

# The Case for Space in the Social Sciences

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Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science  
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Roundtable on  
“Geographical Voices and Geographical Analysis Methods”

Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais  
Universidade Católica de Salvador

August 2007





# Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science

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Co-PI: R.P. Appelbaum

Program Director: D.G. Janelle

**Building resources for  
spatial analysis in the  
social sciences**

**[www.CSISS.org](http://www.CSISS.org)**

- Internet Gateway to Spatial Analysis
- Resources for Researchers and Teachers
- Summer National Workshop Program
- Spatial Analytic Tools Development [L. Anselin](#)



# The CSISS Strategy and Plan

# *Modeling a Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science*

**Critical Themes in Social Science**

+

**Tools and Concepts for Spatial Thinking**

+



*Infrastructure*

=

**Advances in Spatial Social Science**

# Some Critical Themes in the Social Sciences

- **Space-time accessibility**
- **Equity**
- **Externality effects**
- **Risk assessment**
- **Small-area analysis**
- **Sense of place**
- **Cultural analysis**
- **Demographic processes**
- **Health and disease**
- **Crime mapping and law enforcement**
- **Community organization**
- **Governance**
- **Electoral processes**
- **Globalization**
- **International conflict**
- **Coupling human and environmental systems**
- **etc**

**Crime & Law Enforcement**      **Space-Time Accessibility**      **Urban & Regional Issues**      **Cultural Analysis**      **Health & Disease**

