(58) 2013 AAG Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, California



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Panel Session:

1529 Geography and Mobile Phone Data: is there a privacy caveat?

is scheduled on Tuesday, 4/9/2013, from 2:40 PM - 4:20 PM in Santa Monica C, Westin, Level 3

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Organizer(s).

Rein Ahas - Department of Geography, University of Tartu Emmanouil Tranos - Vrije University

Chair(s)

Rein Ahas - Department of Geography, University of Tartu

Panelist(s):

Erki Saluveer - University of Tartu Mike Batty - UCL CASA

Session Description: The use of mobile phone data for scientific research has become increasingly popular among geographers in recent years. Geo-referenced, individual and aggregated data from mobile phone operators enables analysts to uncover fine-grained spatiotemporal dynamics of socio-spatial phenomena that would have not been identified if traditional spatial statistics had been employed. Despite the undoubted potential of mobile phone data for deepening our understanding of critical social issues, its use also raises questions about privacy protection and confidentiality, as it may disclose the home, workplace, activities and trips of individuals in a population under scrutiny. This panel session seeks to stimulate discussion and reflection about privacy issues related to the use of mobile phone data in social science. The panel will convene experts from different disciplines and backgrounds who have been concerned with the trade-off between privacy protection and accuracy of analytical results. Each panelist will express her/his views on the progress and prospects in this area, followed by open discussions. The objective is to provide an up-to-date picture on what is happening, outline the challenges and facilitate the dialogue on a wide range of aspects related to (geo)privacy including legislation, policy, anonymity and obfuscation strategies. Our plan is to continue the debate initiated by this panel session in a form of a special issue in a high impact journal.

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