

## **UCGIS Research Committee Report, May 2018 – May 2019: @UCGIS Annual Symposium 2019**

This report covers the activities of the Research Committee for the period of May 2018 (UCGIS Symposium in Madison, WI) to the 2019 UCGIS Symposium in Washington, DC.

### **UCGIS Research Committee Members, May 2018 – May 2019:**

Shih-Lung Shaw, University of Tennessee - Knoxville, is completing his second year as chair of the UCGIS Research Committee. The current committee consists of: Jeremy Mennis of Temple University (Past Chair), Xinyue Ye of New Jersey Institute of Technology (Vice Chair), Jochen Albrecht of Hunter College – The City University of New York, Wenwen Li of Arizona State University, Yongmei Lu of Texas State University – San Marcos, Wei Luo of Harvard University, Ross Meentemeyer of North Carolina State University, and Ming-Hsiang Tsou of San Diego State University.

Major activities of this reporting period include the following:

#### **1. 2019 UCGIS Research Award**

The Research Award Committee for 2019 was comprised of the committee chair, Yongmei Lu (Texas State University, San Marcos), and committee members Stephen Hirtle (University of Pittsburgh), Wenwen Li (Arizona State University), and Enki Yoo (University of Buffalo). The committee selected Keith Clarke (University of California at Santa Barbara) for the 2019 UCGIS Research Award for his remarkable contributions to the fields of Cartography and Geographic Information Science throughout his lengthy and outstanding research and teaching career, especially his significant contribution to GIS through the Land Use/Land Cover change model, SLEUTH.

#### **2. A Proposed “GIScience and the Humanities” Study**

UCGIS Research Committee is working with Alberto Giordano (UCGIS President) and Diana Sinton (UCGIS Executive Director) on a proposed “GIScience and the Humanities” study. GIS technologies and GIScience methods and techniques are traditionally rooted on the concept of absolute space, Cartesian coordinates, Euclidean geometry, and employ quantitative methods. Conversely, the humanities tend to be concerned with place rather than space and privilege the use of qualitative methods and techniques. As a result, while GIS and GIScience are increasingly being used in humanities research, they face many challenges and limitations when addressing the research needs of scholars in the digital humanities, geospatial humanities, and computational social sciences. This proposed study plans to start with discussions at 2019 UCGIS Symposium, followed by surveys of the UCGIS community and broader digital/geospatial humanities and computational social sciences communities to collect their input. It is anticipated this study will lead to a white paper and a final report (or an open access journal article or possibly a book) with recommendations for future research and education directions on GIScience and the Humanities.

### **3. Develop Enhanced Guidelines for UCGIS Research Committee**

UCGIS Research Committee is working with Diana Sinton, UCGIS Executive Director, to strengthen and reinforce the UCGIS research committee structure. Research committee members will develop draft guidelines for (1) purpose, authority, and purview, (2) meeting schedule, (3) expectations (for reporting; for level and type of activities; etc.), and composition (Chair, Vice Chair; max number of total members; etc.) of the research committee. It is expected that the draft guidelines will be discussed at a UCGIS 2.0 Town Hall meeting during 2019 UCGIS Symposium in Washington, DC.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shih-Lung Shaw  
Chair, UCGIS Research Committee  
May 20, 2019