



Workshop in Spatial Analysis in Anthropology: Introduction

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The Challenge: <u>Place</u> as an analytical component of social and environmental processes



Time and history are well-established anthropological dimensions

"Place" or spatial location is treated as an externality, rarely explicitly and accurately accounted for in data sets

Further exacerbated by tendency to make location of study area less than clear due to tendency to hide the real name of the village

But in a sea of forest, for example, it does matter where human action is located











Social Science Infrastructure

- The Hubble Telescope for the social sciences
- Redefining infrastructure
 - shared resources for research
 - data, tools, training, education, human resources, linkages
 - The Center for Spatially Explicit Social Science, CSISS, at UC, Santa Barbara



CSISS

- Space as an integrating mechanism in social science
 - integrating data GIS
 - integrating processes
 - integrating disciplines
 - Serving the needs of the social sciences in developing spatially explicit approaches







General principles:

1. Integration

Linking data through common location the layer cake



Human Actors/Communication Networks

Land and Water Markets

Land Use and Land Cover

Farmsteads

Ownership

Soil Quality

Water Flow

SPATIAL DATA LAYERS



General principles: 1. Integration

- Linking processes across disciplines
 spatially explicit processes
 - e.g. economic and social processes interact at common locations
 - Team-based research, with participation of natural and social scientists



Field Team 2001



2. Spatial analysis

- Social data collected in cross-section
 Iongitudinal data are difficult to construct
- Cross-sectional perspectives are rich in context
 - can never confirm process
 - though they can perhaps falsify
 - useful source of hypotheses, insights



The Snow Map of Cholera Incidence in the Area of Broad Street, London, in 1854. The contaminated water pump is located at the center of the map, just to the right of the D in BROAD STREET.



3. Spatially explicit theory

- If results are affected by moving objects in space (invariance test)
- If location is included in representation of the system as coordinates
- If spatial concepts such as location or distance appear directly in algebraic expressions or behavioral rules
- If the spatial forms of inputs and outputs differ, i.e. the landscape is modified by the process

Spatially explicit theory

- A strong reason to be spatially explicit is that the output of our analyses have important consequences for real locations, such as conservation areas for biodiversity
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are powerful tools in defining inputs, analysis and outputs of spatially explicit information
- Need to be more dynamic and less descriptive e.g. agent-based and cellular automata models



Spatially explicit theory

- An important challenge is how to spatially represent variation: as continuous variables or as discrete variables
- And if the latter, at what scale should it be represented?
- Most commonly, a model will combine some discrete variables (e.g. types of agents) with continuous variables (e.g. population density, temperature or soil gradients)



The Earth's surface

- Uncontrolled variance
- There is no average place
- Results depend explicitly on bounds
- Places as samples
- Opportunity to rethink how we sample in anthropology

METHOD OF MULTILEVEL ANALYSIS OF LAND USE/LAND COVER CHANGE

































Comparing two indigenous communities (neighbors) with the same land use system (long-fallow swidden agriculture)

<u>Site</u>:

Key variables:

Spatial indicators:

Vaupes, Colombia

Soil and land cover type

Distance and access

Area measures,

Number, type, size, density of patches

Distance measures



What explains differences in landscape configuration across two similar land use systems and settlement pattern?









River <u>Access</u> as a Biophysical Opportunity













Integrating Land Cover Data with Parcel Boundaries



Predicted Deforestation Over Time (Farm Level)



Forest in Study Area - Observed, 1970-96 & Predicted for 2010 & 2020 Based on Farm Level Projection





1986 Landsat TM Image Mosaic for the FLONA/Santarem Region of Para State, in the Brazilian Amazon

Bands 5 (red), 4 (green), 3 (blue)











2001 ETM+ Mosaic Principal Components 1(red), 2(green), 3(blue) - Histogram Equalized



Conversion from Forest to Non-Forest 1986 - 2001





Knowledge and policy

- Policy requires the projection of general knowledge in spatial context
 - the implications of this process in this location
 - alternative futures visualized under local circumstances
- GIS combines the general (processes, models, algorithms) with the specific (database of local details)