Martin Luther King, William Bunge, URISA, and GIS for Equity and Social Justice

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King County GIS User Group Meeting
Seattle, WA, December 5, 2018
A few threads in the progress of geography and GIS as tools for issues related to Equity and Social Justice

Greg: *Four plus decades thinking about geography and ESJ – from King County, to Detroit, via URISA, and back*

Nicole: *GIS for ESJ related performance management at King County*

*Thanks also to:*
  - *Prof. Mark Salling, Ph.D., GISP, Cleveland State University*
  - *Prof. Verónica N. Vélez, Ph.D., Western Washington University*
King County was established December 22, 1852, and named for William R. King, a slaveholder from Alabama, who had been elected U.S. Vice President just a few weeks earlier.
Mapping Inequality introduces viewers to the records of the Home Owners' Loan Corporation on a scale that is unprecedented. Here you can browse more than 150 interactive maps and thousands of "area descriptions." These materials afford an extraordinary view of the contours of wealth and racial inequality in Depression-era American cities and insights into discriminatory policies and practices that so profoundly shaped cities that we feel their legacy to this day.

1961 Seattle
Samuel B. McKinney, pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in the Central District invited his college friend Martin Luther King Jr. to the city in 1961; King came for three nights, November 8–11. On his agenda:

- University of Washington’s Meany Hall
- Garfield High School
- Eagles Auditorium
Professor Horwood’s simple but disruptive question to the U.S. Census Bureau in 1962:

“Can you let me have the 1960 census data for the U.S. on digital tape?”
Dr. Edgar Horwood of the University of Washington convened the first URISA Conference in Los Angeles on August 28, 1963. URISA emanated from a conference held on August 28, 1963 on the campus of the University of Southern California, organized by Edgar Horwood and attended by 48 people to trade information on developments in regional information systems. This was billed as the 'First Annual Conference on Urban Planning Information Systems and Programs.' At the 1966 Berkeley Conference, attendees approved a constitution establishing the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA).

Horwood provided intellectual leadership toward building an interdisciplinary association and served as a constructive critic in the development of ethical practices in the emerging area of applying information systems technology to urban and regional applications.
Aug 28, 1963

Dr. Martin Luther King delivers his 'I have a dream' speech during the March on Washington, D.C.
August 28, 1963

William Bunge
Assistant Professor of Geography at Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan from 1962-1969

1955 MA Geography – University of Wisconsin
1960 PhD Geography – University of Washington
1960-1961 – Iowa State University - Fired
1962 Publishes *Theoretical Geography*
Figure 6.7. Transport lines in an ideal economic landscape (one sector only). The number refers to the number of centers which coincide in a particular point. In the middle of the landscape there are 150 centers of areas all of which are smaller than the landscape to which the picture sector belongs. The number of centers along the heavy lines is twice that along the broken lines; the number of the centers along the thin lines is approximately one and a half times the number along the broken lines. The difference in traffic density between the left city-rich and the right city-poor sector can easily be seen.
Figure 2.17. Travel speed map of Seattle in miles per five minute intervals.

Figure 2.18. Peak hour travel time from the University of Washington in five minute intervals.

Figure 8.19c. Untransformed random pattern.
WILLIAM BUNGE’S *THEORETICAL GEOGRAPHY*

Michael F. Goodchild

**Introduction**

*Theoretical Geography* first appeared in 1962 (Bunge, 1962), and later in an expanded second edition in 1966 (Bunge, 1966). To Cox (2001) it is “perhaps the seminal text of the spatial-quantitative revolution. Certainly in terms of laying out the philosophical presuppositions of that movement it had no peer.” (p71) But Cox goes further:

“It was also the spatial-quantitative revolution that gave impetus to conceptual precision in the field … it was the prospect of measurement, of operationalization in some piece of empirical research, that helped us discover the value of a careful specification of our concepts and an examination of their consistency … So, if we want to see where we have come from, what our intellectual debts are, there are few better places to start than *Theoretical Geography.*” (p.71)

The motivation for the book, laid out in the Introduction, is that geography is a science; that every science is defined by its domain of knowledge, which for geography is...
William Bunge
Wayne State University & After