**Biophysical-Human Interface**

**Critical Themes in Social Science**

**Equity**      **Externalities**      **Globalization**      **International Conflict**      **Community Organization**

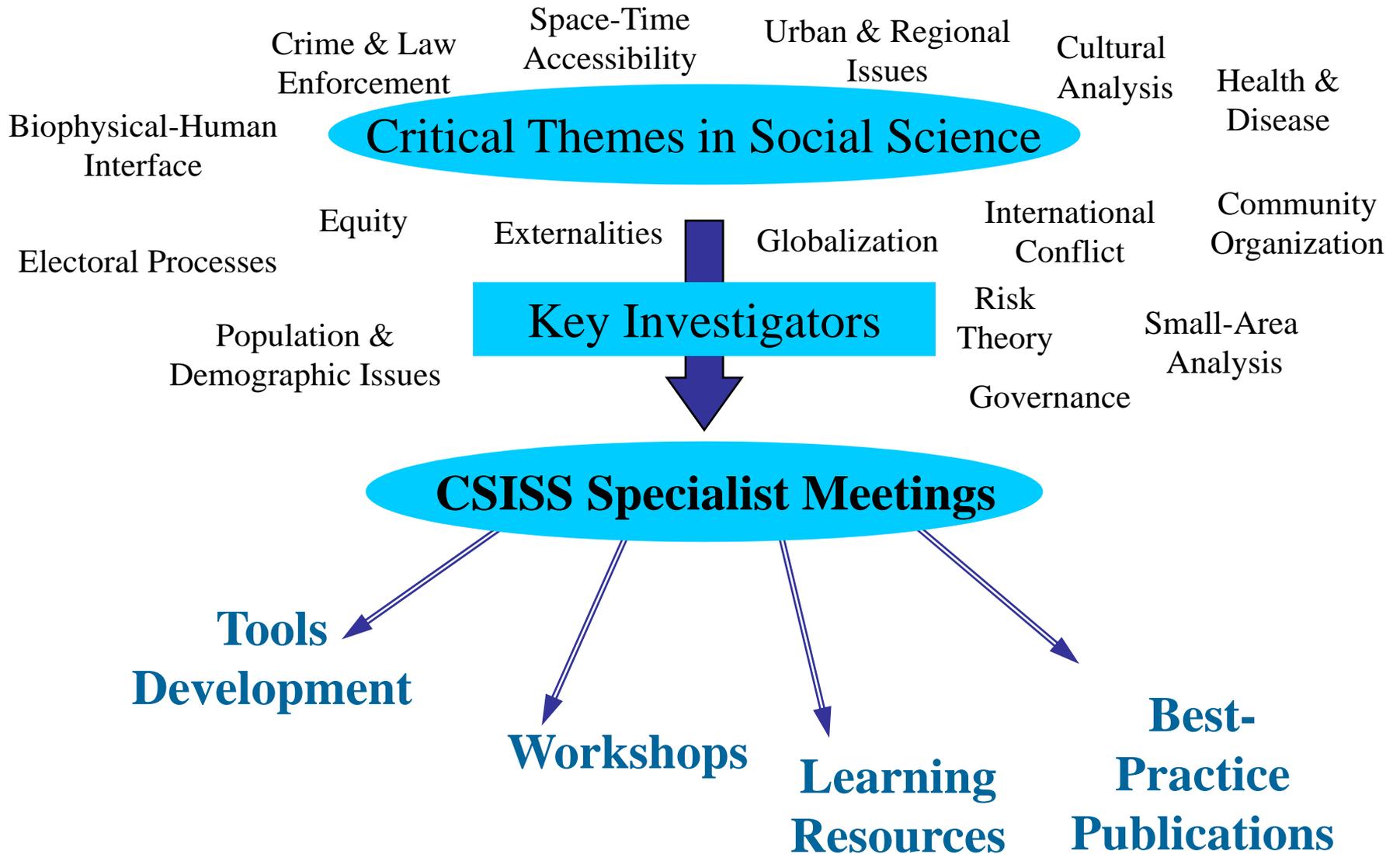
**Electoral Processes**

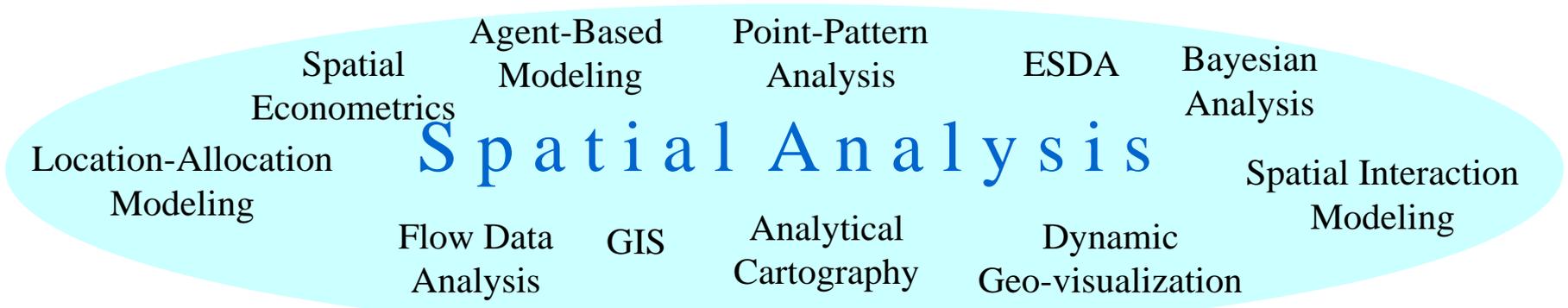
**Key Investigators**

**Population & Demographic Issues**

**Risk Theory**      **Small-Area Analysis**  
**Governance**

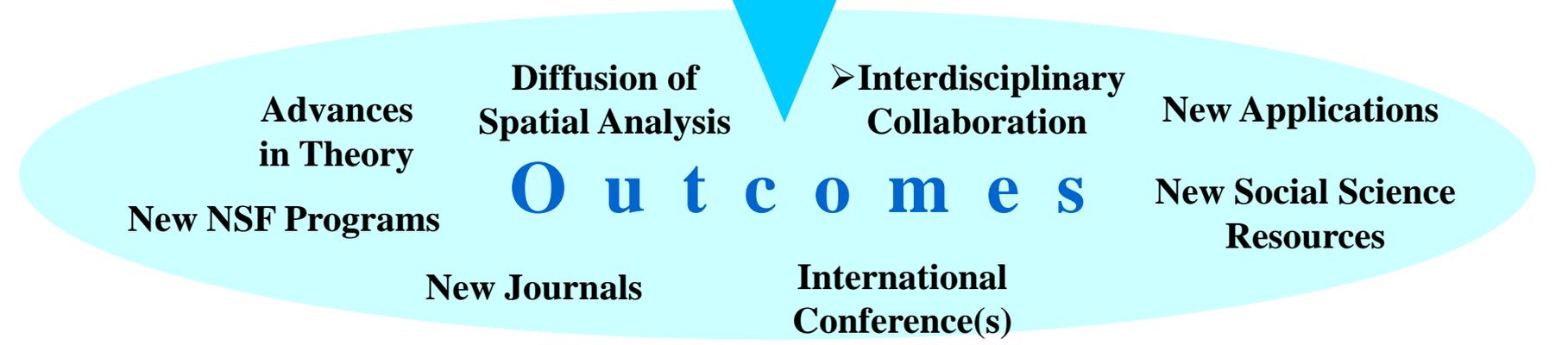
**CSISS Specialist Meetings**





Specialist Meetings  
Tools Development  
Best-Practice Publications  
Virtual Community

Workshops  
Learning Resources  
Internet Portal  
Place-Based Search



# Questions from the Skeptics

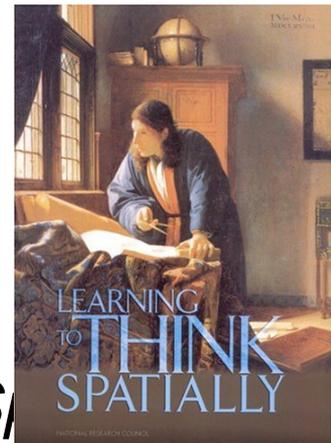
# Spatial Social Science?

- Do spatial perspectives draw on and contribute to theory in the social sciences?
- Why should social scientists accept that variance across space really matters? And, is it worth the effort to incorporate space?
- Is there a tension between GIS (the technique) and “thinking spatially”?
- What structures in the social sciences have emerged in support of spatial analysis/thinking?
- Is there a community of spatial social science and can its growth be measured?

