

Appendix B

This appendix contains the exit surveys completed by attendees of the 2006 GISPopSci workshops. There were 21 completed surveys from attendees at the Penn State workshop and 17 from the UCSB workshop.

The names of individuals completing the surveys have been removed. The text of the survey responses has not been altered.

While this is a long document we felt that complete information rather than the use of selected quotes was a more appropriate.

The exit survey asks questions on several broad topics:

- Workshop results
- Future Impact
- Workshop improvement
- Preparation and assessment

Results: 21 exit surveys retrieved for **PSU 2006**.

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

I had previous experience in the use of GIS. This workshop helped me to know much more about the applicability of the techniques in demographic research and on how to manage my work in a 'cleaner' way. I learned more especially about some tips for data management strategies.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

I learned a lot on how to present my spatial information in a reader friendly way which is very important for the type of work I am doing, in which my main objective is to deliver the results of my research to non specialists. I was also exposed with greater detail to Geoda and I am aware by now on the offer or other software packages on spatial analysis with more particular applications.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

As previously stated, I acquired more practical knowledge related on spatial data manipulation and geospatial analysis.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

With Paul Voss presentation, I achieved to initially understand the differentiations between GWR and Spatial Dependence. However, there was little talk on spatial statistics and some aspects of this relationship are still not clear to me. I will need to explore more by myself. Hopefully, you gave me the directions to where I can look for the answers. Great!

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

This was a wonderful opportunity to share the problems I have already had when working with spatial data. I managed to ask a lot of questions to the staff and get to know some ways to deal with these problems in the future. Thanks!

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

Having Marcia Castro available contribute tons on my understanding of using health data in spatial demographic research. Particularly, I needed more orientation on how to use GPS surveys with other sampling design to apply spatial analysis. She was great in orienting me. I think that if you have in your next call more people working with DHS you should take a time to explain the possibilities on this subject.

General understanding of spatial demography

I used spatial analysis but never took a time to think about spatial demography. This perspective have expanded my curiosity and perspective on doing research.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

Definitely, spatial...of course in the areas that are applicable.

Research

I am using spatial analysis for my dissertation and will continue to work on this in other different subjects on my research interest.

Teaching

At my university, there are a group of students that are interested in spatial analysis. We share our techniques and I have definitely more to share now. I will be in the job market in a few years and I would like to propose a class on spatial analysis at the universities I will work in my home country.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

Yes, they were.

Facilities

The Population Research Center Room was too uncomfortable. I would rather have stayed in the main lab for the GPS exercise. Also, I think it would have been better if had a more hands on practice on how to install the extension in Arc view and download our data.

Exercises

I think the Geovista lab needed more organization. The exercise was unclear and the introductory presentation was so general. Just at

the end, I could tell the purpose by asking around what the software utilities were but it was not clear to me at the beginning or during the lab.

CD Resources

Perfect!

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

All of them were great. I would just recommend that the ones that were presenting their research needed to explain more their methods. I loved Marcia Castro presentation because she really focused in make us understand spatial thinking, methods and the usefulness of them in their research.

Workshop Organization

Perfect!

Housing Arrangements

Perfect! I felt like home.

Preparation and Assessment

Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?

Yes.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

It was worthy a great deal!

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

I am much more familiar and comfortable with the cartographic functions of ArcGIS, and have a better understanding of why this program should often be supplemented with other more advanced statistical packages.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

I definitely make better maps now, and it is getting easier to know how to create a good shapefile for use in other packages.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

The workshop helped take some of the anxiety out of this step -- I was at the point where I could start learning shortcuts, and actually learning/using them has made data manipulation less scary for me!

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

Much more comfortable now -- I was able to use much of the discussion as review/background checking for more technical econometrics questions. I think that I now have had a solid foundation upon which to continue exploring the mathematical/econometric properties of the technique.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

Well understood coming in, and even moreso by the end of the workshop!

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

I learned some interesting applications for this type of data, but since it is not generally the type that I deal with regularly, I had some trouble finding my own niche with some operations. Nevertheless, it was just as useful to learn what techniques were inappropriate for my purposes, as well as which ones were well suited.

General understanding of spatial demography

Certainly enhanced by the workshop, particularly through the reference lists and reading materials.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

I plan to use spatial econometric modeling in my dissertation, and have always been interested in using maps and other types of visual representations of data for my projects.

Research

The concepts of contiguity and proximity play a major part in my research agenda, so I think that both the GIS and the econometrics will be invaluable.

Teaching

I feel fairly confident that I will be able to present some classic themes in IR with a much modernized perspective, now that I understand better the nuts, bolts and assumptions that underlie spatial analysis.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

I would have benefitted from more discussion of the math/modeling component of spatial analysis. As an introduction to GIS and SA, I think the workshop was great -- but for those already with a substantial background, more technical presentations would have been nice.

Facilities

Location was well chosen.

Exercises

Good

CD Resources

Excellent

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

The guest presenters were my favorite part of the workshop.

Workshop Organization

The organizers did a wonderful job in making sure that the major themes were attended to, while leaving us an opportunity to figure things out on our own also.

Housing Arrangements

n/a

Preparation and Assessment**Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?**

Absolutely (I had taken an intro course with Stephen Matthews prior to the workshop).

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

I am very glad that I attended the program, and would be very interested in a more advanced version of the same in the future.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

Since I had the same type of course previously, my understanding of ArcInfo did not change much but it was a good review.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

The materials which were used in learning GeoDa were detailed and very useful for reviewing what we have done in the class after the workshop and definitely improve my understanding of the use of GeoDa and its ability in population research. I found ESTAT is an interesting tool to visualize the demographic differences over map. Unfortunately, there was no handout in the lecture of ESTAT; therefore, it was somewhat difficult to follow what the instructor was trying to do.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

Same as the first question, "Use of GIS Software and extensions in population research."

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

Although I knew the concept of spatial modeling, it was quite helpful to go through methods of spatial modeling while actually using the spatial analysis software packages.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

My understanding is definitely improved.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

Not changed.

General understanding of spatial demography

While all of curriculum, exercise materials, and instructions were helpful to improve my overall understanding of spatial demography and how to incorporate my analysis using individual-level data into spatial analysis (as well as to realize what I cannot do in spatial analysis for now), reading materials which are provided in both website and CD deepen my interests in using spatial analysis in my future demographic research.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

(see 'Research')

Research

I have been trying to find the method of spatial analysis which uses the individual data (with geographic points of communities) but I am now interested in using clusters obtained from spatial clustering analyses and the values which can be obtained from segregation profile in the hierarchical regression analysis. This is, I think, unusual way of spatial analysis but it would be an interesting way to test if high segregation influences population health. I am also interested in the new method of segregation profile which your research group is creating.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Facilities

The facilities were excellent!

Exercises

If the amount of time allocated to exercises is the same, I think the amount of exercise is somewhat too much. But, the exercise materials were very useful/helpful and I believe it should be kept as they are. On the other hand, the second day and the third day ArcGIS sessions may be eliminated because we could take online course (if it is possible, at Virtual Campus. We can take tests at the end of each section by which I can make sure if I understood or not) before the workshop begins and get a certificate to provide the evidence. This two-day period may be distributed to exercise hours and the presentations of the guests in the first week.

CD Resources

Typically, the reading material section (and its organization) is very helpful and effective and it should be kept.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

I thought if we could have a couple of guest presenters in the first week, it would be much helpful. If the basic spatial analysis lectures and geoda exercises in the first three days (supposing there is no ArcGIS session in the second and third day), there may have two lecturers on the fourth and fifth day.

Workshop Organization

I deeply appreciate Dr. Matthews' and instructors' great effort to organize and run the workshop wonderfully. I cannot expect more!

