

Faculty & Professional Papers and Workshop Abstracts

Jim Allen, CSU Northridge

Relative Earnings of Mexicans and Whites in U.S. States

In the United States, Mexican men average 57 percent of the earned income of NonHispanic White men, and Mexican women average 66 percent of the earned income of NonHispanic White women. Much research has established that most of this Mexican-White earnings gap results from the lower average educational attainment and English-language proficiency of Mexicans. Using the Census Bureau's PUMS file of the 2006-2010 American Community Survey, we investigate differences between states in Mexican-White median earnings ratios. Results vary considerably by educational attainment and whether Mexicans were of U.S. or foreign birth. Our explanations of state differences are based on correlation of the ratios with other measured characteristics of these persons and with demographic and socioeconomic structural characteristics of states.

William A. Bowen, CSU Northridge

A Reconnaissance of the Landscapes and Waterscapes of the Sacramento Valley: 1820 - 2012.

California's Central Valley is for most Californians a "foreign country" whose geography and people scarcely enter into the state's collective consciousness. This presentation will provide in broad outline an overview of the Sacramento Valley and the underlying physical factors that have shaped its settlement. Aerial imagery and video flight simulations will be featured.

Monika Calef, Soka University of America

Population dynamics and land use changes: a comparison between Orange County, CA and the Capital Region, NY

Over the past several decades, the population of Orange County, California, has been rising dramatically while the population of the Capital Region in northeastern New York State has experienced stagnation. In California, rapidly growing populations led to a reduction of natural landscapes and agricultural lands and a significant change of the coastline. In the Capital Region of New York State on the other hand, population redistribution from dense historic urban centers to sprawling suburban developments equally resulted in a consumption of natural landscapes and agricultural lands.

John Carthew, Pierce College

Use of Equal Area Maps in Physical and Cultural Geography Classes

This workshop will last approximately one hour and is designed for instructors who are teaching beginning Geography students.

Directions for producing six different sample maps will be provided. Participants will work on and complete one of the sample maps during the workshop. Upon completion of the workshop, participants will receive a free baseball cap with the GGS logo.

All maps and other materials needed for the workshop, including colored pencils, will be provided to the attendees.

Matthew Derrick, CSU Humboldt

Containing the Umma? Islam and the Territorial Question

The sociopolitical upheavals that appeared suddenly and swept through Tunisia, Egypt, and other parts of the Middle East and North Africa this past year caught most observers off-guard and grasping for explanation. As explored in this paper, the inability to anticipate these popular uprisings to a significant degree relates to a widely held understanding of the relationship between Islam and the political-territorial ordering of modernity – namely, the notion, expressed by neo-realists/orientalists a la Huntington and more sympathetic voices alike, that the primacy of the umma (the worldwide community of believers) is incompatible with the sovereignty of nation-states. This paper identifies and discusses the tendency to under-appreciate modern territoriality in shaping contemporary Muslim identities and then goes on to illustrate how the bases of Muslim identities, and the relative significance of Islam to those identities, have shifted vis-à-vis changing political-territorial circumstances.

Mike DeVivo, Grand Rapids Community College

Online Instruction and Increased Student Success in the Community College Geography Curriculum: Ruminations on a Contradiction in the National Trend

In community colleges, online instruction is considered an imperative method of course delivery; however, its evangelization is a fluid as the inclinations of individuals that make up the cast of characters in American higher education leadership. At Grand Rapids Community College, all Geography courses are offered through online or hybrid forms of delivery, the result of an intended transition from mostly face-to-face courses. In contrast to a recent national study, student success has actually grown considerably. Whereas only 43% of the students enrolled three years ago showed evidence of success, 55% demonstrated success in a recent survey; moreover, their levels of achievement have risen higher. Given the unanticipated relatively high success rates in the GRCC Geography curriculum, it is worthwhile

to examine why student success has taken significant strides forward; perhaps these strategies can be emulated in other community college Geography programs.

Vanessa Engstrom, San Bernardino Valley College

Using POGIL (Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning) in geography.

POGIL is a student centered strategy, which encourages cooperative learning. Through a series of carefully designed activities, students are exposed to both process and content skills in a structured group environment. This workshop is designed to introduce the POGIL strategy, providing methods for its implementation and suggestions for other group activities in the classroom.