1962-1969 Assistant Professor, Wayne State University, Detroit
1966 Gerrymandering, Geography & Grouping
1966 Theoretical Geography (Rev)
1969 First Year of the Detroit Geographical Expedition
1969 Atlas of Love and Hate
1971 Fitzgerald: Geography of a Revolution
1988 The Nuclear War Atlas
Detroit

1967 Insurrection, Riot, Revolution
William W. Bunge (1971)

Commentary I

That Bill Bunge’s *Fitzgerald: Geography of a Revolution* has gone unrecognized as a classic in *Progress in Human Geography*’s roster of ‘classics in human geography’ struck us as a problem in need of remedy; an ill in need of cure. Hence, we invited Andy Merrifield and Alison Mountz to join us in a celebratory remediation. The University of Georgia Press is in the process of republishing Bunge’s book nearly 40 years after it was first issued. We expect, maybe even insist, that geographers who have not yet read the book because either they ‘missed it’ the first time around (and which would now include the majority of the working profession, even those ‘senior’ coauthor of this paper), or they could transparent logic, and painstaking documentation. But it is precisely these former qualities, not the latter, that account for the book’s political brilliance. Forty years after its publication, *Fitzgerald remains fresh, enduring, and relevant. One of Bunge’s aims with *Fitzgerald was to do humanities scholarship differently*. He pushed the disciplinary boundaries of our discipline, helping to transform it into something new. The book is now seen *Fitzgerald* differently than it was written, it is because of the later years we have become social space altered. *Fitzgerald* helped us to think, perhaps more than we think, perhaps more than we think, perhaps more than we think...
William Bunge

Detroit Geographical Expedition
The Fitzgerald Project
William Bunge
Detroit Geographical Expedition
The Fitzgerald Project
William Bunge
Detroit Geographical Expedition
The Fitzgerald Project

White Mother at mixed race meeting. Why my children go to school with the negroes, I don't think there is anything wrong with it.

A few years later in school they get along swell.

Leaving high school together.

Calling on your daughter.

Harrying your daughter.

Your grand children - one white - one black.

Hello Uncle George - Hello Aunt Mary
(And you thought it would not happen.)

Hello Grandpa - Hello Grandma

They do this with the money you thought went to charity, but it does not go that way. They use your money to fight you back with, to get laws made for their own benefit.

Wake up for your country's sake, City and State, for your own sake and the future generations sake, and the white peoples sake as well as the colored peoples sake. Our enemies are behind the move. They have been undermining us for the last 30 or 40 years. We are so divided, that if a war started tomorrow, God only knows where we would land. Our enemy is organized - but we are not.

Christian Educational Assn., Union, New Jersey
Form No. 118
15 each
William Bunge
Detroit Geographical Expedition
The Fitzgerald Project

One time I was going to Driver's Training and I was at Wyoming and Grove when this Tactical Mobile Unit stopped me, took off my coat, shook me down, put me in the car and said that they were charging me with armed robbery and suspicion of rape. So they took me down to the Schaefer Precinct Station where they took my picture and asked me a lot of questions. Then four of the Tactical Mobile Unit guys got around me and started calling me names such as "Kinky-haired bastard," and "black nigger". I started to get mad but I kind of calmed down because there were more of them than there were of me. When they took me home from the police station they told me to get my "black ass out and walk." That was at the corner of Ohio and Puritan.

One reason the middle class Negro often fails to sympathize with the "lower" class black is that the middle class is not usually subjected to this type of abuse. But If their son is stopped on the way home from the stores again, a kind of black rage comes back. It is like the Negro's fears have been cut out, it only increases their fears of iniquity. For every father who imposes an authoritarian relationship on a daughter, there are young people who know more about the world as it is than do their parents and grandparents. Hydrogen bombs, Martin Luther King, television, going in the question of where we are going. Over fifty percent of our nation is under twenty-five years of age. The young may not be better than the old, but they are at least better adjusted to the realities of the times.
Walls
As man has made it easier to know himself and work together through better transportation, he has proportionately made it harder to do so through erecting barriers.
William Bunge
Detroit Geographical Expedition
The Fitzgerald Project
Detroit had two million rats in 1975, up from six hundred thousand in the late sixties. Rat-bitten babies are common.
William Bunge
The Nuclear War Atlas

King County GIS Center
William Bunge

House Panel Lists ‘Radical’ Speakers

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM
Special to The New York Times
WASHINGTON, Oct. 14 — Representative Richard H. Ichord, chairman of the House Internal Security Committee, released today a committee report on ‘radical’ campus speakers, although a Federal court order had prohibited official Government publication of the list.