# **Documenting a Spatial Turn in the Social Sciences**

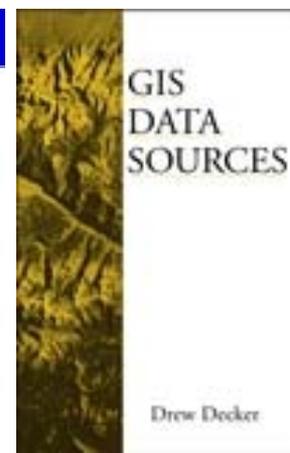
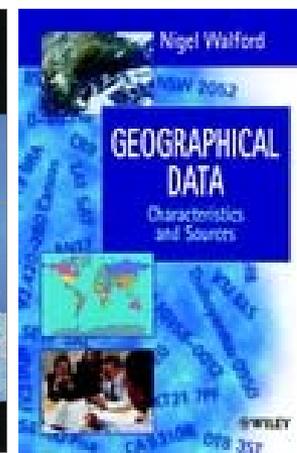
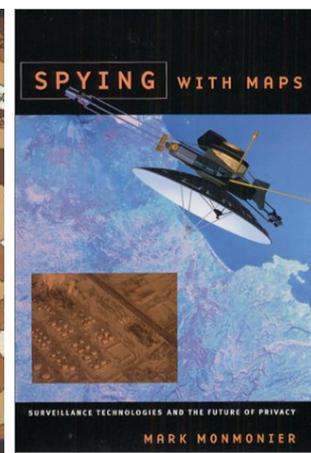
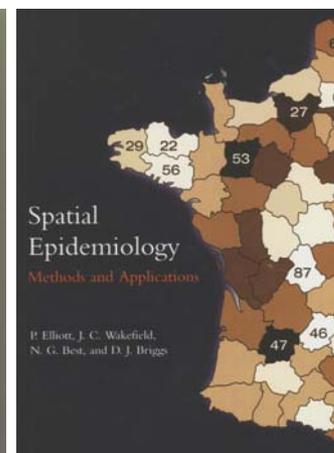
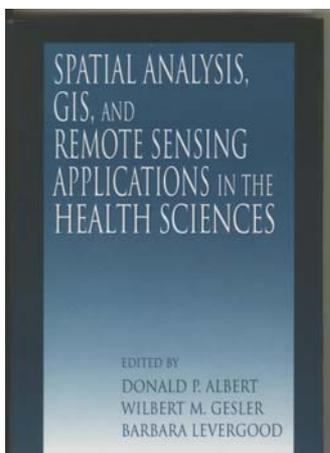
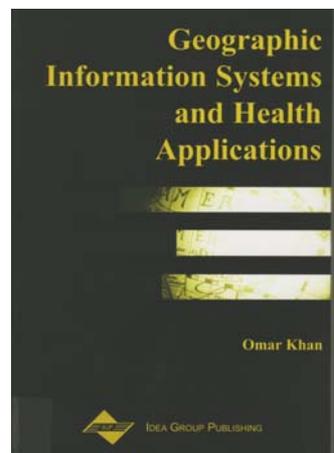
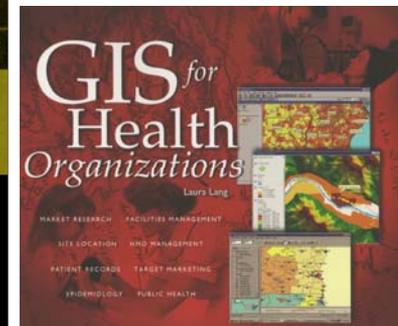
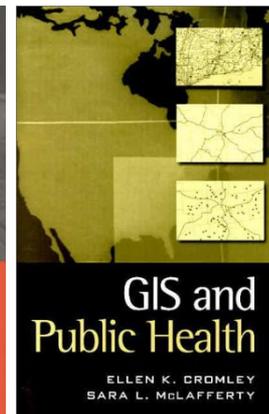
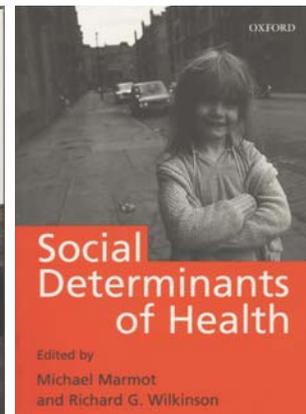
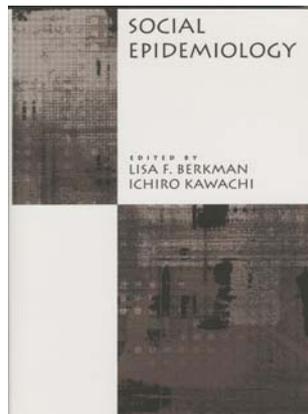
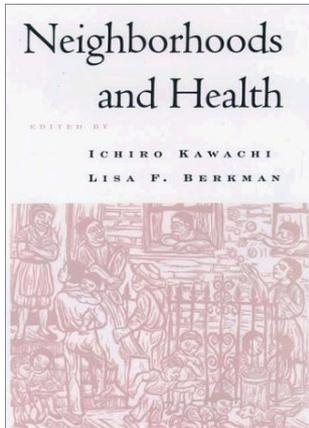
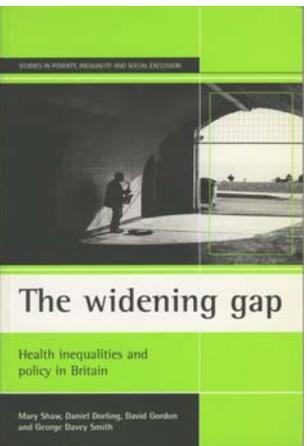
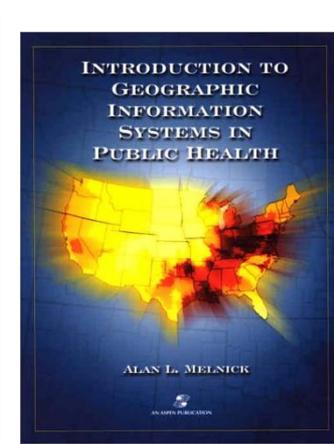
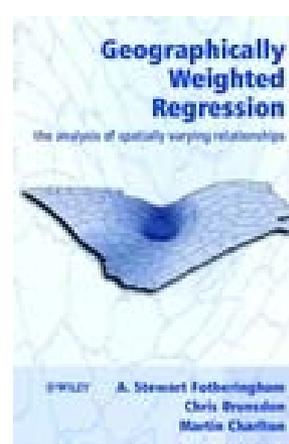
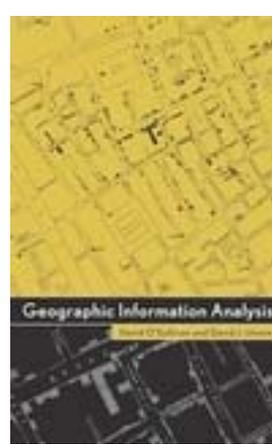
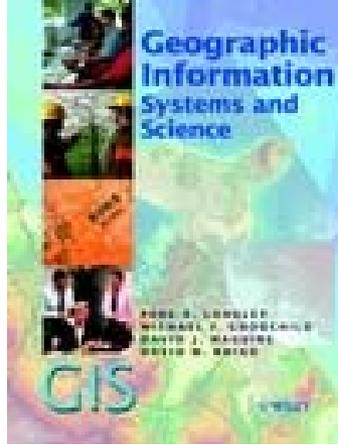
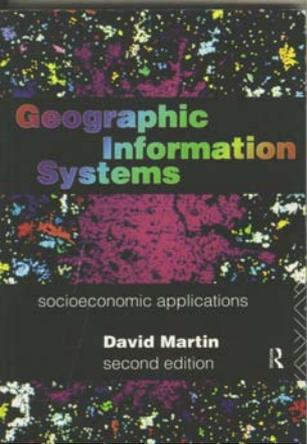
# Interest in Spatial Perspectives

