

Notes from Geospatial/GIS Meetup September 16, 2025

Zoom

Attendees: Janet Reyes, facilitator

Via Zoom: Andrew Haglund, Barbara Martinez Neda, Emily Candido, Janine Almanzor, Kiran Manchikanti, Luis Barrios, Lynn Sweet, Mark Long, Mike Cohen, Niloofar Shoja Razavi, Ryan Bruellman, Steve Ries, Suryaa Charan Shivakumar, Wei Guo

Announcements

This meeting was recorded; video is available [here](#). The passcode to view is Q?#yY.K0

The [Spatial Data Science Conference](#) will be held in New York October 14-15.

The [Esri Education Open House](#) is being held at Esri headquarters in Redlands on the afternoon of October 15. This is a great opportunity for students in particular to learn and make connections. Space is limited.

UC GIS Week is a virtual event being held November 18-20. The [call for submissions](#) is open until October 17. Presentations can include lightning talks, 15-minute presentations, workshops, or digital content to be hosted in a virtual gallery.

Geospatial/GIS meetups in Fall quarter will be held on October 15 and November 12; both are Wednesdays. The December meetup will be for UCR faculty and researchers.

Kiran mentioned POSE (Pathways to Open Source Ecosystem Development), an NSF-sponsored grant project he is participating in with CSE Professor Ahmed Eldawy and a USC professor. The focus is on being able to download a small portion of a very large dataset. They'd like to contact members of the UCR geospatial community for customer discovery interviews.

Shared links

Spheres of Influence: Projecting Power and Fear Onto the Globe

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/83a42ebc28b44fe7b355532da798b938>

Presentation

Janet presented an [Overview of Geospatial Resources at UCR](#). (Refer to the slide deck for links to many of the items mentioned.)

As the Geospatial Information Librarian, Janet serves UCR affiliates and community members by helping them find data, learn and use geospatial tools and methods, and stay connected with other GIS users. She's also one of the administrators for UCR's ArcGIS Online organization. In addition, Janet hosts the meetups, provides workshops and class visits, and maintains the Geospatial listserv.

UCR Library holds its collection of maps covering California on the first floor of Orbach Science Library. Other maps and atlases are held by the Special Collections and University Archives department in Rivera Library. Use [UC Library Search](#) to discover shelved geospatial materials as well as maps.

Online resources the library provides include mapping tools such as PolicyMap and Social Explorer; library guides on Maps & GIS and Aerial Photos; the Geospatial/GIS Quarterly; and the Geospatial Series playlist of past workshops on the Library's YouTube channel.

ArcGIS Pro, QGIS, and Google Earth Pro are installed on computers in the Library's STAR Lab and in ITS' computer labs (Watkins 2111 and 2117). In addition, ArcGIS Pro and QGIS are available on Itopia virtual machines maintained by ITS. UCR has two ArcGIS Online organizations: one for academic use and one for campus administration. UCR affiliates should submit a BearHelp ticket for challenges with computers or software supported by ITS. The Research Computing team in ITS is interested in hearing about any pain points around data storage or other research processes.

Janet maintains an informal list of GIS courses at UCR. Two UCR entities doing geospatial research are the Center for Geospatial Sciences and the Agriculture, Environmental, and Geospatial Sciences team in [RAISE@UCR](#). A student club for GIS learners has existed in the past; any students interested in reviving it should contact Janet for more information. The [UC ANR Informatics and GIS program](#) offers virtual workshops and provides recordings. They also offer DroneCamp in June, online as well as in person.

The UC GIS Leadership team collaborates to maintain an online information hub and coordinates UC GIS Week. UC GeoConnect, a small subset of the team, is working on creating a unified platform that will provide the most-requested geospatial information across the UC system.

Esri offers support and learning opportunities in a variety of ways. If a UCR affiliate is having challenges using ArcGIS, either Janet or ITS can create a case with Esri for an expert to follow up. The monthly [GIS in Higher Education chats](#) are a great way to learn about Esri software. Training in various formats for various topics is accessible through ArcGIS Online. Esri also hosts online and in-person events throughout the year.

The [IE GIS Users Group](#) meets quarterly and maintains a website that often features local employment opportunities. Finally, UCR affiliates are welcome to join the [State of California GIS Community of Practice](#).

Discussion

Kiran is CEO of Mapsol, which offers [fuse.Earth](#), a cloud-native GIS reimagined for end user usability. Reach out to Kiran at kiran@mapsolgeo.com if you are interested in learning more. They have partners at UCR and would welcome more.