The committee, formerly called the Un-American Activities Committee, compiled the list on the basis of a questionnaire sent out last summer, asking 179 colleges and universities to report all speakers who appeared in the last two school years.

The questionnaire was returned by 89 schools. According to the committee, only seven refused to answer as a matter of principle.

‘Radicals’ Listed

Most of those listed by the committee as “radical and/or revolutionary speakers” were members of the Chicago Seven, black militants, leaders of anti-war organizations or acknowledged Communists.

Among those not generally considered extremists were Jessica Milford the author; John C. Clark, the poetry editor of The Saturday Review; Dr. Benjamin Spock, the pediatrician; the Rev. John C. Bennett, the former president of the Union Theological Seminary, and Jerome Skolnick, the criminologist, who prepared a study on demonstrations last year for the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence.

The committee said the 65 persons on the list had received a total of more than $100,000 for their speaking engagements at schools that replied to the questionnaire.

Earlier, the American Civil Liberties Union asked Judge Gerhard A. Gesell of Federal District Court to prohibit the committee from publishing the list, arguing that to do would violate the right of free speech and harass the persons listed.

Judge Gesell signed a temporary order forbidding the Government printer, the Superintendent of Documents of the House of Representatives and the chief counsel of Mr. Ichord’s committee to publish the report until he had held a full hearing.

But the judge acknowledged that he did not have the authority to prevent Mr. Ichord or any member of Congress from making the list public because of Congressman’s immunity from prosecution.

LIST OF SPEAKERS

Following is the list as released by the committee. The numbers indicate the organizations with which the persons on the list were said to be affiliated. The organizations are listed at the bottom.

Introduction to Public Participation GIS: Using GIS to Support Community Decision Making
As GIS becomes more widely available, many organizations and community groups are taking GIS out of the back room and are using it in public settings. Using GIS technology to engage various "publics" in decision making requires more than traditional GIS skills.

This course focuses on the process of entering into this type of engagement. It will also review how GIS techniques and software can be adapted for use in community settings. Using real world examples, the course will explore both government and community-led projects that encourage citizen participation and engagement.

Although this workshop will be focused on PPGIS within North America our case studies will illustrate the wide variability in the presence of governmental, societal, and technological infrastructure in different communities.

Specific topics include:
- PPGIS for Civic Engagement
- Principles and Methods of Community Organizing and Engagement
- Innovative Use of Technologies
- Visual Communication

Intended Audience: Individuals who have experience and want to expand their skills and engage the public. Participants should be versed in GIS general practices and analysis.

Topic GS3-3 Public participation GIS
- Explain how geospatial technologies can assist community organizations at each rung of the ladder of public participation
- Explain why some community organizations may encounter more difficulty than others in acquiring geospatial data from public and private organizations
- Explain how community organizations' use of geospatial technologies can alter existing community power relations
- Critique the assertion that public participation GIS promotes democracy
- Explain the challenge of representing within current GIS software local knowledge that is neither easily mapped nor verified
- Discuss advantages and disadvantages of six models of GIS availability, including community-based GIS, university-community partnerships, GIS facilities in universities and public libraries, "Map rooms," Internet map servers, and neighborhood GIS centers.
Operating under the auspices of URISA, GISCORPS coordinates short-term, volunteer based services to underprivileged communities.
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Who Owns the Map Legend?

Giacomo Rambaldi

Paper presented at the 7th International Conference on GIS for Developing Countries (GISDECO 2004), 10–12 May 2004, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Malaysia.

Introduction
Maps are media in cartographic or digital formats. Communication occurs mainly by way of symbols that need to be interpreted via the map legend and its graphic vocabulary. Lacking universal standards, each map has its own visual language. This language—or enough of it—has to be “common property” in order for communication of any kind to take place.

This ad hoc language has become increasingly important since maps have been used in the contexts of interactive processes aimed at bridging barriers among stakeholders having different backgrounds, perspectives, and communication patterns. Intellectual ownership of such language and the content of knowledge that it communicates, are critical factors in determining the success of the processes to which mapping and maps are put.