- New initiatives at leading universities and by science funding agencies
- A “spatial turn” in the social sciences
  - The New Economic Geography – adding space to social science theory (space impeding flows of information, operation of markets, transport costs)
- Popularization of Spatial technologies:
  - Google Earth, Google Maps, Microsoft Virtual Earth
  - geotagging in Wikimapia, Flickr, ...
  - GIS, remote sensing, GPS
- geovisualization has impacted all science and media representation
- National Research Council report *Learning to Think Spatially*



# Building on the Numbers

- Growth in scientific literature using spatial perspectives
- CSISS summer workshops (since 2000) >700 participants
- GeoDa (CSISS / Anselin) >20,000 downloads (May 2007)
- Need for documentation of the trends in literature, software adoption, and conference presence of spatial analysis across the sciences



# Political Geography

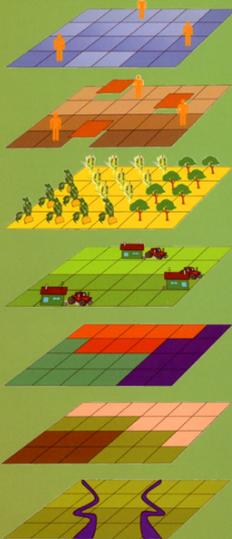
Volume 21 Number 2 February 2002

ISSN 0962-6298

**Special Issue:  
The Development and Application of Spatial  
Analysis for Political Methodology**

## Agent-Based Models of Land-Use and Land-Cover Change

Report and Review of an  
International Workshop  
Irvine, California, USA  
October 4-7, 2001



LUCC Report Series No. 6



 ELSEVIER

Agricultural Economics 27 (2002) 197–200

 AGRICULTURAL  
ECONOMICS

[www.elsevier.com/locate/agecon](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/agecon)

**Introduction to the special issue on spatial  
analysis for agricultural economists**

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# POLITICAL ANALYSIS

VOL. 10 No. 3 SUMMER 2002

**SPECIAL ISSUE**

## Spatial Methods in Political Science

Spatial Processes and Political Methodology: Introduction to the Special Issue

Michael D. Ward and John O'Loughlin

The Electoral Geography of Weimar Germany: Exploratory Spatial Data Analyses (ESDA) of Protestant Support for the Nazi Party

John O'Loughlin

Location, Location, Location: An MCMC Approach to Modeling the Spatial Context of War and Peace