Housing Arrangements

Same as workshop organization. I could not expect more than that at all. Especially, stay at the same hotel as other participants and guest lecturers facilitated wonderful opportunities to share our common interests (this was very important for me since I do not have any colleagues at UF being interested in spatial demography) and exchange/discuss topics and questions what we just learned.

Preparation and Assessment

Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?

I thought I did but the material covered in the workshop is much more than I expected.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

Absolutely it is one of the most valuable times of my graduate student life!! And if I am allowed I would like to return to the next workshop you may hold.

Other comments

It took too much time to finish analysis and crate my presentation – although I was late for presentation, it was not completed! Other participants handled the time and I believe I am so slow and too much obsessive about the quality. This is just my excuse though if we could have a couple of guest lecturers in the first week, we would not have the too-busy-second-week and we could have more time to do our analysis and to make presentation. As I said, this is just my excuse... I was not able to explain well what I have done in my analyses and in my maps but it is now completed – the racial segregation level influences child mortality - and I hope I can present the results at the next PAA at New York.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

This immersion workshop was excellent for building a certain critical threshold of facility with GIS software and developing an understanding of data sources, and spatial statistics. It was an excellent course, very professional staff, excellent resources with ample staff to help resolve problems promptly.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

An excellent introduction and intermediate course on ArcGis and Geoda, taught from a variety of viewpoints, there was immersion instruction in ArcGis for several days, plus projects to do independently, plus different instruction on GeoDa and additional spatial concepts.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

See above, excellent.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

I think there could perhaps be additional (day) spent on the ethical dimensions of GIS data, when it should be used, what protections should be in place, etc.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

Excellent, and the bulk of my experience of the workshop was in using census and health data for demographic research--however, this differed by participants prior experience, and as far as I saw, all needs were met.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

I will use GIS and some spatial concepts in future research and publications

Research

see above,

Teaching

Perhaps, not at this time,

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

see above, re: ethics of using GIS technologies, and some info re: datamining, who owns GIS data, what safeguards are in place re: GIS data and analysis.

Facilities

excellent resources and staff at Penn State

Exercises

very relevant, and lots of help in completing work--perhaps more time to complete however, and a greater appreciation of the need to practice and assimilate materials before receiving more tutorials.

CD Resources

Far more than I would have expected, very valuable, excellent guide to additional resources.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

Very good, and ranged widely in speciality and topic

Workshop Organization

I would try to extend the workshop slightly (2.5 weeks,) add ethics, and add a little more down time for completing exercises, and

pursuing interests that arise in course of learning.

Housing Arrangements

the hotel facilities were excellent, the food was not.

Preparation and Assessment

Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?

yes

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

yes, very valuable use of time, especially as it was an immersion course it allowed me to reach a certain level of fluency/capability with GIS software that I could not have reached otherwise.

Other comments

Mr. Matthews, as coordinator, truly exceeded all expectatiions, as he was always available to tutor, spent after-hours at the hotel helping all students, and was an engaging and committed teacher. He was really tremedous.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

Solid formal introduction to GIS (where I had been only "self-taught").

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

Understanding has increased.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

Understanding has increased, learned a great number of "tips and tricks."

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

Understanding has increased.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

Understanding has increased.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

Understanding has increased, learned a great number of "tips and tricks."

General understanding of spatial demography

Understanding has increased.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

I'm definately very interested in seeking out advanced training in spatial statistics.

Research

Mapping, including spatial contexts and modeling spatial dependence will be central to my work going forward (I study neighborhood processes).

Teaching

Actually, I used a series of maps in the course (Intro to Criminology) I taught this summer after the workshop.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

I knew I was going to be slightly ahead of the curve coming into the workshop, since I had self-taught GIS and basic spatial statistics, but that just left me more time to advance my own work (while I had access to to a group I could ask questions of).

Facilities

Nothing, I liked our computer room.

Exercises

The exercises were generally great, with the exception of the geovista lab, which was a disaster (it clearly hadn't been worked through for bugs). Although it may just be that our expectations were raised by the great exercises in the core sessions.

CD Resources

Improve? Not sure how you could! The CD resources were absolutely amazing. I've used the resources on the CD (instructions sheets, lit reviews, etc.) at least a dozen times in the couple months since the workshop.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

The presenters were all great, and I felt like there was great access to them as well.

Workshop Organization

Great.

Housing Arrangements

Great, it was nice to have a suite, but honestly there wasn't really time to make use of the kitchen facilities. If you try it again in a different year, I would have been happier to pay less money for a room without a kitchenette.

Preparation and Assessment**Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?**

Yes.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

Absolutely. Specifically, three major factors combined to make this an amazingly useful and productive experience for me: 1. The quality of the instructors, presenters, and assistants. 2. The amazing CD of resources. 3. The diversity of expertise and interests among the workshop participants. I learned a lot simply by interacting with others who share a common methodological and even substantive interest but who approach it from a completely different direction.

Other comments

Thanks much for this great experience!

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

Vastly improved. Between the hands on-and extensive handouts/documentation, I've become useful with such research.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

I am comfortable with GeoDa, though not Estat. With ArcGIS, my main limitation is largely a matter of my imagination/aesthetics, but when I can visualize something worthwhile, I can do it now.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

Comfortable with it now.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

Comfortable with it now. Would have liked hands-on with GWR, but got the concepts.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

Vastly improved.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

Vastly improved.

General understanding of spatial demography

Vastly improved.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

Will learn more as I see opportunity to do so.

Research

Will be supporting numerous projects.

Teaching

Helping others with their projects. Already saved the VA thousands of dollars and months of delay on a project; a former grad student I supported at the U of I was in over her head, and I got her toally moving in the right direction, by discussing concepts and giving her a few of the handouts. Might have saved her job, too!

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

Very appropriate level. Seldom if ever over my head, almost never boring. Mix of concepts, examples, and hands-on seemed just right.

Facilities

Excellent. Might have been nice to stay in the same room the whole time, and the network drive/printing issue was minorly annoying, but if those are the only complaints I have, then call it about as good as it gets, because there are *always* glitches.

Exercises

Excellent.

CD Resources

Wonderful. Has saved the VA a lot already, and I anticipate sharing them with a lot of people around campus.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

Just about right. Can't really think of a way it could have been better.

Workshop Organization

Only minor issue was that a lot of the information was last-minute, and the glitch regarding the cost of the hotel/stipend. But I seldom read stuff very far ahead of time and plan at the last minute anyway, so for my purposes, no problem.

Housing Arrangements

Fine. Great hotel... would have preferred one with a bar, but that's just me :)

Preparation and Assessment**Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?**

I think it did... data management and statistical modeling I'm used to; it was an extension and expansion on the ideas I had from that, so it went well.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

Most definitely. More valuable than *any* workshop, conference, or training session I've been to.

Other comments

Sorry so late filling this thing out. It's so long that when I spent 5-10 minutes on a single answer, I kept getting interrupted and never finished. Perhaps an option to store answers on the feedback form, collapse related questions, or make some of them simple hi-lo scales would make it quicker and easier. But an hour or so filling out a survey is all I need to do for the training, then I shouldn't be complaining.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

I now have a decent basic understanding of ArcGIS. The software of course is incredibly complex, but it has been somewhat demystified for me and I'm now confident enough with it to try to figure things out on my own.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

I was hoping for a more rigorous discussion of spatial statistical modeling. Of course a non-technical treatment appeals to a wider audience, but it is difficult for me to absorb or trust the techniques without a more sophisticated discussion of their underpinnings.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

The point made about the unique problem of respondent confidentiality with spatial data is memorable.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

After being exposed to them in the context of spatial data analysis, I am now more convinced than ever about the value of Bayesian approaches to statistics.

