

**GEO 599**  
**Virtual Seminar in Geographic Information Science: Public**  
**Participation GIS**  
**Fall 2007**  
**Mondays, 4:00-5:20 p.m., Wilkinson 203**  
**plus *much* additional time on the Internet**  
**3 credits**

**Instructor:** Dawn Wright ([dawn@dusk.geo.orst.edu](mailto:dawn@dusk.geo.orst.edu)). Office hours TW 1:30-2:30 in Wilkinson 114)

**Course Overview:** Are you interested in community-based GIS, GIS for citizen involvement, conservation GIS with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and citizen groups? Grassroots GIS? Issues of empowerment and marginalization where GIS and mapping are concerned? Then this course may be for you!

The goal of "Public Participation GIS" seminar will be to cover the range of topics raised by the intersection of community interests and GIS technology. As a vehicle for achieving this goal, students will read and discuss papers in a seminar format but also participate in group projects with local community groups.

Most of the course will function as a "virtual seminar" offered to universities in the 70-member University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS), of which OSU is a founding member. Most of the content will be coordinated by the World Universities Network (WUN) Global GIS Academy. So during a significant part of this course you will be "in class" on the web with lecturers and students from across the country at other UCGIS institutions, as well as institutions in the U.K and the Netherlands. Students and faculty members nationwide will be able to access a full syllabus, course calendar, assignments, and communication tools through the WUN web site. Other media, including desktop web conferencing and streaming video, will also be employed.

**Prerequisite:** Graduate standing at OSU or enrollment in the GIScience Professional Certificate Program.

This course will also be accepted as an elective in the GIScience concentration within the geography M.S. and Ph.D. degree programs, or as an elective in the graduate and professional certificate programs in GIScience.

**Assignments:** Readings and assignments will be provided on the web. You will be expected to co-lead a class discussion of a paper, contribute to discussions during the web conferences, and to contribute to a group project due at the end of the term.

**Learning Outcomes:** The following intended learning outcomes for this course fall

under various categories in the *UCGIS GIS & T Body of Knowledge*:

- *GS3 Public use of geospatial information*
- *GS3-1 Major uses of geospatial information and of land information* Students should be able to describe the common uses of geospatial information in governance, including ethical, security, aesthetic/scientific, and management uses.
- *GS3-3 Public participation in legislating and administering* Students should be able to differentiate grassroots participation and community-initiated GIS from the broader field of participatory GIS. They should be able to defend or refute the contention that grassroots participation and community-initiated GIS accentuate the development of alternative ways of conceptualizing geographic information and the adaptation of new geographic technologies
- *GS3-4 Individual, group, and societal perspectives* By way of group discussions and a term project of their choice, students should be able to:
  - Propose a strategy for soliciting “local knowledge” about a given resource management issue.
  - Describe the problem of distilling the spatial aspect of local knowledge.
  - Explain how, and how well, local knowledge may be represented in a GIS.
  - Exemplify a case in which local knowledge played a role in land use, coastal/ocean use, resource allocation, or other planning decisions.
  - Speculate on how local knowledge concerning a decision to locate a controversial land use (e.g., retail megastore, strip mall, strip mine, or halfway house) may vary by community.
- Explain how citizen participation improves local government planning processes and outcomes.

## **SCHEDULE:**

### **September 24**

Introduction to Course

### **October 1**

#### **Review and Discussion of**

Harris, T. and Weiner, D., 1998. Empowerment, marginalization, and "community-integrated" GIS. *Cartog. Geog. Inf. Sys.*, 25(2): 67-76.

Ghose, R., 2001. Use of information technology for community empowerment: Transforming geographical information systems into community information systems. *Transactions in GIS*, 5: 141-163.

### **October 8**

#### **Review and Discussion of**

Ghose, R. and S. Elwood, 2003. Public participation GIS and local political context: Propositions and research directions. *URISA Journal* 15(APA II): 17-24.

Sieber, R., 2006. Public participation geographic information systems: A literature

review and framework. *AAG Annals*, 96(3): 491-507.

### **October 15**

#### **Review and Discussion of**

Elwood, S., 2006. Beyond cooptation or resistance: Urban spatial politics, community organizations, and GIS-based spatial narratives. *AAG Annals*, 96(2): 323-341.

Elwood, S., 2007. Grassroots groups as stakeholders in spatial data infrastructures: challenges and opportunities for local data development and sharing. *International Journal of Geographic Information Science*, DOI: 10.1080/13658810701348971: 1-20.