Michael D. Ward and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch

Independent Citizens: Connecting

Aggregation Bias, and  
Spatial Inference: Comment on

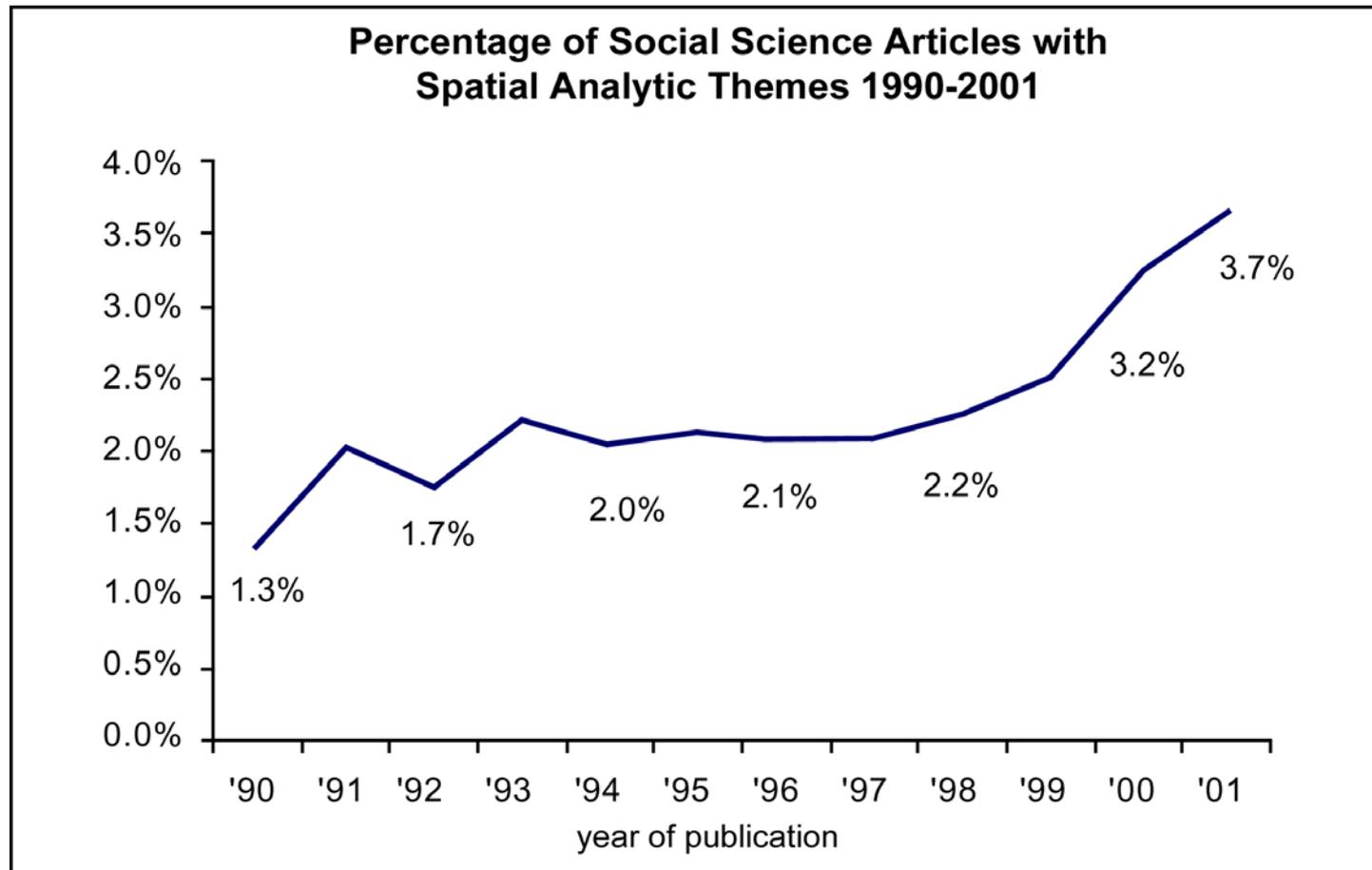
Political Variance

Gleditsch

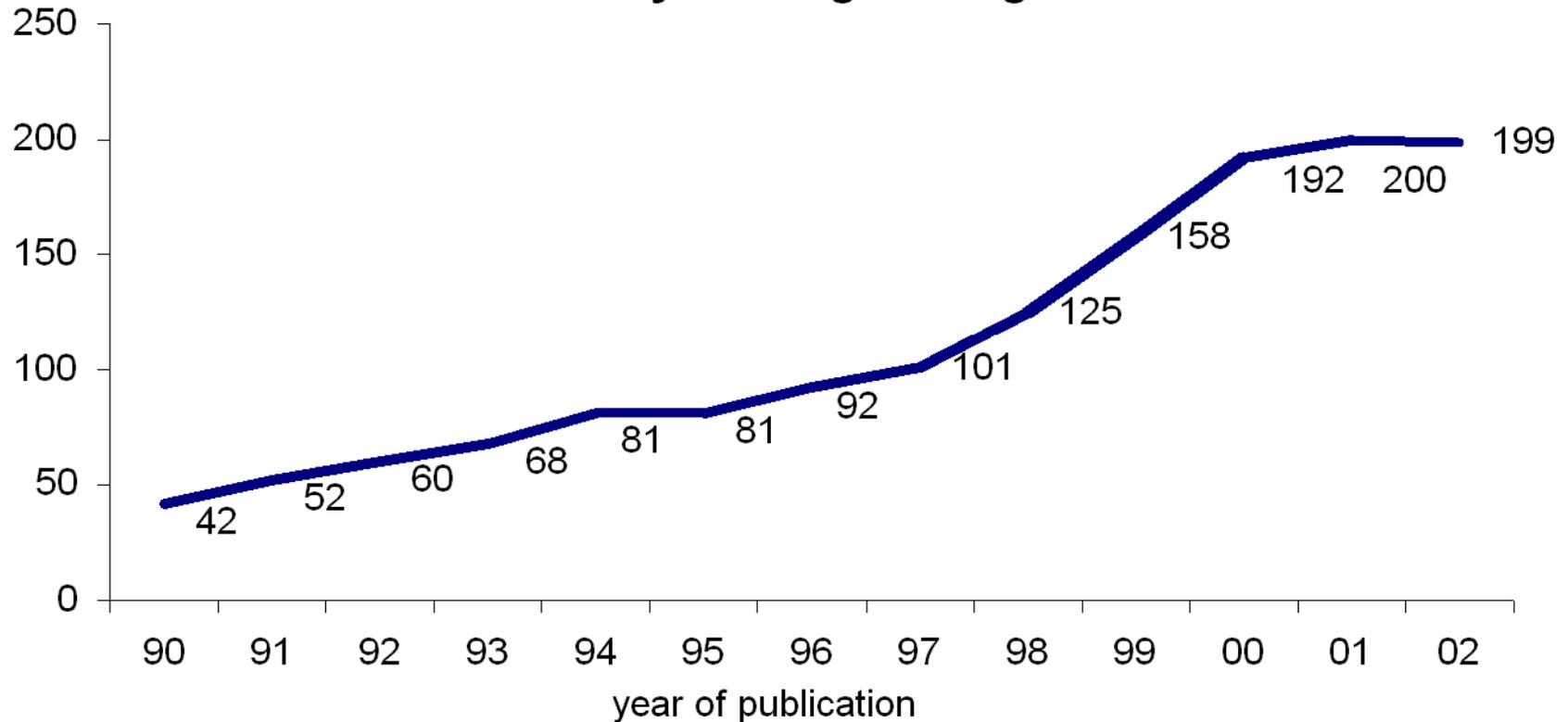
Methodology and the  
Political Science Association

# A Growing Literature

*Spatially Integrated Social Science* (Goodchild and Janelle, OUP, 2004) [www.csiss.org/best\\_practices/siss](http://www.csiss.org/best_practices/siss)



## Demography Spatial Analytic Themes 1990 - 2003 as 3 yr rolling average



The database includes 2329 demography articles from 1956 through 2004 drawn from the CSISS database and from nearly one thousand articles from journals and online databases that specialize in demography and population studies.

