Keynote Talk

Abstract

As the call for this workshop stated: "Place has become a hot topic in GIScience". But what is place, and what are the implications of developing place-based methods? In my talk, I set out an agenda for place-based methods, and particularly for retrieval based on place. In doing so, I explore how unstructured text and tagged images can, firstly, inform methods which seek to take account of notions relating to place. Secondly, I illustrate how retrieval methods taking account of place can be developed using such insights, and discuss some successes (and failures!) in work developing such techniques.

Speaker's info:

Ross Purves is a lecturer in the Department of Geography at the University of Zurich in Switzerland. Previously he worked in the Department of Geography at the University of Edinburgh. His research focuses on two areas - environmental modeling and Geographic Information Retrieval. He has been involved, at various levels, in a variety of funded (and unfunded) projects in these areas. The TopIce project focuses on the influence of terrain representation on large-scale environmental modeling and its contribution to uncertainty of model results. The Swiss National Science Foundation funds the project. SPIRIT (Spatially-Aware Information Retrieval on the Internet) focused on the development of a spatially aware search engine, and was funded under the IST program of the European Commission. Project Tripod is also funded under the IST program of the European Commission, and will investigate the automatic captioning of images, based on their locations. While in Edinburgh, Ross was involved in a long-running program of research investigating paleo-climate change in Patagonia, through a variety of techniques. He is a strong believer in delivering high-quality teaching in universities, and was involved in the e-MapScholar project, which sought to develop innovative and customizable methods for the production of GIScience related online learning materials.