# Notes from Geospatial/GIS Meetup
## June 13, 2023

## Rivera Library, Room 140 and Zoom

**Attendees:** Janet Reyes, facilitator;

**In person:** Anthony Jerry, Siddharth Kishore
**Via Zoom**: Grecia Perez, Jacqueline Alba, Jamila Abdul, Luis Barrios, Mary A, Mike Cohen, Olusoji Oluseye, Valery Chan

## <u>Announcements</u>

This meeting was recorded; video is available <u>here</u>. The passcode to view is  $4NTd9W$

The **Planet** Professional Services team is launching a series of <u>live training webinars</u> that will repeat monthly. For instance, "Intro to Planet in ArcGIS" will be offered on June 26. Participants will need to have a Planet Account to access Planet University, and will need access to the <u>UCR institutional license</u>.

The **<u>Esri Education Summit</u>** starts July 8 at the Marriott Marquis adjacent to the San Diego Convention Center; the **<u>User Conference</u>** starts July 10 at the SDCC.

On May 31, four UCR faculty members participated in a listening session with ITS regarding the **space and software challenges of teaching GIS-related courses** at UCR. Others are encouraged to join the ongoing conversation.

Esri released further information about the **<u>sunsetting of ArcMap</u>** and the pivot to teaching modern GIS. Some big takeaways include: ArcMap is moving to mature support on March 1, 2024, and when our education license is renewed in June 2024, ArcMap "will no longer be available through the Esri Education Program."

There won't be a meetup in July. The **next meetups** will be held on Tuesday, August 1 and Thursday, September 21.

Has anyone else read the novel **<u>The Cartographers</u>**? An exchange of opinions is welcome!

## <u>Shared links</u>

Janet shared a blog post regarding the **implications of AI-generated maps**:
https://spatialreserves.wordpress.com/2023/05/29/ai-generated-maps/

Mapping sites of importance to **LGBTQ history**:
https://savingplaces.org/stories/lgbtq-spaces-mapping-and-context-statements

Dr. Anthony Jerry, Assistant Professor in Anthropology, and Grecia Perez, a PhD candidate in Anthropology, presented on Grecia's research regarding **Hydroscapes and Geographies of Tension in Mexico's Costa Chica.** In addition to sharing their research, Grecia and Dr. Jerry also seek feedback on how to improve the associated ArcGIS Online map they've created.

The project centers Black Mexicans in the Costa Chica region and their opportunities and limitations to development, particularly compared to nearby Indigenous and mestizo communities. The researchers look at regional waterscapes as an archive that highlights the tensions between these three communities. Water plays a key role in the region's economies, which include fishing, tourism, and agriculture. Social relationships are impacted by the practices that exist around waterscapes such as rivers, a lagoon, and the ocean.

Their study area is in Oaxaca, Mexico. The region is informally segregated according to ethnic and racial identities. In general, Black villages are found near the coast; mestizo communities occupy land further inland, including along the main highway; and Indigenous communities are primarily in the mountainous coastal terrain.

The map of the area that Grecia and Dr. Jerry created is meant to illustrate the tensions in the area, with images and links to soundscapes in pop-ups serving to illustrate how these social dynamics become geographic. The concept of waterscapes as an archive involves documenting the peoples' narratives regarding the water use, flow, and even spirituality in water.

As we looked at the map, Grecia gave some background regarding several communities in the area - whether they are known for tourism, cattle ranching, fishing, commerce, etc. and what some of the pressures are on these ways of life.

An upstream irrigation dam has impacted the estuary (Laguna de Chacahua), which adjoins the ocean, and by extension has impacted the economies of the settlements near the estuary. Because the dam has diverted fresh water that used to flow into this lagoon, fish are dying as a result. Laguna de Chacahua is situated in a national park, which means there are regulations that limit how surrounding Black communities interact with the lagoon and its surroundings. Pesticides from upstream agricultural practices are accumulating in the lagoon, and the Black population has to deal with the effects of that. The communities have to rely on the government for any interventions, but the government is often slow to act.

By contrast, the Indigenous population of Paso de la Reina, near the Rio Verde in the highlands, has to date successfully organized to prevent the proposed construction of a hydroelectric dam on the river. In working with some human rights organizations, they've also resisted plans for large extractive economic development such as timber and hunting.

Dr. Jerry and Grecia shared a few of the soundscapes they've added to the map. The files are stored in SoundCloud, which has some drawbacks (including navigating the user away from the map, and unwanted ads!). The researchers, who are relatively new to mapping, are open to suggestions on how to

revise the map so that it tells the region's story more effectively. Grecia also said that they are seeking ideas regarding platforms for where the map could be published.

## Discussion

In the chat, **Mike** suggested creating a [story map](#), putting details and ground imagery about each location in separate segments. Another idea is to investigate using [ArcGIS Field Maps](#).

**Mike** also suggested converting the WAV files stored in SoundCloud to MP4 files that can be shared (without ads) from within the map platform.

**Luis** shared this link to documentation about embedding media (in ArcGIS Hub): https://doc.arcgis.com/en/hub/sites/embed-video-social-media-and-iframes.htm

**Janet** said that incorporating sound in maps has been known to be challenging. We might be able to tap into expertise at Esri to get recommendations on the best solution.

**Janet** asked if this same approach to understanding regional tensions between communities has been used elsewhere. Dr. Jerry said that the question of challenges for Black communities compared to Indigenous ones is being studied throughout Latin America, but Grecia's approach is fairly innovative as far as he knows. He is aware of a related study regarding resistance to mining in a region in Colombia.

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