See <http://www.csiss.org/GISPopSci/resources/bibliography/>

**CSISS Residential Workshops  
GIS and Spatial Analysis (2000 – 2007)**

(building expertise and capacity for spatial thinking in the social sciences)

	<b>Attended</b>	<b>Applied</b>
<b>Anthropology / Archaeology</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Criminology</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Demography, Population &amp; Health</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>227</b>
<b>Economics</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>Environmental Studies</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Epidemiology</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>GIS</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>History</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Human Geography</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>422</b>
<b>Political Science</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Public Policy</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Regional Science</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Sociology</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Statistics</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Urban Studies &amp; Urban Planning</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>133</b>
Other	<b>31</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>1789</b>



**CSISS Resources  
for  
Spatial Social Science**



An Introduction to Spatial Data Analysis

developed by: **Spatial Analysis Lab**

[www.geoda.uiuc.edu](http://www.geoda.uiuc.edu)

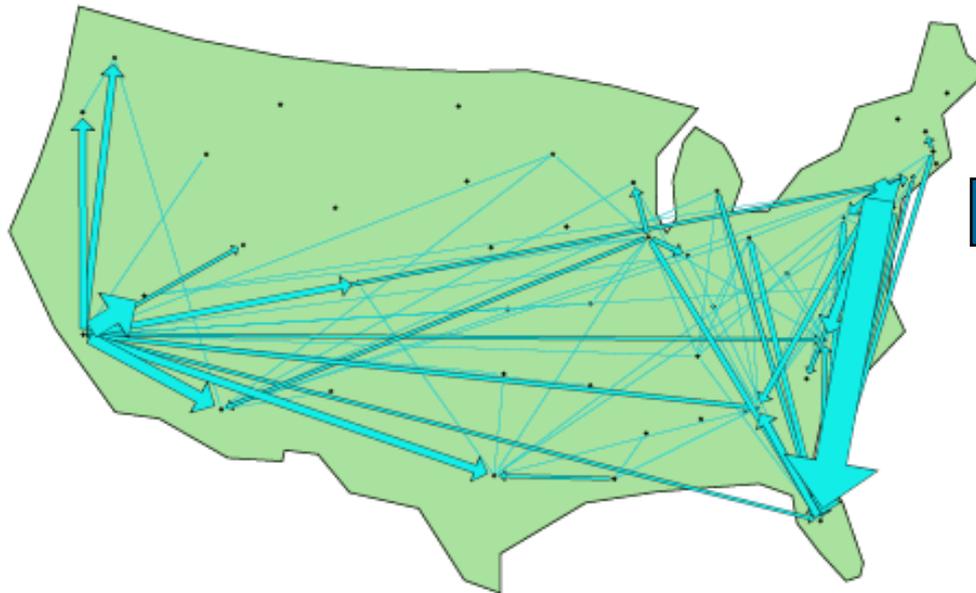
## Download GeoDa 0.9.5-i

- **Tutorials**
- **Sample Data**
- **Workbook**
- **Openspace Mailing List**



**Luc Anselin**

# Tobler's FlowMapper



<http://www.csiss.org/clearinghouse/FlowMapper>



# CSISS Video Clips of Summer Workshops



[Download Flash player now.](#)

## Introduction to Spatial Pattern Analysis in a GIS Environment

The Nature of Spatial Pattern Analysis Art Getis	Time: 9:58 Quality: <a href="#"><u>High</u></a> - 31MB
Problems Associated with Spatial Pattern Analysis Art Getis	Time: 9:43 Quality: <a href="#"><u>High</u></a> - 31MB
An Introduction to GIS Mike Goodchild	Time: 7:29 Quality: <a href="#"><u>Audio Only</u></a> - 2MB
GIS Functionality Mike Goodchild	Time: 9:58 Quality: <a href="#"><u>High</u></a> - 33MB
Current Technologies in GIS Mike Goodchild	Time: 14:54 Quality: <a href="#"><u>High</u></a> - 48MB
Spatial Patterns of Birth Data John R. Weeks	Time: 15:42 Quality: <a href="#"><u>Audio Only</u></a> - 5MB
Spatial Patterns of Fertility in Egypt John R. Weeks	Time: 10:18 Quality: <a href="#"><u>High</u></a> - 32MB

Workshops 2002

Several video clips presented introduced concepts in statistics, geostatistics, and GIS.

Copyright rights associated with these clips is restricted. We have obtained written permission from the copyright holder.

These were filmed using a digital camcorder with a DV camcorder. The clips were edited in Adobe Premiere and visualized in ArcView. [View this clip in a media player now.](#)

Introduction to Spatial Pattern Analysis

Introduction to Spatial Pattern Analysis

Introduction to Spatial Pattern Analysis

GIS

GIS Environment

[Introduction to a GIS Environment](#). The sessions covered

Art Getis, Dr. Goodchild, and Dr. Goodchild or distributed in whole or in part without the permission of the Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science.

These were filmed using a digital camcorder with a DV camcorder. The clips were edited in Adobe Premiere and visualized in ArcView. [View this clip in a media player now.](#)