Trina Filan, UC Cooperative Extension, Placer and Nevada Counties

Gender Matters: Viewing California Agriculture through the Lens of Feminist Geography

Gender is a rarely examined phenomenon in California agriculture, which often is assumed to be shaped primarily by the machinations of capital. However, the increasing entrance of women into agriculture as primary operators of farms and ranches in California (and around the nation) begs a rethinking of the seeming inconsequence of a gendered analytical lens. Based on research conducted in Placer and Yolo counties in 2009 and 2010, I will discuss what using gender as an analytical category can reveal about agriculture in California, including the spatial variability of gendered operator experiences and the impacts of gender's intersection with other agricultural social identities. I also will discuss the ways in which gender constructs the legitimacy and visibility of farms and farmers in the state, and the benefits and deficits accruing to California farmers that derive from gendered roles and expectations.

Ryan Galt, UC Davis

Toward a political ecology of Community Supported Agriculture

Using a case study of CSA in California's Central Valley based on interviews and a survey, I develop a political ecological framework concerning the distribution of surplus value in CSA. I first employ the concept of rents — profits beyond a normal rate of return — and develop the concept of "community rent" made possible by commodifying the symbolic value of local food, civic agriculture, and/or sustainable ecological relations. The second concept I develop is self-exploitation — undervaluing a commodity in the sphere of exchange when one has the market power to sell it above the cost of production. A substantial minority (46 percent) of CSA farms report breaking even or operating at a loss despite selling to relatively affluent consumers, suggesting that self-exploitation among CSA farmers is common, and calling into question the long-term viability of some CSA arrangements.

Steve Graves, CSU Northridge

Cannabis City: LA's Landscapes of Medical Marijuana

In 2004, nearly 10 years after California voters approved Proposition 215 legalizing medical marijuana, local statutory environment relaxed to a point that triggered an explosion of medical marijuana dispensaries (MMDs) in several California cities. The staggering growth of the industry, despite continuing reservations of the medical community, an ongoing ban by the federal government, and legal restrictions on profit-taking by MMDs, called into question the medical credentials of this industry. This study investigates the MMD industry using both classic landscape and computer intensive content analyses of the built environment of MMDs. A typology of MMDs is constructed that upon inspection suggest that though many MMDs appear to function as vendors of natural, therapeutic remedies, a significant minority of MMDs market marijuana primarily as a recreational, hallucinogenic drug. The landscapes built by this minority threaten to undermine the position of medical marijuana proponents

Steven Greco, UC Davis

The shifting habitat mosaic of an endangered bird on a large meandering river

The yellow-billed cuckoo is a neotropical migrant that is listed as an endangered species in California. The largest remaining population of cuckoos (<100 individuals) in the state is located on the middle Sacramento River in the Central Valley. An analysis of two time periods (1952 and 1987) of a 127-km study reach of the river documented creation, spatial shifts, and loss of cuckoo habitat patches due to fluvial geomorphic processes, vegetation recruitment, and succession. The spatial co-occurrence of riparian vegetation on floodplains <65 years old was used to identify sub-patches of cottonwood forest, a preferred habitat element, within larger patches of contiguous riparian forest. Results indicate only 15% of the habitat sub-patches identified in 1952 were coincident with those in 1987 and 27% of the sub-patches delineated for 1987 emerged anew and independently of the 1952 patches; the remaining 83% formed by shifting adjacent to the patches from 1952.

Peggy Hauselt, CSU Stanislaus

Using a scaling methodology to develop a spatial water-balance model

This project examines scale transfer of an applied water-balance system. Each component of the water-balance equation, precipitation, irrigation, surface run-off, percolation, and evapotranspiration, was itself a spatially and temporally distributed model that directly used the data observations as input variables and parameters. Instead of the ad hoc application of the most familiar scaling operations on each component, the multi-scale model development was guided by the Bierkens et al. methodology.

Following Bierkens et al. each component was rescaled separately to the field, sub-district, and district level for incorporation into the overall water-balance model. Using a standardized scaling methodology, eliminated the ad-hoc re-scaling found in many GIS projects and ensured that proper processing of the data was applied. Using a standardized scaling methodology was intended to increase confidence in the analysis.

Melinda Kashuba, Shasta College

Building a Geography Outreach Program in the Community and the Classroom

This presentation outlines the steps taken as part of a National Science Foundation grant to bring geography and geospatial science into junior high and high school classrooms in Redding, California. The purpose of the program is to introduce students and members of the community to geography through location-based activities such as geocaching and mapping using GPS devices. Faculty and college students enrolled in the Geographic Information Systems Certificate program at Shasta College participated in high school career fairs and community events to further raise public awareness about geography in our lives and potential careers using geospatial technology. The heart of the outreach program is the creation of a mentoring ladder that links college faculty and professionals involved in careers using GIS with college students who, in turn, demonstrate their abilities and bring enthusiasm about geography to junior high and high school students.

