



# WyGISc Geospatial Forums – Spring 2009

## THEME: SOCIAL SCIENCES

**Fridays - 12:00pm - 1:00pm, AG C 316**

Spring 2009 forum series theme: Most data collected in the physical and biological sciences are quantified and also attributed to specific locations on the earth. However social sciences data are often difficult to collect and quantify posing challenges involved in space-based research. This semester's WyGISc forum will focus on social science research with special emphasis to the nature and analysis of data collected as part of their research. Speakers will focus on human rights, religion, gangs, elections and race, environment, human societies among others and describe their research while emphasizing the nature of data that are collected and analyzed.

\*\*\* Social-science theme-based talks

1/23: James Oakleaf, Technical Coordinator, WYGISC

*---Where Do You Get Your Wyoming Geospatial Data: Current Changes in Wyoming Geospatial Data Access*  
How do you access your data? Are you aware of the current changes that are underway at WyGISc regarding how users access geospatial data for the state of Wyoming? WyGISc is moving data access away from the Natural Resources Data Clearinghouse and into the Wyoming GeoLibrary, which is a website that provides tools to assist in finding, evaluating and accessing geospatial information for Wyoming. The foundation of the Wyoming GeoLibrary is based on giving users the ability to view metadata records associated with geospatial information. The Wyoming GeoLibrary offers a dynamic metadata search environment based on the ArcIMS Metadata Server. The GeoLibrary offers ease of use benefits to both data users and data providers throughout the state of Wyoming.

1/30: Steve Ropp, Professor, POLITICAL SCIENCE

*\*\*\*--- Modeling and Measuring Global Human Rights Change*

This talk will focus on a model developed in the 1990s for assessing global human rights changes. The model was applied to nine countries and the findings were published in "The Power of Human Rights: International Norms and Domestic Change (Cambridge, 1999)." Information will be presented about a follow up workshop (to be held in fall 2009) for refining the original model and assessing the need for further data collection based on changes to the global context in which human rights changes are taking place.

2/6: Anne Bowen, Professor, PSYCHOLOGY

*\*\*\*---Corralling the HIV Epidemic: Possibilities for GIS in the US and Africa*

I'd like to present different ideas and data sets including the types of attitudes, behaviors and physical location data we can and do collect. This will be followed by a discussion on how these might provide interesting and new ideas for understanding prevention and intervention.

2/13: Michael Brose, Professor, HISTORY

*\*\*\*---The Geography of Islam in SW China*

This talk examines the historic roots and current distribution of Islam in Yunnan Province, in SW China, and argues that the historic geography of these Chinese Muslim communities is vital to understanding their current physical locations and their socio-political status in the province.

2/20: Adrienne Freng, Associate Professor, CRIMINAL JUSTICE

*\*\*\*---Gangs: The Three Points of Contact*

Information about gangs can and has been collected in various different ways including both qualitative and quantitative research. Utilizing different research approaches provides different information regarding the number and characteristics of both gangs and gang members. This presentation will discuss these diverse approaches and the impact that research has on our understanding of gangs.

2/27: Teena Gabrielson, Assistant Professor, POLITICAL SCIENCE & Katelyn Parady, Assistant Research Scientist, ENR - RUCKELSHAUS INSTITUTE

\*\*\*--*Rethinking Green Citizenship through the Body: Corporeal Citizenship, Difference, and Environmental Justice*

Building upon the work of green theorists and corporeal feminists, this essay challenges the instrumental approach to green citizenship and offers a notion of corporeal citizenship. We argue that reconceptualizing the body as porous, vulnerable, plural, and connected and re-emphasizing its role as it relates to questions of sustainability provides a more democratic and inclusive conception of green citizenship and one that holds greater promise for cooperation with advocates of environmental justice.

3/6: Jeff Hamerlinck, Director, WyGIS and Research Scientist, GEOGRAPHY

---*ScienceSDIs: A Conceptual Framework for Advancing Spatial Data Infrastructures in Collaborative Research*

This presentation explores the role of spatial data infrastructures in scientific research. That is, how should science spatial data infrastructures (*ScienceSDIs*) be defined? What are the unique characteristics of a *ScienceSDI*? What are the challenges and benefits of *ScienceSDI* implementation? And, how might *ScienceSDIs* interoperate with overlapping, traditional place-based SDIs? Successful *ScienceSDI* implementation will be considered within the socio-technical contexts of: policy and organization; interoperability and sharing; and discovery, access and use of spatial data. Comparisons will be made using examples of: (a) application-specific *ScienceSDIs*; (b) collaborative research involving integration along a broad spectrum of spatial scales; (c) place-based collaborative scientific research in a regional setting; and (d) *ScienceSDI* support for national or multi-national "e-science" or cyber infrastructure initiatives. This work is supported by a grant from the U.S. Geological Survey's Center of Excellence for Geospatial Information Science, with additional support from the U.S. Federal Geographic Data Committee.

3/27: Gary D. Hampe, Professor, SOCIOLOGY

\*\*\*--*What Do Sociologists Do?*

There is not one good answer to the question, "What do sociologists do?" for the simple reason is that we are a science that includes, at a minimum, the whole range of human beliefs and behavior as legitimate opportunities for study and understanding. Thus, depending on whom you ask and when, you may get a variety of answers, but most will include something about beliefs and/or behavior. I will give a brief overview of our work as sociologists, discuss some of the ways we study beliefs and behavior, and then go into more depth on a research problem dealing with an international study on predictors of a country's Gross Domestic Production that a departmental colleague (Quee-Young Kim) and I are beginning.

4/3: Mary L. Keller, Adjunct Professor, RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM & AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

\*\*\*--*Heart Mountain as Home: Foretop's Father in the 21st century*

Heart Mountain functions as a stunning landmark in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming and has been important to wildlife, indigenous people, settlers of the irrigation projects, and internees at the Heart Mtn. Relocation Center during World War II where 10,000 Japanese Americans were detained. Part of a larger effort to build an electronic cultural atlas of Wyoming, this talk uses google earth, video clips of Crow elders from the Wyoming Heritage Project, and cultural geography to consider how this landmark will and will not be a home in the 21st century.

4/17: Gerald R. Webster, Professor, GEOGRAPHY

\*\*\*--*Voting in Alabama: Race, Religion, Place and the Culture Wars*

This presentation examines the similarities and contrasts in voting in partisan elections and referenda in Alabama. The referenda examined are associated with culture war issues including gambling, taxes, same-sex marriage, interracial marriage, and Jim Crow language in the state's 1901 constitution. For the purposes of comparison, both gubernatorial and presidential elections are included. While there are substantial spatial overlaps between the two types of elections, there are contrasts in the geographic profiles of partisan and culture war conservatives.

4/24: James C. Ahern, Associate Professor, ANTHROPOLOGY

--- *Geographic Variation among Middle Paleolithic Western Eurasians: Were European Neandertals One End of a Continuous Species?*

In spite of numerous recent fossil, archaeological, and genetic discoveries, the exact role of Neandertals in the origins of modern humans remains contentious. This study is a preliminary examination of geographic variation among European and West Asian populations during the Middle Paleolithic period (circa 30 - 250 thousand years ago). The primary question being asked is was this variation distributed clinally from West to East? If the distribution is clinal this would be consistent with the hypothesis that European Neandertals were the same species as contemporary humans in West Asia.

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For more information, please visit the WyGISC web site at: [www.uwyo.edu/wygisc](http://www.uwyo.edu/wygisc)