Time: 9:58  
Quality: [High](#) - 31MB  
[Low](#)\* - 3.3MB

Time: 9:43  
Quality: [High](#) - 31MB

Time: 7:29  
Quality: [Audio Only](#)\*\* - 2MB

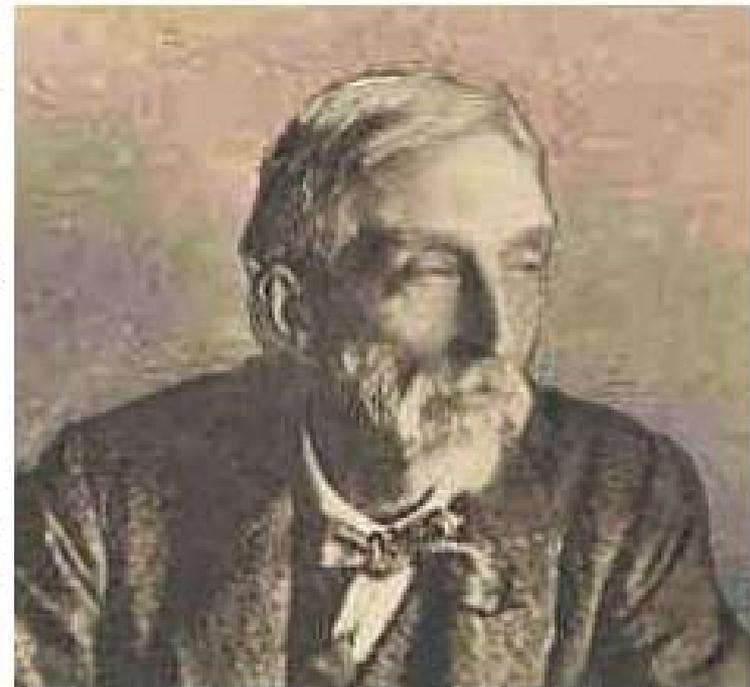
Time: 0:50

### Charles Booth: Mapping London's Poverty, 1885-1903

By David Fearon

#### *Background*

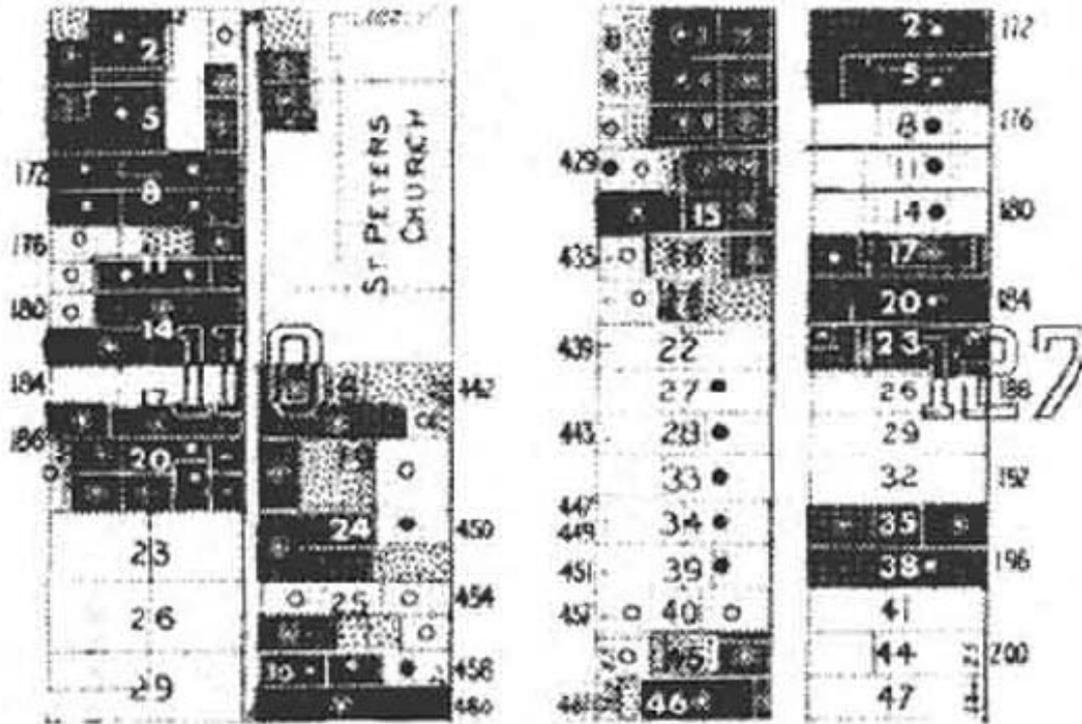
Between 1886 and 1903 Charles Booth produced a remarkable series of maps of London carefully coded for social class with data gathered by visiting, literally, every street in London. Equally remarkable, Booth devised, funded a research team, and conducted the study in his spare time while running a successful international leather trade and steamship company. In the 1880s, the question of increasing poverty in an increasingly wealthy Industrial-age Britain was becoming more central to citizens, politicians and philanthropists. A series of riots and sensational journalism sparked fears of social unrest. Booth encountered the squalid conditions of London neighborhoods while campaigning for an unsuccessful



# Florence Kelley: Slums of the Great Cities

## Survey Maps, 1893

### By Nina Brown



A section of the Hull House Wage Map of Chicago.

The original maps were published in color and the map key appears below.



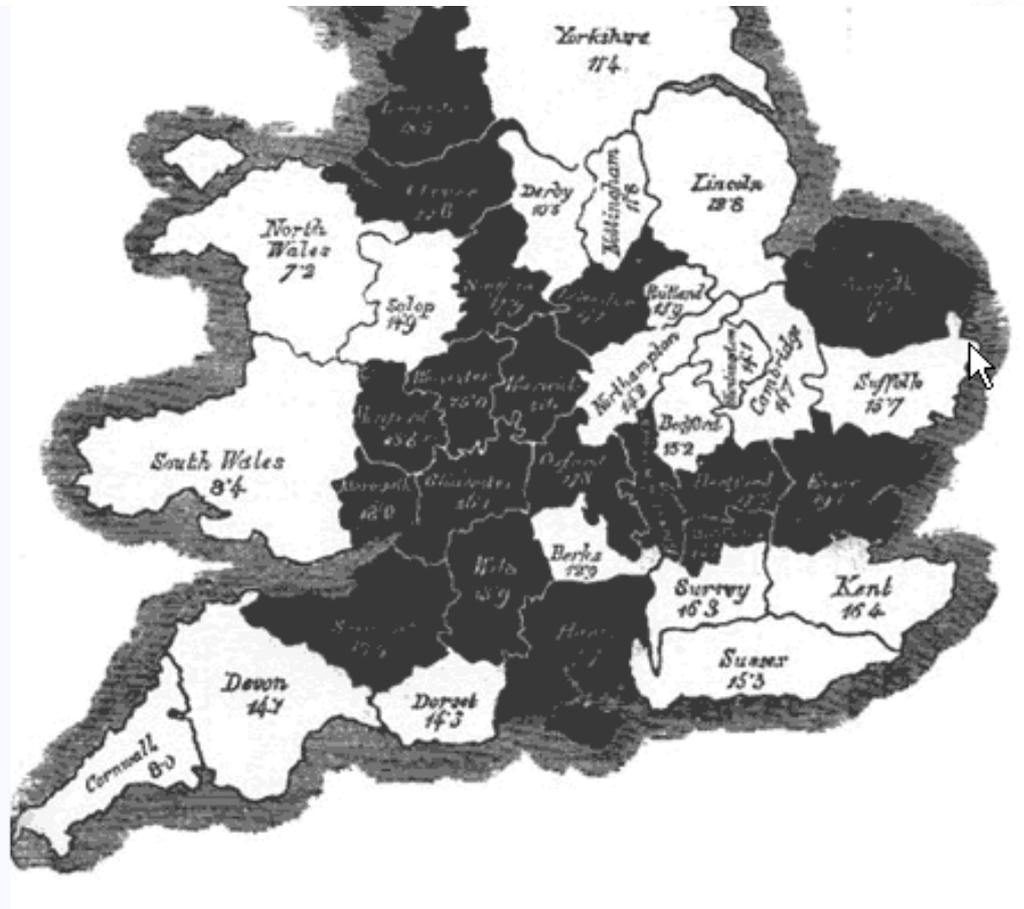
Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

