

UC Santa Barbara

Specialist Meeting Position Papers and Reports

Title

Spatial Information for Human Health, the 2015 Spatial Unconference, Call for Proposals

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Author

Center for Spatial Studies, UCSB

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Spatial Information for Human Health

December 9–11, 2015

McCune Conference Room
Interdisciplinary Humanities Center
University of California, Santa Barbara

The Center for Spatial Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, is launching a new biennial series of *unconferences*, entitled **SPATIAL**. Its main goal is to reach out to domain specialists to inspire and guide research on spatial information. Each edition will focus on *applications* of spatial information as a primary force to push the frontiers of Geographic Information Science, Spatial Cognition, and related fields. Rather than spending the bulk of their time listening to paper presentations, attendees will debate new ideas, address challenges, and discuss how to improve solutions.

The inaugural **SPATIAL 2015** will be dedicated to applying **spatial information to human health**. It will challenge the state-of-the-art in research on spatial information by discussing spatial approaches to problems and opportunities around human health. Attendees will share and develop bold visions, new insights, and best practices in applications of spatial information to the study of epidemics, nutrition, aging, health psychology, and other aspects of human health. The objective is to advance our understanding of how spatial information needs to evolve in order to better support such studies. Thus, insights are sought on research questions around spatial information more so than on health itself. The innovation is to pursue such insights through real-world problems in a close dialogue between health and spatial experts.

Program Features:

- Invited presentations
- 5-minute lightning talks, making a “case for space” in health
- Interactive poster sessions
- Demonstrations—live or video
- Plenary debates
- Challenge competitions
- Two- or four-hour workshops and tutorials
- Breakout group discussions
- Paper or proposal writing sessions
- Informal discussions during walks on the beach or around the lagoon
- Hackathons

For more information, see <http://spatial.ucsb.edu/spatial2015>

Call for Proposals

We **invite proposals for contributions to the unconference program**. Submissions are strictly limited to *two pages*, that includes text, diagrams and figures, as well as a *250-word biosketch* of the applicant.

Dates to remember:

- **Proposals due:**
May 31, 2015
- **Acceptance notification:**
July 15, 2015
- **Attendance confirmation:**
October 15, 2015
- **Unconference:**
December 9–11, 2015

Attendance is **self-funded**, with an intentionally low general registration rate of \$200; student rate is \$100.

Submissions should:

- argue a viewpoint on a topic
- summarize lessons learned in a health application of spatial information
- present a new application idea or design
- describe a problem to be solved
- discuss a new pedagogical approach
- or suggest any other topic for discussion.

Proposals will be reviewed by the program chairs, using the criteria of innovation, grounding in actual problems, and clarity. Authors of accepted proposals will be asked to submit final versions for publication online before the meeting.

To submit an online application, please adhere to the 2-page limit for submissions and go to <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=spatial2015>
Discounted rates have been negotiated at nearby hotels;
see <http://spatial.ucsb.edu/spatial2015>

PROGRAM CHAIRS

Marcia Castro (Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health)
Matt Duckham (RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia)
Werner Kuhn (Center for Spatial Studies, UCSB)

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ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Karen Doehner
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Andrea Ballatore
(Center for Spatial Studies, UCSB)

spatial@ucsb
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