Research

Now that I have some modest familiarity with ArcGIS and GeoDa I will be much more open to analyzing spatial data.

Teaching

I am now more motivated to spend a week in the graduate statistics course I teach on the analysis of spatial data.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

I was not engaged by the ESRI course. Perhaps the same material could be learned by going through various large-scale exercises. Without understanding the bigger picture, it was difficult to understand the relevance of the lecture materials in the ESRI course.

Facilities

The lab was a fine place to work.

Exercises

With the exception of the EStat lab, the exercises were useful.

CD Resources

The CD was very helpful.

Workshop Organization

The workshop was very well organized.

Housing Arrangements

Housing arrangements worked well for me.

Preparation and Assessment**What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?**

I am pleased with the facility I gained with using ArcGIS. I am also pleased to have been introduced to various tools for analyzing spatial data, although I was disappointed that the statistical models were covered in a superficial manner.

Other comments

Many thanks for your efforts on our behalf.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

It has expanded tremendously.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

My understanding is much deeper now.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

I feel much more knowledgeable about this now.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

This was one of the areas that interested me the most, and I've received substantial exposure that will help me down the line.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

I've learned a great deal about this.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

I knew some basics before, but the concepts were cemented by the workshop.

General understanding of spatial demography

It has improved very much.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

It has added additional fuel to my interest in spatial issues and how they relate to factors such as race and ethnicity.

Research

Despite my preexisting interest in space and urban sociology, I envision myself thinking much more in spatial terms and in measuring space in ways that are more meaningful for the topics I study.

Teaching

I would like to continue to emphasize the spatial components of the topics I teach, and I expect that students will appreciate this a great deal because it's so interesting and relevant to everyone.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

The content was great. I wouldn't change anything about it.

Facilities

The lab was very pleasant to work in. I would have appreciated running Geoda from the lab computers because they were much faster than my laptop.

Exercises

While the exercises were helpful in introducing us to the programs and their capabilities, I felt that they were rather rote and didn't always contribute to an understanding of how I would apply the techniques to my own projects. The instructions didn't always explain why we were clicking various buttons and entering numbers, leaving me underprepared for how I would make decisions using my own data.

CD Resources

These were amazing. I'm sure I'll still be looking at the CD ten years from now.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

They were wonderful. They added relevance to the topics and reminded us of the real world applications, which increased my motivation to understand the exercises and concepts.

Workshop Organization

Very good. It proceeded in a logical manner.

Housing Arrangements

Not applicable.

Preparation and Assessment**Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?**

Yes. My training in urban sociology already exposed me to many of the topics covered, but the workshop took my knowledge of these to the next level.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

This workshop was nothing other than spectacular, from start to finish. It has exposed me to so many new ideas and techniques that will enrich my future research. The workshop staff was extremely dedicated and patient, and Stephen went above and beyond to be sure the workshop benefited everyone.

Other comments

Nothing other than a huge THANK YOU!!

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

My knowledge, honestly, increased exponentially each day. Simply learning how to display maps using quantities and categories was new to me, and this has proved extremely helpful. The spatial analyst functions, geocoding, learning about geodatabases, etc - all new, and all helpful. While I had made a layout before, I was unaware of most of the features available. I could go on for pages: I learned a tremendous amount, and the vast majority of it was useful for my research in population and sociology. Perhaps most importantly, though: the workshop gave me the basic skills and capabilities to take on new areas of ArcGIS beyond the workshop material - rasterizing published map images, redrawing street files, etc - without the knowledge learned in the workshop, such tasks would be infinitely more difficult.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

I had no background in visualization whatsoever, so everything I learned was new to me. While I am not sure that estat will be useful for my work down the road, the visualization techniques for ArcGIS and geoda are great immediately and will be essential tools for the remainder of my graduate career - and hopefully beyond.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

I had little knowledge of spatial analysis beforehand, so this was also very useful. This section, admittedly, is somewhat blurred with other sections such as the spatial modeling, but the general concepts of analysis, particularly through the guest lectures (David O'Sullivan's in particular) were very informative and helpful.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

Since I plan to incorporate spatial modeling into my future work, I very much appreciated learning about spatial autocorrelation, the Moran's I, the LISA statistic, and geographically weighted regression. If anything, I would have liked more attention on the latter, as it seems particularly interesting and powerful.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

The ethics section was particularly strong in this regard - I hadn't thought about how even the most innocuous administrative data takes on a new form once it is spatially referenced to census categories, a street system, or an orthophoto. I also very much appreciated the time spent on pointing us to resources for finding spatial data - and the refrain that most data, in some sense, has a spatial reference that could be utilized. This has opened up new avenues for my future research, definitely.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

I had no background in mapping other than trying to make my own maps in arcgis 3.1 earlier this year with mixed success. The workshop has given me a much more sophisticated set of skills for mapping, and a broader knowledge of how to join and relate different cartographies, etc for visualization and analysis. Most importantly, I have found since returning from the workshop that my presentations that map out the independent or dependent variables make a much better impact on my audiences than simply reporting descriptive statistics in tables. Maps, at least for the moment, seem to be really powerful ways of expressing information and making an argument about demographic processes.

General understanding of spatial demography

As a sociologist interested in neighborhoods, I only have an indirect knowledge of spatial demography. through the guest lectures and several of the workshop readings, I learned much more about spatial demography, although I must admit that the lines between spatial demography, geography, gis, and spatial analysis writ large (e.g. analysis that historians, sociologists, demographers...anyone could do with the right skills), remains considerably blurred in my mind. Perhaps this is a good thing.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

In all honesty, since returning from the conference I have not shut down arcmap, and rarely turned off arccatalog. I use them everyday, as they are key to creating the database that is at the core of master's thesis, and arcmap will provide the visualizations that make my thesis much more interesting. While I do not know where my future research will take me, I expect to choose a topic for the dissertation that also relies on the skills and software I learned at Penn State. Another important benefit of the workshop was the range of researchers involved: I made a number of contacts with people who I am already exchanging ideas and data with - finding these young

scholars with similar interests (although substantively quite diverse) was a great service.

Research

I suppose I already answered this question above, assuming that education/studies equals research. It really does at this point for me.

Teaching

I had not thought about how this work will impact my teaching, as I have not yet begun to teach, and without a pre-intervention observation its hard to anticipate how my teaching will change. I have no doubt, though, that my teaching will be improved, and when relevant I will invoke some of the lessons learned from the workshops. Since I do not intend to teach statistics or methodology, I suspect that the more conceptual aspects of the workshops will be most useful for me.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

Overall, the content was great. I would have liked a few more minutes on geographically weighted regression, but I suspect that may have bored many people to death. There was one exercise using census data that required us to calculate entropy scores - these calculations were time consuming and honestly tedious, it would have been better if we just provided the scores so we could move on to the mapping, unless the point was for us to learn about what goes into an entropy score. I liked the ESRI training, but as I wrote on the feedback there, I wonder if the substantive content could be a bit more tailored to social science applications, not to properties and flood issues - although this was not a big deal. I actually thought the geocaching was one of the best days - I thought it might not be useful, but it was really nice to get to know the other students, and it actually has inspired me to think about research I want to do that may require a gps monitor.

Facilities

Beautiful, wonderful computer facilities. They got a bit stuffy, but with several dozen computers running this isn't surprising.

Exercises

I commented on the exercises above. In general, they were great, and did an especially nice job of telling us what we could do with the skills gained. If anything, all the exercises that don't do this should end with a page or so detailing all the useful social science applications of what was just learned. Sometimes this is implicit or stated out loud, but reminding us that calculating distances between points is really useful for food security, and many many other things is great.