887) and corresponded with Engels returned to the United States she married a socialist labor leader, but the marriage was short lived. In 1891 Kelley divorced and moved to Chicago, where she became a resident of Hull House, the

Henry Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor, 1861  
By Nina Brown

[Back to Classics](#)

*Back*



*In*

**The Intensity of Criminality**

Map showing the number of criminal offenders to every 10,000 of population in each county of England and Wales.

# **The Road to Universal Education in Spatial Thinking**

# Why *Spatial Thinking*?

- Spatial thinking should be one of the foundations for general undergraduate education (for informed citizenship and for general information analysis and assessment)
- Spatial perspectives provide a means of integrating theory within and across disciplines, and for matching it with evidence
- Spatial analysis can serve as a foundation for interdisciplinary cooperation (e.g., the coupling of environmental and social processes)



# Identifying Foundation Concepts for Spatial Thinking

- Demonstrable at all levels of space & time
- Applicable to all of science
- Expandable from simple illustrations to advanced thought processes about scientific and social problems
- Expandable from a 5-minute explanation to a life-time career of research and/or application

## **Eight Foundation Concepts in Spatial Thinking**

<b>1 Location</b>	Places abstracted as points, lines, and areas, and represented as points, polylines, and polygons. Rasters and grid cells. Mathematical approximations to the geoid, map projections, coordinate systems. Measurement and tracking of location: GPS. Location in human discourse: place names, prepositions, and movement verbs. Positional accuracy. The characteristics or attributes of places: scales of measurement. Concepts of land ownership in different cultures, administrative hierarchies, postcodes, linear referencing.
<b>2 Distance</b>	Metrics of distance on the plane and globe. Travel cost, travel time, and impacts on interaction and spatial behavior by humans and other organisms. Distance decay and spatial interaction models. Buffers. Weights matrices and their applications in spatial analysis and modeling. Geodesics, potential fields, and optimum paths.
<b>3 Network</b>	Linear networks for transportation, communication, and social interaction. Network metrics. Models of network development and design. Small worlds and degrees of separation. Representation of networks in spatial databases. Models of network flow assignment.
<b>4 Neighborhood and Region</b>	Definitions of neighborhood based on human spatial behavior. Formal and functional regions and concepts of territory. Models of region design and political districting. The modifiable areal unit problem and the ecological fallacy. Techniques of areal interpolation. Metrics of fragmentation and shape.

<b>5 Scale</b>	<p>Level of detail in spatial data sets. Definitions of scale: extent and resolution. Scale-related concepts: self-similarity (fractals), generalization and down-scaling, line and surface smoothing, recursive subdivision, variance decomposition, and multi-level analysis. The role of scale in process.</p>
<b>6 Spatial Heterogeneity</b>	<p>Heterogeneity as a fundamental characteristic of spatial data. First-order effects, non-stationarity, and uncontrolled variance. Implications of spatial heterogeneity for sampling and statistical inference. Place-based analysis, local indicators of spatial association, and geographically weighted regression.</p>
<b>7 Spatial Dependence</b>	<p>Metrics of spatial dependence: Moran and Geary indices. Getis and Ord G statistic. Geostatistics as a theoretical framework for spatial data. Spatial interpolation. Statistical inference in the presence of spatial dependence; explicit models of spatial dependence. Analysis of point patterns and cluster detection. The role of spatial dependence in uncertainty.</p>
<b>8 Objects and Fields</b>	<p>Discrete objects and continuous fields as fundamental conceptualizations of space and as the basis for models of process. The dichotomy as an underpinning of methods of representation and analysis. Spatial correlation. Concepts of uncertainty in both conceptualizations.</p>

# Linking Foundation Concepts of Spatial Thinking to the Theories and Themes of the Social Sciences

- Social inequality
- Concentrated disadvantage  
Uneven development
- Externalities
- Neighborhood
- Community
- Social networks
- Social capital
- Collective efficacy
- Trust
- Power
- Service optimization
- Etc.

# Building Foundations for Spatial Thinking in the Social Sciences

## Lessons from CSISS

- Recognize social science theoretic and thematic perspectives
- Emphasize added value of spatial thinking to social science theory and problem solving, re:
  - integration of information / disciplines
  - inference from form to process
  - organizing and retrieving information
  - links to policy

# Challenges

- Leadership is needed to position spatial thinking as important (essential) to scientific understanding and to sound public policies
- Support resources need to be assembled, organized, and made easily accessible:
  - Course units, exercises, instruments for learning assessment, etc.
  - Networks of scholars / mentors
- GI Science tools need enhancement to meet the needs of science:
  - Technologies for space-time integration of data
  - Capabilities in analysis are needed that match the capabilities of micro-simulation methods to display space-time processes

# Conclusions

- The relevance of spatial perspective in science is increasingly appreciated across disciplines – providing grounds for curriculum change
- A growing level of expertise exists across disciplines – allies and potential leaders in curriculum change (need for documentation)
- The ***necessary conditions*** to imbue science education with the powerful insights of the spatial perspective and visualization are now in place

Obrigado



Please visit [www.csiss.org](http://www.csiss.org)

Under development: [www.spatial.ucsb.edu](http://www.spatial.ucsb.edu)