Marti Klein, CSU Fullerton

The Leg I Left Behind Me: Geopolitics of a Prosthetic Limb

A prosthetic limb belonging to a military officer was seized on the battlefield by the opposing forces. This paper explores the role of the prosthetic limb as a geopolitical negotiating tool. In addition, the paper examines how the limb marches on as an unlikely, but enduring, centripetal force that continues to capture the nation's collective imagination.

K. Allison Lenkeit Meezan, Foothill College

Extending the classroom through visualization-intensive virtual field trips

Trips to the 'field' are a critical part of a Geographer's education. Cost, time, and liability concerns have limited the access to field trips at many schools. This project was developed as a solution to bring some of the most dynamic elements of technology, including Google Earth, Google maps, Flash animation and annotated photographs from field sites around the state to the student's computer or smart phone. Participants will be introduced to interactive web mapping and visualization technology that allows

students in Physical Geography or Geomorphology classes to take virtual field trips to locations around California to apply what they have learned in the classroom and recognize geomorphological land forms.

John Menary, CSU Dominguez Hills

California Geography: Tasting Toxicities of Teaching Online

Are California's colleges and universities making the most out of geography's technological contributions? Though students seem 'in touch' with the new technologies of video games and social media, many social science faculty are hesitant to join their ranks. Can geographers help reduce the angst by demonstrating how GIS and video geography games relieve the distasteful, and sometimes, toxic changes adopting new technologies 'seem' to suggest?

Philip Neustrom, LocalWiki

Collaborative community mapping and the LocalWiki project

In 2004 we started the Davis Wiki, a project to collect and share information about the town of Davis, California, editable by anyone, that soon became the world's largest and most vibrant community wiki. Today, it's the largest, most used media source in the city. Last year we began the LocalWiki project (<http://localwiki.org>), an effort to create an easy-to-use, open-source platform for local community collaboration. At the heart of LocalWiki is an intuitive, collaborative mapping system we developed -- including what may be the world's first geographic diff algorithm. We detail our approach to collaborative mapping and explore future possibilities.

Alan Rice Osborn, CSU San Diego

Before the Launch: Literary Roots of the Satellite Revolution

It has been said that in order to change the future, you must first imagine it. Today we live in a world that has been shaped and changed by technological innovations that would have seemed fantastic a few generations ago; and as geographers, we work with tools that probably would have seemed miraculous. Among those tools none has been more transformative than the satellites – communications, navigation, weather, and research satellites – that we now use on a daily basis. But before these satellites existed, they were imagined. In this paper I briefly look at the ways that various authors envisioned the satellites we rely on today would work, and how they would affect and change the world.

Scott Parker, Sierra College

All (Geo-) Politics are Local: The Consequences of the People's Republic of China's Military Doctrine of Local War for the East Asia Region

The People's Republic of China has undertaken rapid military reform over the past decade. Western analyses focus upon China as an emergent superpower and its embrace of the Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA). Less frequently discussed in the literature is the PRC's "local war" doctrine. Virtually all of China's contemporary interstate disputes have been with its neighbors: Russia, India, Vietnam, and Taiwan. Regional wars involving China will inevitably have worldwide economic consequences and permanently affect Chinese relations with the West. Western states will either acquiesce to maintain stable relations or oppose Chinese action at the expense of a major trading partner. Even seemingly mixed responses will mask a fundamentally binary decision. A superficially strong collective response (e.g., economic sanctions) will nevertheless give individual players incentive to defect in a classic Prisoner's Dilemma scenario. All players will ultimately arrive at a Nash equilibrium in which acquiescence has the best possible payoff.

Dan Scollon, Shasta College

Navigating our Digital Planet: Progress and Observations on a Geospatial GE Course

Geospatial technologies have long been taught as special-interest or majors courses, but rarely as general education. This paper will present progress and observations based on the first offering of a new course, entitled 'Digital Planet', that meets General Education requirements for the CSU transfer. The course addresses the societal impacts of geospatial technologies on sustainability, geo-politics, and social justice. Concepts and theory are reinforced with course assignments in which students apply geospatial technologies to pursuing larger societal questions. Participatory GIS, hegemonic cartography, counter-mapping, and crowd-mapping are among the concepts explored through activities using free, web-based mapping applications. This course, currently being offered at Shasta College, was developed in collaboration with faculty at California State University Chico, under an Advanced Technology Education grant (ATE/NSF#1003865).

