

2nd Call
Workshop on
Information Semantics and its Implications for Geographic Analysis (ISGA '08)

in Park City, Utah, September 23rd, 2008,

held in conjunction with [GIScience 2008](#),
the 5th International Conference on Geographic Information Science

New!

*Workshop outcomes will form the basis for an open call for submission to a special issue in
International Journal of Geographical Information Science on integration of information
semantics and spatial analysis*

Workshop Theme

Ontology and information semantics are central to research on enhanced interoperability between geographic information systems, services, and data sets. It is increasingly understood that deeper insights into information semantics also have consequences for geographic analysis in general. Development of semantic similarity metrics appears to enable access to a much broader array of analytical methods for categorical data than those traditionally employed. Existing examples that demonstrate this potential are fuzzy accuracy assessment, map similarity estimates, and semantic versions of the standard variogram. An explicit recognition of the importance of context in semantic assessments also poses interesting questions for a quantitative approach to categorical data. The influence of context on semantic similarity measurement is a well-known phenomenon that has long been observed in psychological experiments. Although the results of human similarity ratings depend on the context, and this dependency is also reflected in recent similarity theories, the nature of this influence and its actual impact have not been subject to thorough research yet.

This workshop seeks to advance both theoretical and applied perspectives with these two overarching goals:

- develop consensus on the current theoretical situation of category semantics by including multiple perspectives on the current understanding of category semantics and the means by which it can be elicited, formalized, and assessed for geographic information
- describe and exemplify the potential of semantic similarity metrics in spatial data manipulation, analysis, statistics, and modeling

Further information on the aim of the workshop is available on <http://www.cogsci.uos.de/~isga08/> .

Call for Papers

Anybody with an interest in the questions raised above is invited to submit a position paper as basis for discussions during the workshop. Extended abstracts of 1000 - 1500 words should be sent by email to isga08-at-uos.de . Accepted papers will be made available on the workshop web site, unless their authors instruct us otherwise. Authors will be notified whether their position papers have been selected for an additional short-presentation during the workshop.

We expect that the outcomes of this workshop will shed light on the connection between information semantics and spatially explicit analysis. This theme will form the basis for a special issue in *[International Journal of Geographical Information Science](#)*. Workshop participants and the wider research community will be invited to submit full papers after the workshop for a regular peer-review.

Workshop Organizers

[Ola Ahlqvist](#), The Ohio State University, U.S.A.

[Martin Raubal](#), University of California Santa Barbara, U.S.A.

[Angela Schwering](#), University of Osnabrueck, Germany

[Ashton Shortridge](#), Michigan State University, U.S.A.

Important Dates

Submission due: 30th May 2008

Acceptance Notification: 21st June 2008

Camera-ready Copies: 7th July 2008