CD Resources

I have used the CD resources quite a bit since returning home - to remind myself how to use a function, to look at the bibliographies or resource lists. Great material, well organized.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

I thought the guest presenters were just about right - I really appreciated meeting such a wide range of scholars, and I learned much from their presentations. I also thought there was a good mix of topics and content. Their lectures were all of high quality, and the length was just about right.

Workshop Organization

the overall organization was terrific, I honestly have no complaints nor see any room for improvement. I think keeping us in the same computer lab - especially if its a good one - all the time would be nice, but the other labs weren't that bad, plus they reminded me of how nice our main lab was.

Housing Arrangements

I really liked the residence inn - the breakfasts were great, the room was terrific, having a kitchen and ethernet and desk were all wonderful. I had mixed feelings about its distance from campus, however. On the one hand, its quite a walk - about 35-40 minutes door-to-door and quite hilly. On the other hand, it was a beautiful walk, a nice way to start the day and relax after the workshop. Plus there was a shuttle. Assuming that there are no comparable places with similar amenities in town, I think the residence inn is fine. The people there were also very nice.

Preparation and Assessment

Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?

Yes. I was at a level where I knew about half of the material in the esri workshop, and bits and pieces of the other exercises and lectures, so I had enough knowledge to feel comfortable, and a real interest in filling in these massive gaps in my knowledge. it was a good fit for me.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

I have been raving about the workshop since returning - it was a 10 out of 10, no doubt. While it was difficult to part with 2 weeks of my summer, the time was well spent and I learned skills and made contacts that will benefit my current research and future work enormously. I only wish the grant for the workshop was extended, I would advise quite a few of my classmates to attend.

Other comments

Stephen Matthews deserves the highest recognition for teaching possible: I have never met a professor so generous with this time and resources for students who in reality aren't even his students. I have never met such a talented, brilliant, interesting, and generous scholar - and I doubt I will again. Penn State is lucky to have him, and should do everything within its power to keep him happy in State College. This is my honest opinion.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

I didn't know anything about ArcGIS until the days leading up to the workshop, and now I feel confident, although I don't know all the tricks. I had never used GeoDa before the workshop and now I am confident that I know all the tools in GeoDa.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

I had never heard of spatial analysis, only wished that I could do such a thing. Now I think that in the future it is the first thing I will do with a new dataset if possible. I learned a lot about spatial analysis, and want to learn more. There are some areas I don't know about. After the workshop, I learned to use GWR a little. The workshop didn't teach me well about ESTAT.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

I had never known that spatial regression was possible. Now I can run a model with spatial lag or error in GeoDa. After the workshop I learned to use spatial regression functions in R using the resources provided in the workshop. Now every proposal I write includes spatial regression.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

There are probably some things I still don't realize about spatial data, especially problems. However, the workshop provided substantial information and resources to learn about spatial analysis, and getting ready for the workshop lead me to a great dataset that hasn't been analyzed yet.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

Now I am planning to write several papers including maps of census data.

General understanding of spatial demography

I did not know what spatial demography was until the workshop, and now I do. I also brought back resources for learning more.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

I plan to continue learning about spatial analysis. I sat in on some lectures here about spatial regression, and think I might sit in on a GIS class in my university.

Research

I'm planning several papers using spatial regression. Most importantly, I plan to present the one I started for the workshop at the Population Association of America next year, and a guest lecturer in the workshop and a student suggested it could be published in a top journal in my field. This is likely to have a strong positive effect on my career. Without the jumpstart of learning a new technique, I don't think that I would have had a single-author publication so soon, or publishable in such a prestigious journal. The encouragement of Stephen Matthews also gives me confidence that I can succeed in my field. After my return from Penn State, I have written several proposals using spatial regression; actually, I'm extremely excited about using this new technique. It is likely that at least half of my dissertation will be based on spatial analysis.

Teaching

Next year I will teach Quantitative Research Methods in Social Science, and I think that I will encourage the instructor to include spatial analysis. I had never heard of spatial analysis until the workshop, so I want the students to learn earlier than I did. Maybe I will even teach a spatial analysis course some day.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

Content was clear and understandable, accessible to people from different backgrounds. I think it's difficult for the organizers to meet all the desires of participants because participants were from different fields. I would have liked to go into greater detail about spatial regression techniques, but I recognize that few students wanted to. We were encouraged to become familiar with ArcGIS before the

workshop, and I wish a little that self-teaching before the workshop had been stressed a little here, because I felt that the two days on GIS were slow, even though I had previous familiarity, and some people agreed. However, some people were finding the exercises challenging to complete, and I think I was fast partly because I was so enthusiastic. One strength of the workshop was the provision of lots of extra resources for students interested. Another was the availability of lots of helpers, so that whenever I had a question, I could ask it immediately without needing to interrupt the class or feel sheepish. In this way, my learning extended far beyond the regular course content.

Facilities

The first week the computer labs were great. The second week we sometimes had to move which was confusing but we could still manage.

Exercises

The exercises were pretty good. Some were outstanding. One, the GeoVISTA lab, was poorly executed. Except for that one, there were always plenty of people available for questions, and printed resources to allow students to work at our own pace, for which I was very grateful. Instructors were flexible in allowing us to focus on our interests, but the exercises were so good that anyone would want to do them even without seeing an immediate research application. Although I don't know exactly what I would do with point-pattern analysis or some techniques, now I know they exist and perhaps in the future can use or teach them.

CD Resources

The CD is amazing, although a little overwhelming in its immensity. I found citations here for the new papers I'm planning with spatial regressions, and also gained confidence about when there might not be existing research. I find suggested methodological readings. I don't have to worry about losing the handouts from the workshop and I can share the resources easily or access them if I teach GIS in the future. I was amazed to find a handout on places of worship even though I figured I might be the only one to use it, and I did use it.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

I met some leaders in spatial analysis. I connected with Paul Voss after the workshop, attended his class, and he introduced me to his post-doc, to whose conference session I will submit a paper. I also met people whose papers I will read and cite. This way, I will feel more confidence in interacting with senior researchers even though I am only starting out. I feel like I can ask them questions if necessary because I have a connection with them now.

Workshop Organization

Well organized

Housing Arrangements

I was glad not to have to find my own housing. The quality was good, and there was a bus. However, I do somewhat feel that it was too expensive. Of course, I could have followed some other students to move to a cheaper hotel, but I didn't. I liked being able to cook.

Preparation and Assessment

Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?

Well, I had never heard of the material covered before, and at the end I understood enough to use some of it to write proposals. Maybe I could have known more about spatial analysis in order to learn more, but I don't think that is the point. My university has few or no resources for teaching spatial analysis to social science students, and that is the purpose of the workshop.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

The workshop was extremely valuable to me, and has inspired me to write a plan for more than half of my dissertation. A guest presenter encouraged me to submit the paper I started there to a top journal in my field, which I had not imagined was possible so early. My dissertation will be more unique, more statistically advanced, more interesting to me and to the broader academic community because of the workshop. Having a special subject area which is in demand may also speed me in finishing and benefit me greatly in the job or post-doc market. In addition, my confidence in my skills and knowledge increased greatly from the encouraging interaction with Stephen Matthews, peers, and mentors. Since returning, I have been working harder and more enthusiastically and feel more optimistic about success in academia.

Other comments

I'm just so grateful for the opportunity, which really benefitted me.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

I haven't had any practical experience with GIS in population research prior to this workshop. The workshop gave an excellent introduction of how GIS can be used in population studies and I have developed a couple of interesting research ideas to apply these methods in my future research. Regarding the use of ArcGIS 9 -- we had a lot of examples, but they were not really related to population research. Although the 2-days workshop with Arc GIS was a good introduction into the program and what one can do with it, I found

some of the examples very technical and not particularly useful (e.g. how to move a polygon around, etc.)