Mathew C. Schmidtlein & Dale Ainsworth, CSU Sacramento

Location/Allocation Analysis of the Primary Health Care System Capacity for Sacramento County, California

Understanding capacity is critical in assessing an area's primary health care system. Existing approaches are based on finding the ratio of patients to licensed physicians within a given area. But this ignores variations in physician practice, insurance based limitations in access to care, and the spatial distribution of providers and patients. Here we present a methodology that addresses these limitations in an

assessment of the primary health care system capacity for under and uninsured patients in Sacramento County, California. Capacity was modeled based on the estimated capacity of practicing primary care physicians; hospital emergency rooms; and county, community, and free clinics. Uninsured and Medi-Cal patient distributions were estimated at the tract level from ZIP code data using dissymmetric mapping. Patients were matched to providers using Location-Allocation techniques. Results suggest that while there may be sufficient capacity for uninsured patients, there is insufficient capacity for Medi-Cal patients outside the urban core.

William Selby, Santa Monica College

THE TWO MOST POWERFUL FORCES RESHAPING CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPES IN DECADE TWO

New change agents are reshaping California's landscapes and its people. They might not be the more traditional forces you first think of, but they are connected to what you are thinking in profound ways. How has the mortgage meltdown and housing industry collapse affected the distribution and migration of people and wealth, our cultures and living standards, and how we use and impact the land and our other natural resources? How will state cutbacks affect urban redevelopment projects that have dramatically revitalized many of our cities for decades? Since few predicted these changes and now the challenges that face us in the second decade of the 21st Century, how can we anticipate and plan for the state's uncertain future? Share your thoughts and discoveries as we unveil our new Rediscovering the Golden State: California Geography project.

Terry Simmons, Center for Global Policy Studies

On the Importance of Infrastructure and Linear Development Planning

Infrastructure provides the fundamental skeletal basis for human settlements, and for the economic interface between the built and the natural environment. Infrastructure evokes essential highs and lows from airports to sewage treatment plants. Infrastructure is essential, yet often hidden, from daily consciousness by its mundane taken for granted quality. Infrastructure can be a significant integrating force in Geography. Railroads, roads, water, petroleum and natural gas pipelines, co-axial cables, and high voltage transmission lines altogether transport people, goods and services from point A to point B, or digital data and electricity through networks over long distances. Route selection, environmental planning and regulatory review processes for linear developments have changed significantly during the last fifty years. Each project has detailed design specifications, natural habitat to be avoided or mitigated, and land use requirements to be negotiated with local authorities and land owners as straight lines evolve into piles of spaghetti.

Ray Sumner, Long Beach City College

Sustainable Urban Settlement in a Desert Environment - Considerations and Examples

From Phoenix, AZ to the Gulf States, as cities grow ever larger, and as new cities are conceived and built, renewed attention has been directed towards sustainable systems. Arid environments present special problems and are intrinsically particularly vulnerable. This process of urbanization therefore requires new approaches in engineering and technology, in the use of green materials and energy, and in the interconnected areas of economic and social systems.

Todd Stagnaro, CSU Humboldt

Geography of California Red Abalone- Recent Updated Emergency Sonoma County Coast Closure and its Impacts on the Fishery

Revisit the Geography of California Red Abalone and the recent updates/changes in regulations brought about by emergency closures due to harvest approaching threshold limits along with massive Abalone Die-off caused by unknown phytoplankton bloom during summer of 2011 along the Sonoma County Coast.

Benjamin Timms, CSU San Luis Obispo

Coping with Displacement: Adjustments to Rural Livelihoods following Relocation from Celaque National Park, Honduras

The creation of protected areas to conserve nature has been a cornerstone of global environmental conservation over the past century. Often the imposition of such protected areas such as national parks has stemmed from structural forces acting from the global to the local level by international conservation organizations, lending agencies, and states. In developing nations this movement has had considerable impact on the livelihoods of local populations, particularly those displaced. However, these populations are not merely passive recipients of these changes, they employ agency to cope with these changes brought on by these structural forces. This paper addresses such changes to livelihoods brought on by relocation from Celaque National Park, Honduras through the application of household strategies of communal action and increased use of familial labor to mitigate negative repercussions on their livelihoods.

Eugene Turner, CSU Northridge

Relative Earnings of Mexicans and Whites in U.S. States

In the United States, Mexican men average 57 percent of the earned income of NonHispanic White men, and Mexican women average 66 percent of the earned income of NonHispanic White women. Much research has established that most of this Mexican-White earnings gap results from the lower average educational attainment and English-language proficiency of Mexicans. Using the Census Bureau's PUMS file of the 2006-2010 American Community Survey, we investigate differences between states in Mexican-White median earnings ratios. Results vary considerably by educational attainment and whether Mexicans were of U.S. or foreign birth. Our explanations of state differences are based on correlation of the ratios with other measured characteristics of these persons and with demographic and socioeconomic structural characteristics of states.