Changes have occurred since GIT&S have increasingly become accessible to civil society and graphic representations of space have been used as channels for two-way communication purposes to support social learning, dialog processes. In March 2004, more than 200 indigenous groups attended the Internet digenous Mapping in Vancouver, British sharing the motto: “Maps are more than pi stories, conversations, lives and songs lived inseparable from the political and cultural are used.” (Warren 2004)

The participatory use of maps started that time, development practitioners were sketch mapping tools (Mascarenhas 1999)...

Map Legends From A Practical Perspective
From Pebbles to Keyboards
The most basic mapmaking method consists of drawing maps on the ground (Figure 1). Informants use raw materials like soil, pebbles, sticks, and leaves, at the reach of their hands to reproduce the physical and cultural landscapes as they know and perceive them.

Finger-pointing, verbal interactions, and progressive additions and modifications of landmarks lead to the visualisation of the territory and issues at stake.

Hardly any legend is produced, and such ephemeral maps disappear in a matter of a wind blow. Acquired knowledge is memorised by participants and mentally recomposed when needed.
Aboriginal Mapping Network
Public Participation GIS

During that particular session, Hector was asked to indicate places where he had killed big game animals, small game, where he had caught fish, where he had done his trapping, gathered plant materials like berries, and the locations of cabins and camp sites he had used. In subsequent mapping sessions he recorded Algonquin place names and some of his main travel routes.
GIS Code of Ethics

1. Obligations to Society

The GIS professional recognizes the impact of his or her work on society as a whole, on subgroups of society including geographic or demographic minorities, on future generations, and inclusive of social, economic, environmental, or technical fields of endeavor. Obligations to society shall be paramount when there is conflict with other obligations. Therefore, the GIS professional will:

1. Do the Best Work Possible
   - Be objective, use due care, and make full use of education and skills.
   - Practice integrity and not be unduly swayed by the demands of others.
   - Provide full, clear, and accurate information.
   - Be aware of consequences, good and bad.
   - Strive to do what is right, not just what is legal.

2. Contribute to the Community to the Extent Possible, Feasible, and Advisable
   - Make data and findings widely available.
   - Strive for broad citizen involvement in problem definition, data identification, analysis, and decision-making.
   - Donate services to the community.

3. Speak Out About Issues
   - Call attention to emerging public issues and identify appropriate responses based on personal expertise.
   - Call attention to the unprofessional work of others. First take concerns to those persons; if satisfaction is not gained and the problems warrant, then additional people and organizations should be notified.
   - Admit when a mistake has been made and make corrections where possible.
GIS Moral Imperative

Moral imperative

A moral imperative is a strongly-felt principle that compels that person to act. It is a kind of categorical imperative, as defined by Immanuel Kant. Kant took the imperative to be a dictate of pure reason, in its practical aspect. Not following the moral law was seen to be self-defeating and thus contrary to reason. Later thinkers took the imperative to originate in conscience, as the divine voice speaking through the human spirit. The dictates of conscience are simply right and often resist further justification. Looked at another way, the experience of conscience is the basic experience of encountering the right.

An example of not following a moral imperative is making a promise that you do not intend to keep in order to get something.[1]

The Summit - Editorial

IS THERE A MORAL IMPERATIVE FOR GIS?

The Summer 2012 issue of ArcNews (http://www.esri.com/news/arcnews/summer12articles/strengthening-the-gis-profession.html) includes a thought-provoking article by David DiBiase titled ‘Strengthening the GIS Profession.’ DiBiase, while at Penn State was instrumental in production of the ‘Geospatial Revolution’ video series that provide a concise description for the lay person of what exactly it is that we do, why GIS is different, and why geospatial technology is important.

DiBiase’s recent ArcNews article provides six common sense suggestions for those of us who are geospatial professionals to solidify the status of our calling. Strengthening the GIS profession has two perspectives. As we all know, what we do is often difficult to explain to our neighbors, friends, and family (my mom still thinks I make maps for the water department), n councils, boards, executives, and elected to explain what we do and why it is important part of strengthening the GIS profession.