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

The workshop gave a very introduction of how to use ArcGIS 9 and other softwares for visualization. I liked the GeoDa examples -- they were based on good research examples, in particular examples for population research. Stephen Mathews did an excellent job with showing what one can do with GeoDa, using good examples and good research questions.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

My knowledge has definitely improved in this area. The examples were good and the team assisting the organizers provided an excellent practical help into data manipulation, etc.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

I wished we could have done more on this part and provide a better understanding what type of modelling is appropriate in which cases.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

I think that this was not discussed in much details and it would have been very helpful.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

This part was done very well and the workshop definitely improved my knowledge.

General understanding of spatial demography

I definitely improved my understanding of spatial demography and got excited about it. I plan to use spatial analysis in my future research.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

The workshop gave me a good introduction into spatial analysis, but it also showed me that I need to learn many more things in order to be able to apply these methods in my research. As a result, I decided that in the fall semester I will sit in some classes teaching spatial statistics to improve my knowledge.

Research

I will definitely apply spatial analysis in my future research.

Teaching

I am not sure how this can be incorporated into the current curriculum...

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

The material was presented in an excellent way. All presenters were well prepared and I think that the level was also appropriate. An exception of this was the session in which ESTAT was presented. This was the worst session and I am not sure what I gained from this session. The presenters were not well prepared, the examples were bad, the preparation of the data that we were supposed to use, did not work, etc. I think that this part of the course could be definitely improved and set up in a different way.

Facilities

Excellent... no comments on this... sometimes it was too cold, but that was the only "problem".

Exercises

The exercises were useful, especially the GeoDa examples and the exercises given by Marcia Castro. I am not sure about the usefulness of all exercises we did in ArcGIS 9. My understanding is that the organizers need to follow the ESRI setup for teaching ArcGIS, but many of their exercises are very mechanical and not really of great use for population researchers.

CD Resources

Impressive!

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

The guest presenters were excellent. I liked very much the format of Marcia Castro's lecture -- show first research examples and then add an exercise based on the methods she talked about. This format could have been used also by the other presenters. One suggestion is that instead of concentrating the presenters in the second week of the workshop, to have them also in the first week. One can think about teaching the software in the morning and early afternoon, and then having a presenter in the late afternoon. This format will be useful for those presenters who are more theoretically oriented in their lectures.

Workshop Organization

Excellent!

Housing Arrangements

Excellent

Preparation and Assessment

Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?

Definitely. I did not have any troubles to follow the material.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

This was an excellent workshop and I am glad that I had the opportunity to participate in it. I have already recommended it to students and researchers. It was definitely an excellent investment of my time and I have benefited a lot from these two weeks, in terms of research ideas as well as socially.

Other comments

Congratulations to the organizers, they did an impressive job!

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

I had no experience with ArcGIS before. The ESRI class and the exercises have given me an introduction to what the software can do and how useful it would be for my research

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

I had a great introduction to visualization and the software and I consider myself at an intermediate level right now even though I had no experience before

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

I had no experience with spatial analysis before but now I am ready to try some spatial analysis on my own

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

I'm not too confident about my ability to use sophisticated spatial models but I can do some basic functions and I plan to build on that with further classes if I can

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

I have definitely gained increased understanding of the problems and appreciate for how they can both enhance and hinder demographic research

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

I learnt so about mapping and how to represent data on maps and use that as an analytical tool

General understanding of spatial demography

I now have a better understanding of how important spatial thinking is in demography especially because it has so much explanatory power and can be used to study interesting patterns

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

Next semester I'm taking a GIS and a public health class and I plan to build on the foundation from this workshop to enhance my coursework

Research

I'm planning to incorporate some spatial demography into my research for my second paper

Teaching

n/a

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

The material was dense but it was very useful and easy to absorb

Facilities

Very good

Exercises

Very useful they made it particularly easier to get used to using the software. Although I think workshop participants should be encouraged in advance to start looking for datasets that they want to work with if they have none so that they can be more efficient in the lab time and exercises for personal projects

CD Resources

The CD was excellent it had a million great resources I still haven't finished looking at everything

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

I liked the guest presenters their lectures since their lectures both had technical aspects and talked about their ongoing research

Workshop Organization

I liked the format how we had the first week to get the introduction to the software and concepts then the guest presenters in the second week when we had a better grasp of the material.

Housing Arrangements

Great no complaints

Preparation and Assessment**Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?**

I had never had any experience with spatial analysis or GIS before but that did not prevent me from understanding and benefitting from the material covered

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

I enjoyed it I learnt a lot and it was a wonderful opportunity well worth the time. The workshop was brilliantly organized and the resources both intellectual and physical that I gained are invaluable.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

It was my first touch of GIS software (of any kind) during the PSU workshop! So generally I have experienced a change from knowing nothing to understanding something.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

The workshop served as an introduction to GIS for me. I am very happy that have learned some basic uses of ArcGIS 9, GeoDa, and ESTAT. It will be a good base to learn more advanced uses of GIS softwares.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

Again, my knowledge in this area changed from zero to a positive number.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

I tried a little in this area, primarily linear regression. It directed me to a new pathway of modeling. Before that I always use statistical packages such as STATA, SPSS.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

I have never played with spatial data before. Now I am much more comfortable with working on these data.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

The main part of my final project consisted of mapping. It was a lot of fun!! As a great way to visualize the results of our research, mapping tends to be the first job coming to my mind when I get a new data set.

General understanding of spatial demography

GIS is a whole new world to me. Everything that I learned from the workshop used to be something like a foreign language to me. For me, this workshop launched a good beginning of conducting demographic research geographically.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

I'll look for other chances to learn more about GIS and spatial analysis, and apply these skills to my studies in public health.

Research

This workshop introduced me to another possibility to conduct demographic research. I would expect to get GIS techniques involved in my future research as much as possible. I learned from the webpage of my department that there are faculty members interested in applying GIS to public health research. Will talk with them for sure. The best way to learn GIS is to practice the techniques in real projects.

Teaching

I don't think I can "teach" people GIS... considering that I'm just a newcomer to this area. But will for sure tell people how magic this skill is.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

It must be really hard to teach people within the same class who have very different levels of understanding of GIS. But materials were well chosen to take care of the majority of students, if not everyone.

Facilities

Very nice and convenient!

Exercises

I think it might be good to provide some extra and optional exercises for people who like more. The best way to learn is learning through practises.

CD Resources

The CD provided by the workshop is so valuable, that I carry it with me everywhere. Thank Stephen and staff for this very useful resource!

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

The guest presenters were experts in their areas, and their presentations were very informative.

Workshop Organization

The workshop was well organized, from meeting us at the airport on the first day to handing out the certificates at the end. It was very nice that we were informed of a complete schedule, which was strictly followed. I can imagine how much organization work had been done. Thank you!

Housing Arrangements

The hotel is excellent. I in particular appreciate the access to high speed internet.

Preparation and Assessment**Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?**

Yes, my background in Demography helped. However, I wish I had some experience in GIS before coming to State College. It was a little bit hard to catch up with people at the beginning.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

It was absolutely a valuable investment of time! Within a 10 point scale, I will assess the workshop in general as 9.5

Other comments

I am so sorry for not completing the survey earlier. I did enjoy and have learned a lot from the workshop. Hope more and more demographers will benefit from this great workshop.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

I've taken the intro to ArcGIS 2 day course before, but this introduction was better because the examples were focused toward demographic issues. The exercises and project we did really helped reinforce concepts.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

As a geographer I am used to thinking spatially about data, but my study area was not demography, so this portion of the workshop was great for helping me think about demographic data. The examples were very helpful as well. For me the introduction to demographic data was as important at the visualization concepts themselves.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

I have not had much previous exposure to spatial analysis along these lines. The examples and exercises were very good in presenting these constructs in a demographic setting.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

I had next to no training on spatial modeling, so this was a new concept for me. I will keep the notes I took and the information on the CD to use as future reference and try to encourage my research associates to consider using these techniques.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

Very good section, and a bit daunting to consider all of the privacy issues with the use of spatial data. It made me a lot more sensitive to what could and should be used, and how the results can be presented.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

As a geographer, I have used mapping, but in my case I haven't really used it with demographic data. The examples and exercises were very good for showing me what can be done in an informative manner with demographic data.

