The Association of American Geographers
Spatial Analysis and Modeling Specialty Group Newsletter
Spring 2017
http://sam-aag.org/

Table of
Contents

FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings from Portland, Oregon,

I hope everyone's summer has been relaxing and productive. Having just finished the spring quarter in my own institute, I have been thinking about all the good memories we had at the Boston AAG as a SAM community. First, I would like to express my sincere thank you to all board members whose endeavors made our various SAM events successful. Second, I welcome our two new board members – Dr. Eric Delmelle and Mr. Alex Hohl from University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Eric has succeeded Dr. Enki Yoo who did a quality job of administering SAM paper awards in the past three years. We will also miss Dr. Yolanda who served as a student board member regularly updating our SAM webpage.

When the board members had a AAG debrief meeting as part of our monthly teleconference in May, we all agreed that our SAM sponsored events went very well. The two student paper competition sessions, organized by our former board member Enki, had many good papers so the board members had difficulty in selecting the best papers. With the submission of extended abstracts before the full paper deadline, we were able to receive some of the best papers into the session. We will keep using the same procedure for the 2018 paper competitions. Additionally, the board members are considering inviting external reviewers to evaluate students' papers objectively. We welcome your service as an external reviewer of our students' papers.

We were very pleased to announce two emerging scholar awards given to Drs. Yongwan Chun from University of Texas at Dallas and Xing-Jian Liu from University of Hong Kong. Both scholars have demonstrated outstanding research at their respective academic stage as evidenced by their scholarly activities and letters of recommendation worldwide. We will keep continue doing this award to encourage our junior and mid-career scholars. The recipients of the award will be offered to speak their research in the following year.

As we prepare for the New Orleans AAG in 2018, the board members are currently exploring many different options for SAM sponsored events. The current ideas include mini-symposium series, 5 minute lightening talk, and co-sponsoring special sessions that may be of interest to the regional issues that was briefly discussed during our SAM business meeting. We would like to welcome your participation and suggestions on how we better represent SAM

related activities and scholarships at the 2018 AAG. Please do contact us if you have any further questions or suggestions.

Thank you!

Heejun Chang

Heejun Chang
SAM Chair & Professor and Chair of Geography
Portland State University

AWARDS

Outstanding Service Award

Dr. Janet Franklin from Arizona State University has been selected as the 2017 SAM Outstanding Service Award recipient. This prestigious award is to recognize Dr. Franklin's substantial contribution to the SAM group through her enormous editorial service, publications, and invited lectures.

Editorial Service: Dr. Franklin is Editor-in-Chief of *Diversity and Distributions* and serves on the editorial board of *Geographical Analysis.* She also served as Editor-in-Chief of the flagship geographical journal *The Professional Geographer* (PG) from 1997-2000 as well as board member, associate editor, subject matter editor, and guest editor of multiple journals that use or promote the use of SAM concepts, methods, and models. Along with Shawn Laffan and Andrew Skidmore, she has been a guest editor of four special issues on 'Spatial Ecology' in the *International Journal of Geographical Information Science*. In 2014, Dr. Franklin was elected to be a member of National Academy of Sciences.

Publication: Dr. Franklin's publications have promoted SAM research and its awareness among a wide range of audience in many disciplines, including conservation ecology, biogeography, global change biology, species distribution modeling, vegetation sciences, community ecology, spatial ecology, landscape ecology, geographic information science. She published 131 journal articles in addition to a large number of book chapters and other types of research products. In 2010 she published a very impactful book *Mapping Species Distributions: Spatial Inference and Prediction* (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK). This book provides many innovative development and applications of SAM models and methods.

Keynote Addresses and Invited Lectures: Dr. Franklin has undertaken exceptional outreach activities that helped researchers in many disciplines throughout the world recognize the importance of SAM theory and methods. She has given numerous keynote addresses and invited lectures to date in a wide variety of venues and countries, which substantially

promoted the use and awareness of SAM concepts and methods.

Emerging Scholar Award

Dr. Yongwan Chun from University of Texas at Dallas and **Dr. Xing-Jian Liu** from University of Hong Kong were selected as this year's SAM Emerging Scholar Award recipients. The award honors early- to mid-career scholars who have made significant contributions to education and research initiatives that are congruent with the mission of AAG-SAM Specialty Group.

Biosketch of Yongwan Chun: Dr. Yongwan Chun is an Associate Professor of Geospatial Information Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas. He received his Ph.D. with a master's in statistics from The Ohio State University.

His research interests lie in spatial statistics and GIS, focusing on urban issues including population movement, environment, health, and crime. His research has been supported by the US National Science Foundation and the US National Institutes of Health, among others. He has over 50 publications, including books, journal articles, book chapters, and conference proceedings. He served on the organizing committees for the following international conferences: Geocomputation 2015 and Spatial Statistics 2013. More

information about Dr. Chun can be found at http://www.utdallas.edu/~yxc070300/

Biosketch of Xing-Jian Liu: Dr. Xing-Jian Liu (PhD Cambridge, 2013) is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Urban Planning and Design, The University of Hong Kong (HKU).
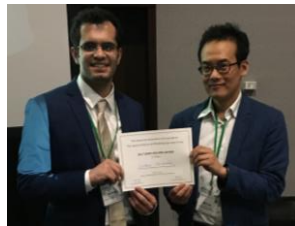