Here is my proposed moral imperative for GIS:

The GIS profession uses geographic theory, spatial analysis, and geospatial technology to help society manage the Earth’s finite space, with its natural resources and communities, on a just and sustainable basis for the benefit of humanity.
University of Michigan-Flint’s GIS Center Maps Flint Lead Service Lines

In January 2016, the GISC received approximately 200 image files of the service line connection data. Troy Rosencrantz, GIS Center Manager, geo-referenced the images using the 2015 parcel dataset as a reference. After the images were geo-referenced, the GISC hired 8 assistants, a mix of students and other GIS community members, to help with the data entry. Through those eight assistants, all the data was entered digitally after one week. (Continued on page 2)

Parcels with Lead Service Line Connections

Legend:
- **Red**: Lead Service Line Connections (1937)
- **Green**: Park
- **Blue**: School
- **Gray**: Other

Age of Residential Structures in Flint, MI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Structure Built (Number)</th>
<th>Before 1950 (23,272)</th>
<th>1951 - 1986 (15,854)</th>
<th>After 1987 (284)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Flint</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLINT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MOTION NO. 6461

A MOTION setting forth the historical basis for
"renaming" King County after the Reverend Dr. Martin
Luther King, Jr., instead of William Rufus DeVane
King for whom King County is currently named.

WHEREAS, the County of King in the State of Washington
was named after William Rufus DeVane King by the Oregon
Territorial legislature in 1852, and

WHEREAS, William Rufus DeVane King was a slaveowner and
a 'gentle slave monger' according to John Quincy Adams, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of King County believes that the
ownership of another human being is an injustice against
humanity, and

WHEREAS, William Rufus DeVane King earned income and
maintained his lifestyle by oppressing and exploiting other
human beings, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of King County cherish and uphold
the constitutional tenet of the 'unmitigated pursuit' of life,
liberty, and happiness for which many citizens of this country
THE “UNHEALTHY STREAM” CREATES INEQUITIES

POLICIES, PRACTICES & SYSTEMS— Policies, structures and systems – including those in government – have sustained and even contributed to inequities.

CONDITIONS— Past policies, systems and practices have resulted in adverse social, physical and economic conditions.

OUTCOMES— Government programs historically have tended to react to problems and treat poor individual and family-level outcomes.

- structural racism and discrimination
- class and gender bias
- lack of access to resources and decision-making
- cross-generational inequities
- dilapidated housing
- poor quality schools
- unemployment & low wage work
- food insecurity
- limited & unsafe parks
- pollution & toxic exposures
- absence of community economic development
- disproportionality in justice system
- unsafe neighborhoods
- no insurance or quality healthcare
- incarceration
- obesity
- homelessness
- untreated mental illness
- low birth weight
- low birth weight
- unemployed and underemployed

THE
“HEALTHY STREAM” CREATES EQUITY

PRO-EQUITY POLICIES, PRACTICES & SYSTEMS— For greatest and most effective impact, King County is focusing “upstream” to address root causes and be pro-equity.

CONDITIONS— Pro-equity systems and policies result in improved community conditions, also known as “determinants of equity.”

OUTCOMES— Individuals and families thrive regardless of race and place.

- good health
- high quality of life
- healthy years lived
- happiness & satisfaction
- educational success
- civic engagement
- economic well-being

- affordable & safe housing
- living wage jobs & job training
- quality education & early learning
- equitable justice system
- healthy food & food systems
- healthy built & natural environments
- community economic development
- transportation
- information & technology
- safe & supportive neighborhoods
- parks & natural resources
- health care & human services

pro-equity policies, practices and values such as:
- inclusion
- racial justice
SO ALL PEOPLE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO THRIVE

King County INVESTS...

Upstream, where needs are greatest, in community partnerships, and in the regional workforce, with transparent and accountable leadership.

Our Equity and Social Justice Strategies
Our Pro-Equity Policy Agendas and Regional Equity Collaboratives

- Child & youth development
- Economic development & jobs
- Environment & climate
- Health & human services
- Housing
- Information & technology
- Justice system
- Transportation & mobility
Our Pro-Equity Policy Agendas Performance Management plan:

• Invest upstream where the needs are greatest
• A regional collaboration
• Tell our stories
• Engagement is the key
Dr. Martin Luther King

Nicole, KCGIS, Greg, you?

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