General understanding of spatial demography

I had a bit of an idea of how spatial concepts could be applied to demographic issues, this workshop reinforced and expanded my knowledge base. I am a much better resource for the researchers I support.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Research

I am the data support person for my population center. I hope to become more proactive in the demographic research in my population center and I hope to become a resource as well as an encouragement to add spatial analysis components to the research conducted.

Teaching

I would also like to run some lunch time brown bags on aspects of the workshop for my population center graduates and faculty.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

I thought the workshop was great. It covered a good number of topics which were well related. I liked the combination of lectures and exercises to reinforce the concepts.

Facilities

The information technology building is a great building and the computer lab was very good for ease of computer use and watching presentations.

Exercises

The exercises were very good, with the exception of the GeoVISTA lab. It was pretty disorganized without much of an exercise structure. I played with the program, but did not get a sense of what its benefits and uses were. The geocaching exercise on Saturday was a lot of fun, I'm glad that one was included. While my team finished last, I think we probably enjoyed the experience the most. One other comment about the exercises, maybe I am just slow, but for most of them I could have used more time to work on them. I also appreciate the comments Dr. Matthews made during the lab exercises, but I couldn't really concentrate on what he was saying and what I was supposed to be doing at the same time. Since I do apparently work slowly, if I took time out to pay attention to what Dr. Matthews was saying, I generally could not finish the exercise.

CD Resources

The CD is amazing! It is an entire library! I will keep that CD as a very valuable resource for future reference. I don't think I will loan it out either for fear I won't get it back! I can tell a lot of thought, time and hard work went into generating that CD. It is extremely appreciated!

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

I thought the guest speakers were good. Its nice to hear from people in their little niche of expertise. I thought they added a lot to the workshop. I think the number was probably about right, given all the material covered in the workshop.

Workshop Organization

I thought the workshop was very well organized. The topics followed a logical progression based on what we were learning. It was great to have the agenda with articles to read to go along with the material presented.

Housing Arrangements

I really liked the Residence Inn as a place to stay for the workshop. It was nice to have a place where most of the participants and speakers could be all in one location. The Inn itself is a great place to stay, and like others have mentioned in the past having free internet access is wonderful. I also liked having a kitchenette and I did end up eating some of my dinners in my room. Having transportation to and from PSU was also a plus.

Preparation and Assessment

Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?

Yes pretty much. I hadn't had much spatial analysis in the past, so I probably missed the finer points, but with the reference CD and research on my own I can use the workshop experience to help me when these sorts of problems come up in the future.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

I loved the workshop. I learned a lot and had a great time. Even though I ended up buying my own laptop for the workshop, had to take vacation time to go, and pay my own way entirely, it was definately worth it. I'd do it again. I think it makes me a better resource for the people I work for and with, which was the whole point of going. I will strongly encourage people at my pop center to apply next year and in the years following.

Other comments

Dr Matthews and the others involved did a marvelous job. One could clearly see all the hard work, effort and attention to detail that went into making the workshop successful. Dr. Matthews gave an enormous amount of his time and was very gracious and helpful. All of that was greatly appreciated and really helped make the program such a wonderful experience.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

I had never been in contact. Because of this I could not take advantage of most of the sophisticated techniques available. When it became possible to do some maps, the workshop was already finishing. I think that the participants which do not know GIS should arrive one week before and have intensive classes in order to learn the basics about GIS. The participants which had some knowledge about GIS could learn much more about the potentialities of GIS.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

I run a regression using GeoDa. although I could understand its general meaning, I did not learn how to deal with many of their resources.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

From now on, I will always take in consideration the space in my regression analyses.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

I learned how to draw some maps, but sometimes I lose a lot of time with very basic procedures.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

I intend to invest in the understanding of Geographically Weighted Regression

Research

I will use GIS and associated statistics in order to: 1) try to explain how institutional, political and social variables affect the protection/detraction of the environment. 2) analyze relationships between federal, state and municipal governments. 3) explain the behaviour of members of parliament and characteristics of their constituencies.

Teaching

The knowledge I acquired in the workshop can be used to provide much more interesting graphics to the students and results that take the space into consideration.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

I think that the content of the workshop was unbalanced: very basic steps to deal with GIS and very advanced techniques. I think that advanced exercises and presentations should continue, but the participants which don't know anything about GIS should have a better preparation before the seminar.

Exercises

Some basic exercise should be provided previously (one month before at least). I could not run any of the exercises that were provided before the seminar because of different kind of bugs.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

Marcia Castro and Paul Voss were specially helpful

Workshop Organization

Excellent

Housing Arrangements

Good

Preparation and Assessment

Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?

No. I think that I could have taken much more advantage of this seminar if I had a previous knowledge of the basics of ArcMap, Arcview and ArcCatalog.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

Sure. I have no doubt about this.

Other comments

The dedication of Sthepen Matthews was fundamental to the success of this seminar. Also, he was able to create a friendly and very cooperative environment among the students.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

My previous knowledge and exposure to ARCGIS was absolutely null. As a result I am convinced I am amongst the workshop participants who benefited the most. In particular, the 2 day ESRI course was terrific in the sense that quickly allowed me to catch up with other participants more familiar with the software.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

Again, my previous knowledge was basically zero. So the increase in understanding has been huge.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

I wasn't aware that many of these functions were even available in state of the art GIS software. The workshop certainly opened this window for me.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

Coming from a robust cross-sectional econometrics background I was surprised to by discovering a whole strand of the literature that I was not familiar with. I am certainly comfortable reading at the more technical literature in this area and I look forward to go deeper into this literature.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

I've been working with spatial data without explicitly considering its spatial nature. The workshop provided me with valuable lessons regarding the uses and problmes associated with spatial data.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

The workshop has dramatically reduced the costs for me to lok at the spatial distribution of my data. I have never done so, not only because I did not master the technology to do it easily but because I thought it was not important. Mapping my own data in the workshop convinced me that I was wrong. I certainly look forward to map the variables at the begginin of my research.

General understanding of spatial demography

The workshop does a good job in explaining the importance of spatial factor in demographic research. I am however a bit confused about the causal nature of the spatill effects. Is space the cause of given demographic phenomena or merely reflects some other

observed and unobserved causal factors.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

I am about to finish my phd so it is a bit late to incorporate spatial considerations into my dissertation.

Research

The three areas in which I've focused in my dissertation (crime, child care, shiftwork) have a lot of potential to benefit from a more spatial approach. Once I graduate from UCLA, I look forward to incorporate these spatial tools in my research career.

Teaching

While not planning to teach a full course in spatial demography I certainly look forward to advise my future economics students about the usefulness of the spatial approach.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

My previous knowledge was null and I never felt lost so I understand that the workshop organization was able to find a level of compromise so that the less advantaged could follow the workshop without problems.

Facilities

Facilities were great. Keep the same.

Exercises

Excellent. Keep the same. But add exercises on spatial regression.

CD Resources

Terrific. Keep up the good work.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

The quality of guest presenters was excellent. I would bring more !.

Workshop Organization

Terrific. I cannot imagine how to do it better. The only caveat is whether to put together people with different levels of expertise.

