is editor of International Regional Science Review, associate editor and/or editorial board member for a range of international journals, including Geographical Analysis, International Journal of Geographical Information Science, Transactions in GIS, Papers in Regional Science, Computers, Environment and Urban Systems, Socio-Economic Planning Sciences and Annals of the Association of American Geographers. His research and teaching interests include: geographic information science; spatial optimization; health informatics; urban growth and development; land use planning; urban, regional, and natural resource planning and development; and, infrastructure and transportation systems. He is the author of three books and more than 230 research articles, book chapters and conference proceedings papers. He has received a number of awards from the American Association of Geographers, is the recipient of the Isard Award for Scholarly Achievement as well as the Hewings Award for Outstanding Young Scholar from the North American Regional Science

Council, and Fellow of the Regional Science Association International, among others.

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## **SAM-SPONSORED SESSIONS AT 2019 AAG MEETING**

[Advances in Computational Approaches for Geospatial Health Applications](#)

[Agriculture and Food Systems: Interdisciplinary Perspectives I and II](#)

[Agent-Based Modeling of Human-Environment Interactions](#)

[Automated GISci for Network-based Decisions](#)

[Computational Geography](#)

[Conservation GIS](#)

[Cyber-infrastructure: Innovations, Practices and Beyond](#)

[GeoAI and Deep Learning Symposium: Deep Learning of Geospatial Patterns & Applications](#)

[GeoAI and Deep Learning Symposium: Spatio-Temporal Modeling and Data Mining](#)

[Geography, GIScience, and Health: Building an International Geospatial Health Research Network \(IGHRN\)](#)

[Geography, Substance Use, and Addiction](#)

[GIScience and Hazards in the Era of Big Data](#)

[GIScience in the Post-Truth Era](#)

[GIS-based quantitative methods for land change science](#)

[Global South Cities: Impacts Due to Physical Transformations in Environment and Landuse](#)

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[Human Mobility, Environmental Contexts, and Geospatial Data Mining](#)

[Integrating Remotely-Sensed Data into Climate Models](#)

[Integrative modeling for CHANS](#)

[Land Systems Science Symposium](#)

[Missing Data – Conceptualizing and making sense of the absence of data in a data-abundant age](#)

[Methods and motivations for measuring spatial inequality & socioeconomic mobility](#)

[Mountain Futures](#)

[Multimodal Visualization for Smart Cities–Urban data as Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality and Multidimensional Visualizations](#)

[Multi-source Remote Sensing for terrestrial ecosystem health monitoring and assessment](#)

[Point-Based Data for Entrepreneurship Research: Methods, Applications, and Comparisons](#)

[Remote sensing applications in sustainable urban science](#)

[Smart Cities and Urban Computing](#)

[Social Media and Big Data](#)

[Spatial and Spatio-temporal Data Mining](#)

[Spatial Optimization and Analysis](#)

[Spatial-Social Networks in GIS](#)

[Spatiotemporal disease mapping and analysis](#)

[Sustainability - A Roadmap for Decision Making](#)

[Symposium on Frontiers in Geospatial Data Science](#)

[Symposium on Human Dynamics Research in the Age of Smart/Intelligent Systems](#)

[Symposium on Human Dynamics Research in the Age of Smart/Intelligent Systems: Sensing Human Dynamics for Smart Urban Functions](#)

[Symposium on GeoAI and Deep Learning for Geospatial Research](#)

[Trees in the City 2019: Socio-Ecological Dynamics in the Urban Forest](#)

[Urban Crime Mapping and Analysis Using GIS](#)

[Urban Data Science: Methods & Models for Our Changing Cities](#)

[Urban Neighborhoods & Health Disparities](#)

[Using Coupled Human-Hydrologic Approaches to Advance Water Management and Governance](#)

[Using Spatial Data Exploration and Analysis to Understand Educational Inequality](#)

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## INFORMATION

### Spatial Analysis and Modeling (SAM) Specialty Group

Our mission is to foster and maintain interaction, cooperation and community among individuals interested in the analysis of geo-referenced data, modeling of spatio-temporal processes and the use of analytical and computational techniques in solving geographic problems. The specialty group promotes the scientific study of physical, environmental and socioeconomic geography and the development, use and teaching of analytical cartography, GIS, remote sensing,

spatial statistical, mathematical and computational techniques for spatial analysis. For more information, see the SAM-SG homepage (<http://sam-aag.org/>).

### Membership Dues

Regular: \$6

Student: \$1

### Submissions

This newsletter reaches a large number of readers and is therefore an excellent venue for getting the word out on community news, departmental happenings, research findings, media appearances, and the like. It is also a good place to post calls for proposals, awards, grants, fellowships, and jobs. We also invite you to submit commentaries or features of broad interest to specialty group members.

The newsletter relies on volunteers to submit articles, so please take a moment to send along relevant items when they are solicited.

### Officers

#### Chair

**Carson Farmer**

Department of Geography

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Term expires: 2019

#### Vice Chair/Treasurer

**Yongwan Chun**

School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

University of Texas at Dallas

Email: [ywchun@utdallas.edu](mailto:ywchun@utdallas.edu)

Term expires: 2021

#### Board Members

**Daoqin Tong**

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**Eric Delmelle**

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Term expires: 2020

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Term expires: 2021