**October 17 – WUN online activities begin! See the following pages.**



## **Public Participation Geographic Information Systems**

Joint Worldwide Universities Network/RGS (with IBG)  
Quantitative Methods Research Group e-seminars, Fall 2007

## Introduction: Aims and Objectives

The WUN Global GIS Academy's 2007 seminar series is intended to reflect this growing importance of public participation GIS. As usual it will enable participants to access contributions from some of the best-known names in the field, but in addition we hope and expect that provision of an international dimension to the discussions will add greatly to the experience.

Following the seminar series should enable participants to:

- follow current literature in the field;
- compare and contrast participatory GIS, public participation GIS, Internet GIS and Web GIS information technologies;
- understand the interplay between GIScience and GISystems research;
- understand the advantages and disadvantages of different research approaches for assessing PPGIS use.

## Who can participate

The seminar is open to faculty and students in universities that are part of the WUN, together with members of the Quantitative Methods Research and GIScience Groups of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) and other interested parties. Although the series carries no activities for which a formal assessment is appropriate, our hope is that graduate student classes, in particular, will build on it by creating some formal, assessed activity that enables the series to be 'hard wired' into their research training programs. Possible activities might be completion of an individual essay based on some or all of the presented materials,

## Seminar Environment

Building on its successful use in our 2005 and 2006 seminar series, the seminars will use the Marratech™ platform, which is an extended desk top video and audio-conferencing environment (see [www.marratech.com](http://www.marratech.com) for details). This platform enables a moderately sized client to be downloaded and used with Windows™, Linux and Mac-OS™ systems. Provided broadband access is available, participants can use this system with a simple headset/webcam from home, or via a pre-arranged video suite at the home university, which is what we would recommend for entire classes of graduate students. If you intend to set up such a suite, please note that institutional firewalls can generate problems in using the client, but these are not insurmountable.

## List of dates & topics

*All seminars will commence at 1600 UK time, initially BST then GMT (8:00 a.m. Pacific Time). Please check carefully that you have the correct local time.*

Lec #	Date	Topic	Presenter	emails
1	Wed. 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	PPGIS: Who are the 'Public' and What are They 'Participating' In?	Robin Smith (Sheffield) & Richard Kingston (Manchester)	Richard.kingston@manchester.ac.uk, robin.smith@sheffield.ac.uk

Lec #	Date	Topic	Presenter	emails
	Mon. 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Class Discussion & Group Project Work		
2	Wed. 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Design Strategies for Participatory GIS/SDSS	Piotr Jankowski	piotr@geography.sdsu.edu
	Mon. 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Class Discussion & Group Project Work		
	Mon. 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Class Discussion & Group Project Work		
3	Wed. 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Unpacking the Complexities of PPGIS	Rina Ghose (Wisconsin at Milwaukee)	rghose@uwm.edu
	Mon. 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Class Discussion & Group Project Work		
4	Wed. 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Critical GIS: Methods for Exploring PGIS and PPGIS Use	Sarah Elwood	selwood@u.washington.edu
	Mon. 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Class Discussion & Group Project Work		
	Mon. 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>Presentations of Group Projects</b>	<b>OSU Students!</b>	
5	Wed. 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Quantifying the qualitative: capturing environmental perception in space/place problems	Steve Carver	s.j.carver@leeds.ac.uk
6	Wed. 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Reflections on and Directions for PPGIS Research	Tim Nyerges	nyerges@u.washington.edu

## To view the lectures in real-time and participate

On the day of the lecture, at 7:45 am (3.45pm, UK local time), please go to <http://www.wun.ac.uk/ggisa/seminars.html> to launch and enter the Marratech™ virtual seminar room.

The seminars commence at 8 am local time (4pm UK time). Full instructions on how to access them are also available at the website <http://www.wun.ac.uk/ggisa/seminars.html>.

We strongly recommend that you 'enter' the virtual seminar room well in advance of the advertised start.

## The archive

The 2005 seminars, on *Hot Topics in GISc* and the 2006 seminars on *Spatio-temporal modeling in GISc* have been archived at the WUN GGISA website:

<http://www.wun.ac.uk/ggisa/seminars.html>

The precise form of any one session archive depends upon what we were able to acquire, ranging from PowerPoint™ or PDF files of the materials used through to complete recordings of the session that can be viewed off line using the Marratech™ client. Instructions on how to do this are on the same website.

Dave Unwin (WUN)

Tim Nyerges (University of Washington)