Housing Arrangements

12 hotel nights are too expensive for a graduate student budget. Perhaps room sharing should be encouraged as an option for those with more limited budgets.

Preparation and Assessment

Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?

Again I had no background at all and I believe I have benefitted a lot from the material covered.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

Absolutely. A great investment.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

It definitely increased my proficiency and comfort in using the software. I had been exposed to ArcGIS in a previous course but had never received the ESRI certified training. I also had never used the spatial analyst extensions before.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

I had never heard of GeoDa or ESTAT before and was really impressed with their functions in exploratory data analysis. I would like to work on future projects that incorporate both a space and time dimension so ESTAT, STAR and other programs are helpful to be familiar with.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

I learned a lot about basic spatial statistics (Moran's I, LISA, G) that can be used to evaluate spatial dependence in your data.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

I don't feel that I learned much about actual modelling procedures. Specifically, I would like to know more about the distinction between simple error adjustment and spatial lag models and how to actually perform them both.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

I learned a lot about the uses and problems related to spatial data from the various lectures on a range of topics from health/environment to demographic/sociological applications.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

I learned so much about available data sources, both domestic and international, and how to interface and integrate these data in ArcGIS. I had never actually used TIGERline before and it was a big help to do an exercise with it.

General understanding of spatial demography

My general understanding has greatly improved. I really enjoyed the guest lectures, particularly hearing about new segregation measures that incorporate the spatial dimension.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

I am almost at the end of my doctoral studies so I'm not sure it will change my education but I do plan to learn more independently about spatial modelling.

Research

I hope to use GeoDa and ESTAT as exploratory tools and think more about integrating both space and time into my research.

Teaching

N/A

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

The material was taught at an appropriate level. I would have liked more instruction in spatial statistics and modelling. Peter Diggle or Frank Curriero (Hopkins) might be options in the future.

Facilities

Excellent, but very chilly at times.

Exercises

The only exercise that I thought could have been better structured and organized was the ESTAT lab. We were all kind of on our own without a handout or guide as to what we were supposed to learn and take from the exercise. The room also didn't have enough computers to accommodate us all.

CD Resources

Excellent, amazing, superb....what more can I say? It's just a terrific resource to learn more about any spatial topic.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

I thought the quantity and quality were great.

Workshop Organization

Terrific

Housing Arrangements

N/A

Preparation and Assessment**Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?**

Yes, I had taken a course in GIS and spatial statistics. I think it takes a few times for the material to really sink in and stick with you so I really feel much more comfortable with ArcGIS and geovisualization tools now.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

The workshop was great and definitely a valuable investment given that I was able to make maps and integrate census tract data for my

dissertation. It was definitely worthwhile professionally and I was pleasantly surprised to have so much fun socially. I also learned a great deal from the other students about various resources and techniques.

Other comments

Thank you so much for all your hard work! Stephen, I can't believe you have time to eat and sleep with all the projects you are involved in. Your work and patience was very much appreciated by us all. Hope to see you at PAA!

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

My knowledge went from absolutely nothing to feeling very competent utilizing this software on my own!

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

My knowledge went from absolutely nothing to feeling very competent utilizing this software on my own!

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

Again, I had a very basic knowledge of spatial analysis going into the program and I feel that I now have a grasp of the main ideas, not necessarily the functions (i.e. regression).

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

I feel that the lectures gave a great theoretical understanding of spatial modeling, but I am afraid I was never able to do exercises, practice on my own, and therefore do not feel comfortable in this category.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

I went from basic to proficient in two weeks! I feel that I understand the uses and problems wonderfully.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

I am very happy to say that I feel that I know how to map census and health data. I had never mapped anything in my life, let alone know what a shapefile is! Now I feel that I can find data, manipulate it, and display it all through the skills I've learned these last two weeks.

General understanding of spatial demography

I have gone from a complete novice to feeling very competent and comfortable with spatial demography.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

I plan on making GIS functions and theory part of my dissertation proposal and as such, I plan on taking more GIS courses, learning more from my own institution about what support they offer, and searching for more workshops I can attend.

Research

I plan on utilizing GIS in my dissertation. I want to use both the theory of spatial importance and the mapping in ArcMap to reach the conclusions I have hypothesized. I could never have done this had I not attended this conference.

Teaching

With some more classes under my belt, I hope to be able to teach basic GIS classes to students in anthropological methodology courses. I think it is an important tool that I wish I had learned about sooner!

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

Coming from the lowest level of competence I was surprised at how good the workshop was at appealing to both the novice and the expert. I felt that I could understand and follow everything taught. The material was good at teaching the very basics which I needed. More basic information and exercises could have been given on regression and how to run these.

Facilities

The facilities were phenomenal. So much so, that I wondered why we even needed to bring our laptops! I had to buy one for the conference and didn't end up using it very much!

Exercises

The ArcGIS training exercises were much more clear and explanatory in the basic step by step directions. I feel that I can go home and follow these steps on my own. Whereas, the other exercises given by support staff were less clear in the directions, needed to be more thorough, and left the participant always asking questions.

CD Resources

Fabulous. So many great helps and it is wonderful that we get to take it home. I would have liked things to be titled for easy access at home by their function/name, rather than being on days or presentations- something I will forget in the future.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

Good. I wish they would have talked more about what they did/do that is different/new than others b/c to new GIS learners they all become our basic knowledge of spatial thinking, and yet to be invited, each one has most likely contributed in the field in unique ways. I would have liked more intro: which school, what dissertations, what past research, etc. Rather than just having them present a pp on one subject of their research.

Workshop Organization

Great. I think everything went smoothly, in fact I thought it was so jam packed and organized that I went home exhausted every day!

Housing Arrangements

I appreciated being allowed to use alternate housing as I had friends in the area and enjoyed spending time with them.

Preparation and Assessment**Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?**

In a way. My prior background in qualitative methods allowed me to see the fantastic utility of GIS applications, but it did not prepare me for the software, theory, functions, etc. This is why I am so pleased with the conference. I leave being able to apply a whole new set of methodological approaches to my research.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

Extremely valuable. It was a long, hard, jam packed two weeks, but I now have a knowledge that I can use forever! Wonderful. I am grateful to have been invited. Thank you.

Personal Information

Name _____

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

The workshop made clear some aspects of ArcGIS that I had not grasped in my prior experience with the software. I am now more confident when using it.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

This part of the workshop really opened my eyes on how think spatially

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

The hands-on exercises (e.g., address-matching) enhanced my understanding and confidence in handling spatial data

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

The spatial analytical methods taught in the workshop opened my eyes to ways of incorporating the spatial dimension to my research. .

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

The workshop made me aware of the salient aspects (e.g. confidentiality) of working with spatial data. It made me aware that a simple oversight on these issues can easily turn what would otherwise be a good research piece into to a nightmare.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

The mapping exercises were really fun. I however, also learnt that it is not enough to just produce a map, the important part is ensuring that it relays accurate information about the phenomena I am studying.

General understanding of spatial demography

The workshop improved my understanding of spatial demography.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

I am directly applying the concepts and skills I learned in the workshop in my dissertation work.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

The material covered was delivered appropriately. People that were learning the stuff for the first time did not get lost and those who had prior experienced did not get bored.

