

Notes from Geospatial/GIS Meetup

February 10, 2022

via Zoom

Attendees: Janet Reyes, facilitator;

Via Zoom: Amanda Grey, Andrea Wilson, Andrew Haglund, Bart Kats, Canserina Kurnia, Cesar Zayas, Chandra Reynolds, Debbie Stocking, Gary Chao, Gerald Winkel, Heather Constable, Isabelle Swanson, Lynn Sweet, Mike Cohen, Owen Mo, Preeti Juturu, Ryan Bruellman, Sahar Foruzan, Shanon Langlie, Tina Vo, Tricia Vivian

Announcements

This meeting was recorded; video is available [here](#). The passcode to view is yJr3Su%4.

The UC-wide [Love Data Week](#), February 14-18, will include workshops relating to Leaflet and to using Jupyter Notebooks in ArcGIS Pro.

Janet will be offering a **workshop** on [ArcGIS Online Web App Options](#) on Wednesday, February 16 at 2:00 pm. There will be the opportunity for an in-person follow-up session in Orbach Science Library, Room 122 on Wednesday, February 23 at 2:00 pm.

USC is hosting the [Los Angeles Geospatial Summit](#) on Friday, February 25. The program includes presentations as well as opportunities for networking.

Students interested in a **paid GIS intern position** are invited to apply for an [internship at the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority](#) by March 1. Some GIS familiarity is desirable, but applicants don't have to be GIS experts.

Esri's next [GIS in Higher Education Chat](#), at 9:00 am on Tuesday, March 1 will cover analysis of multidimensional scientific data in ArcGIS.

The next [Digital Scholarship meetup](#), at noon on March 9, will focus on platforms for creating interactive digital maps.

Janet shared two "lessons learned" this month:

- If your **ArcGIS Pro session in Apporto gets hung up** on a process that's taking too long, canceling the process still takes a long time, and you can't use Windows Task Manager to close your session. Contact Apporto Support <https://www.apporto.com/support> to request that your session be reset. You'll lose any unsaved work.
- A **point grid generated in QGIS** may not appear to stay registered to the appropriate ground location. If you observe this behavior, it may be a function of your monitor!

Here's a little **projection humor** making the geo-geek rounds: <https://xkcd.com/2577/>

Canserina mentioned registration is now open for the [Esri Imagery and Remote Sensing Educators Summit](#) being held virtually on March 31. Students and researchers are welcome.

First-time Attendees

Andrew Haglund recently joined the Esri Higher Education team as an Account Manager.

Cesar Zayas is a Trimble GIS Representative in Southern California.

Owen Mo is the GIS Administrator for the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority.

Tricia Vivian also works for SBCTA.

Andrea Wilson, Ryan Bruellman, and Tina Vo also joined us for the first time.

Welcome all, and we hope to see you again!

Presentation

Sahar Foruzan is a fourth-year graduate student in Anthropology and a graduate student researcher with the Community Engagement Core in the Center for Health Disparities Research (CHDR) at UCR. Isabelle Swanson is a fourth-year undergraduate in Psychology and also works for the Center in Community Engagement. Preeti Juturu is a fourth-year undergraduate double major in Public Policy and Economics who works for both the Center for Health Disparities and the Center for Geospatial Sciences. In their presentation titled **“Storymaps for Research Dissemination & Community Engagement,”** they focused on how StoryMaps have been and can be used in community-based participatory research (CBPR). They also encouraged participants to brainstorm how their own research or work could lend itself to a community-engaged framework.

The Community Engagement and Dissemination Core within CHDR fosters collaborations between researchers and the community with a focus on health equity issues in southern California, while sharing research findings in a meaningful way with the impacted communities. The CBPR framework facilitates active engagement of all stakeholders (individuals, community organizations, and researchers) as issues of inequity are addressed.

ArcGIS StoryMaps can be an effective tool in CBPR as they can provide engaging, interactive displays of research findings, making them much more accessible than academic papers. With the incorporation of images, maps, and other multimedia elements, they can combine place, narrative, and knowledge. The ability to display timelines of events is another useful feature. Collaborators don't have to be in the same physical space to contribute to a story map, and anyone can view the published story map for free.

In 2020 and 2021, Sahar, Isabelle and Preeti created three story maps related to environmental justice in the Salton Sea area in a series titled “Exposing the Desert.” The shrinkage of the Salton Sea is exposing toxic playa dust that impacts residents in the area, adding to the socioeconomic and health inequities the communities face. The team's goals in creating the story maps were to name the region's environmental injustices and unravel its politics, as well as highlight a project of the Center.

The [first story map](#), which included several maps, gave an overview of the region and its challenges. The [second story map](#) explained the CBPR project, while the [third story map](#) focused on interviews relating to restoration projects at the Salton Sea. The presentation concluded with the thought that “pollution is colonialism, research is too.”

Discussion

Andrew asked if the team had interacted with other local institutions that have done work at the Salton Sea, such as University of Redlands and Dr. Ryan Sinclair at Loma Linda. Sahar responded that Isabelle had a helpful interview with Dr. Sinclair, but ultimately the content didn’t fit in the narrative framework of the story maps.

Canserina suggested the team might want to consider creating an [ArcGIS Hub](#) to increase community engagement, and offered to hold a session with them to explore how one might be set up for this project.

Shanon asked if the team’s use of story maps on this project has sparked ideas for their future use. Isabelle responded that she would absolutely consider using them again. Preeti sees the value of story maps for sharing quantitative, qualitative or ethnographic research. Sahar recognized that the story maps they created could have been enhanced if there’d been more partnerships with community members early on.

Janet asked about any feedback received from policymakers or community members. Sahar said they were in communication with one community leader to gauge the effectiveness of the story maps’ content and presentation. She also wished that the story maps could have been translated into Spanish.

Sahar said that HDR has another story map series on lived experiences during the pandemic. Janet mentioned Chikako Takeshita’s class project for creating a story map that presented community interviews regarding pollution impacts in the Inland Empire.

Map sharing

Mike shared one of the [story maps from the UCR Botanic Gardens](#) on deserts of the Southwest.

Janet shared the following:

Regional bias, from Jimmy Calanchini in the Psychology Dept:
https://news.ucr.edu/articles/2022/02/02/blue-gold-maps-reveal-bias-united-states?utm_source=UC+Riverside+Master+List&utm_campaign=fa102c933e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_02_03_01_13&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6a473f0f9b-fa102c933e-93486799

How Geology Shapes History:

<https://www.loc.gov/ghe/cascade/index.html?appid=8caec0ea0f45442396e539c227ee192c>

A tool for comparing sizes of different places on earth: <https://thetruesize.com/>