His research focuses on city-regional planning and development as well as the application of emerging spatial analytics and technologies in urban studies. He has authored more than 40 articles in internationally refereed journals. He is the recipient of several prestigious research awards, including Austrian Academy of Science's Young GIS Researcher Award; HKU Research Output Prize, and Regional Studies Association (RSA)'s Early Career Award, among many others. Dr. Liu is the Associate Director Globalization and World Cities (GaWC) Research Network, Editor of Asian Geographer, a member of Asia Geographic Information System Association, and the Hon. Secretary of Hong Kong Geographic Information System Association. More information about Dr. Liu can be found at: http://www.arch.hku.hk/staff/upad/liu-xingjian/

SAM Student Paper Competition-John Odland Award

The award committee received a total of eleven extended abstracts. After a careful evaluation of the abstracts, the committee invited ten students to submit the full paper. Nine students presented their research at the AAG conference. The committee made the award selection based on: (1) potential contribution to the use of mathematical models, statistical techniques and other technological and computational approaches for analyzing spatial phenomena in any subfield of geography; (2) appropriate and sound use of methodology; (3) originality; (4) organization and written composition of the paper; and (5) quality of oral presentation. Three students were selected as the 2017 **John Odland Award** recipients.

The first place
Ashkan Gholamialam from University of Missouri

The second place
Cody Schank from University of Texas at Austin

The third place
Wangshu Mu from University of Arizona

2017 Plenary Speaker

Dr. Daniel A. Griffith from University of Texas at Dallas was selected by the SAM Specialty Group and the Editor of Geographic Analysis as the 2017 Plenary Speaker. Dr. Griffith gave his plenary lecture "Some Robust Assessments of Eigenvector Spatial Filtering" at the past AAG annual meeting in Boston. Dr. Griffith is a renowned scholar in spatial statistics and quantitative geography. His research has contributed to the methodological and theoretical developments in these areas. His recent research focuses on public health, emphasizing geographic perspectives in environmental health, medical geography, and health policy – more precisely, health-environment issues associated with urban and social environments at the local level. Dr. Griffith is the author/co-author of more than 180 academic pieces, including 9 books, 140 refereed papers (with 17 in Geographical Analysis), 6 co-edited books, 2 monographs, 13 encyclopedia entries, and 22 book chapters. His work has advanced the geographical sciences in both theory and practice. His research has been recognized and referenced from many other disciplines, including ecology, econometrics, public health, regional science, statistics, and mathematics; he has served as an ambassador of geography to other science fields.

NEWS

News from Geographical Analysis

From Dr. Morton O'Kelly: As Chair of the Executive Committee for the journal (along with **Art Getis, Mike Goodchild, Ed Malecki,** and **Bill Clark**) I am delighted to announce a truly path breaking change for *Geographical Analysis:* we have invited **Rachel Franklin** (**Brown University**) to be the **next editor**, and she has **accepted**. Her term will begin on July 1, when she succeeds **Serge Rey.** Serge has served the journal with distinction and is stepping aside as he makes a transition from **Arizona State University** to the **University of California, Riverside** where he will lead a new initiative in spatial analysis. We welcome Rachel to the

leadership of the journal and look forward to an energetic and productive term. As many may know, *GA* some years ago invested in a searchable free archive of the back issues and these are accessible here:
http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1538-4632
This is a true wealth of material. *Geographical Analysis* has been an online-only publication beginning with the 2015 volume year.

Prof. Alan Murray won the Distinguished Scholar Award with the AAG Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group. This award is generally given annually to a scholar who has made significant and sustained contributions to the applied or theoretical understanding of development, planning and policy issues.

Dr. Yolanda J. McDonald will be joining Vanderbilt University as a tenure track

Assistant Professor in the Department of Human and Organizational Development, Peabody College. She received her Ph.D. in Geography from Texas A&M University, College Station (2017). Her research areas include health disparities, environmental justice, health services accessibility, and the rural-urban continuum.

Research Activities

Debs Ghosh, Associate Professor of Geography, University of Connecticut (UConn), traveled to Havana, Cuba as part of a UConn-Cuba Collaborative Health Research Initiative.

Of great interest to Debs is how facilitators and barriers of access to and utilization of healthcare facilities may differ in Cuba, a country with a significantly different health care system from the US. Unlike the American health care system which operates largely under the discretion of private health insurance companies, the Cuban health care system is public and virtually free-of-charge. During this visit, the UConn team met with the Cuban researchers from the Department of Geography-University of Havana, the University of Havana Medical Sciences, the Psychology Association of Cuba, and the Center for Academic Developments on Drug Addiction (CEDRO). Among several collaborative research teams formed, Debs Ghosh is leading the HIV/AIDS research group.

Dr. Delmelle Recruits Multiple Research Assistants
The department of Geography and Earth Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte has several Research Assistantships (RA) in the area of spatial and spatiotemporal uncertainty. This includes research on the impact of geocoding and disease diagnosis

uncertainty on the detection of space-time clusters, residential mobility and its impact on measures of accessibility and the development of parallel computing strategies to accelerate cluster detection under different regimes of uncertainty. Students interested in the visualization of space-time uncertainty should also apply. The RAs will work towards an MA or Ph.D. in Geography and join a group of MA and Ph.D. students working under the supervision of Dr. Eric Delmelle and Dr. Wenwu Tang in the Center for Applied GIS. Students can start in the Spring 2018 (deadline November 1) or Fall 2018 (deadline Feb 15). Please contact eric.delmelle@uncc.edu for more information.

MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

Zhang, H., & Malczewski, J. (2017). Quality Evaluation of Volunteered Geographic Information: The Case of OpenStreetMap. In C. Campelo, M. Bertolotto, & P. Corcoran (Eds.), *Volunteered Geographic Information and the Future of Geospatial Data* (pp. 19-46). Hershey, PA: IGI Global. doi: 10.4018/978-1-5225-2446-5.ch002

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.

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