Facilities

Superb

Exercises

Excellent

CD Resources

Tremendouse amount of effort was put to the CD resources. it is just priceless

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

Excellent

Workshop Organization

Good

Housing Arrangements

Good

Preparation and Assessment

Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?

yes

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

It was a great investment of my time

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

I had little knowledge of the software prior to taking the course. Now I feel very comfortable with the software.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

I was unaware of these applications. I am prepared to use them in my own research. In the short-run I will rely heavily on ArcGIS, but I plan to experiment with ESTAT.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

Formerly I relied on traditional census boundaries in analyzing spatial data. I was looking for a way to break down those artificial barriers, and the workshop taught me alternative ways to model that same data.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

Spatial modeling of segregation patterns is critically important for my research. I am particularly interested in the relationships between residence, employment, food/nutrition, and healthcare.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

One of the problems that I have encountered is that I have large amounts of point data for a relatively small geographic area. Some of the spatial analysis software do not work well with this kind of data. I plan to rely heavily on ArcGIS for this type of analysis.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

I entered the course believing that maps were supplemental to my research. Now I believe that maps are integral part of my research. They are an excellent way to map individual/point census data.

General understanding of spatial demography

The workshop convinced me that urban historians need to apply the concepts and techniques of spatial demography in their research. Most historians continue to rely on antiquated methodology.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

I am interested learning more about spatial demography/spatial statistics. The workshop has stimulated a strong desire to specialize in historical demography generally. I also have a lot to learn from geographers and sociologists, especially the ways they investigate urban/environmental processes.

Research

This workshop has broad implications for my research agenda. I will use mapping and spatial analysis techniques in completing my first monograph. I have already begun to think about a second project that will compare a southern city with a northern city during the nineteenth century.

Teaching

I have already planned lessons on historical geography in my urban history course this fall. In addition, I plan to develop a course on historical demography that relies heavily on historical GIS and spatial demography.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

I found the content challenging. The only thing I would have changed is consolidate the ESRI workshop into one day. It really should be an active learning exercise rather than a lecture based course.

Facilities

The facilities were first-rate. PSU is a lovely campus.

Exercises

The exercises were always relevant to the daily topics. I am convinced that the best way to learn this material is by doing it.

CD Resources

The CD was a wonderful idea. I found it much easier than having to access the Web and download files .

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

The guest presenters were leaders in their respective fields. It was an honor to learn from them.

Workshop Organization

The workshop could not have been better developed.

Housing Arrangements

The Residence Inn was very comfortable. I have stayed in other hotels while on research and gone stir crazy after one week. I never felt that way in State College.

Preparation and Assessment

Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?

This course was exactly what I had expected. Although I am a trained historian, had majored in economics as an undergraduate.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

This was the most rewarding post-graduate seminar I have had the pleasure of attending. I am energized to learn more.

Other comments

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the seminar. I plan to notify the center when I publish my findings.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

Increased - I have a better idea of how population data can be analyzed and integrated in GIS

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

Increased dramatically - I had never used GeoDa before, and after using it, I have a better understanding of what it can do and how easily it can do it. I appreciated Geoda's introduction and having some time to use it.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

I was already very familiar with these concepts and didn't learn too much more.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

Increased understanding - Since I mainly use GIS for data manipulation, creation and management, I don't spend much time with spatial modeling. The discussions with Paul Voss, Marcia Castro, and the exercises helped me understand how spatial modeling can be used for studying population processes.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

I was already very familiar with these concepts and didn't learn too much more.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

Increased understanding - I was introduced to some datasets that I didn't know existed (DHS, for example) and am excited to see how we can use them in mapping applications.

General understanding of spatial demography

Increased - I was very comfortable with the technical GIS aspects before arriving, but I learned how to apply mapping to demographic research. The workshop made me excited to learn more about demography and how I can use spatial methods to help explain population processes or display those processes on maps.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

What I learned from the workshop and interactions with the staff and other participants will help me develop and implement projects for Minnesota Population Center staff and write more sophisticated grants that integrate spatial analysis into demography. I now know where I can learn more about spatial demography (the CD-ROM is outstanding!).

Research

The workshop has me thinking more about research projects and what kinds of questions I want to ask. Since I'm just a staff member, I don't get to do a lot of research, but the workshop convinced me that I should try to develop at least a small project of my own.

Teaching

The MPC wants to develop some GIS training materials for staff and students. Interactions with workshop participants and participation in the workshop showed me what kinds of information people want and how they want it presented. This will help me design exercises and presentations that are effective and useful.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

I thought the material was taught at an appropriate level.

Facilities

Excellent computer lab in the IT building!

Exercises

I particularly liked the GeoDa exercises since I hadn't used it before the workshop. The ESTAT exercise was a disaster - the room was crowded, there was no handout/exercise; therefore, we essentially had to learn the program on our own. That was the weakest session of the entire workshop.

CD Resources

Outstanding!!!

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

I enjoyed the guest presenters, especially Sean Reardon, David O'Sullivan, and Paul Voss. I thought they did a good job discussing their research and introducing how they use spatial analysis to study demography.

Workshop Organization

I think it would have been useful to have more time to work on our own projects during the first week (especially on Thursday and Friday). Two or three hours may have helped get people started so that they could work on the weekend. Thus, people wouldn't have to compress their work over the 3-4 days of the second week.

Housing Arrangements

Excellent

Preparation and Assessment

Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?

Yes

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

I enjoyed the workshop. I learned a lot about how non-GIS people view GIS and how it can help them do their work. Since I use GIS all the time, I tend to only think in GIS-terms (i.e., I can do anything with a GIS). After the workshop, I realize that GIS is only one tool for population research and isn't always the appropriate tool for some tasks. The interactions with other participants was incredibly useful as well. I learned a ton from them and hope to keep in touch. I plan on using them to increase my knowledge of demography. I'm very glad I participated in the workshop!

Personal Information

Name

Results: 17 exit surveys retrieved for **UCSB 2006**.

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

Knowledge has improved. Most handy - the exercise instructions I can take back with me to use as a guide.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

Knowledge has improved. Most handy - the exercise instructions I can take back with me to use as a guide.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

Not as in-depth/complex as I expected.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

Better appreciation, but I'd thought it would involve exercises on predictive modeling and scenarios.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

Knowledge has improved.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

Very detailed instruction on this aspect. Knowledge has improved.

General understanding of spatial demography

Has improved.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Research

Might be using one of the techniques for some research I'm working on, taking a spatial angle I wouldn't have before.

Teaching

Explaining the importance of spatial thinking for problems.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Exercises

Excellent.

CD Resources

Good.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

Good.

Workshop Organization

Excellent.

Housing Arrangements

Not having a telephone in the room made it much harder and more expensive to stay in touch with family and loved ones. There was no land line on which they could call me.

Preparation and Assessment

Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?

Yes.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

Yes, the content was handy and being away from my office helped me get some writing done.

Other comments

The hike was a fantastic idea and a great way for participants to bond, re-energize, and relax a little. Suggestions re: how and where to publish this type of research (outside the usual demography ones) would have been handy. How does this open up different avenues for publication?

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

I had just taken a very basic course on gis before. I now feel much more comfortable with the software, but more than anything i feel there a lot of things I could do with it and I now have an idea of where to start and where to find what I need. I don't feel I master the program or its applications to population research, but that I know where to find solutions to problems I may face.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

This is maybe what I now, after the workshop, feel more comfortable with. I've learned more tools, tips, and concepts to make powerful, clear, maps.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

Do you mean projections here? If yes, this was the part of the workshops that was most foreign to me, given my background in sociology. It was interesting to hear, but it was maybe the less interesting part to me.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

This was my main interest in coming, and I would have liked to have more of it. The lectures on these issues were great, and I would have love to have more of them. Still, I feel I've learned a lot. Again, the feeling is more that I know there are things out there to learn, than a mastering feeling. This is a little overwhelming, since the amount of information was huge and the time to digest it little. There are doubts that I thought I was going to be able to solve in the workshop, things I needed to learn for my dissertation, and time wasn't enough. For instance, I wanted to learn how to transfer a spatial lagged variable from geoda to other statistical programs, such as stata, and we didn't have enough time for that. Since we were pressed by the final project, those more fundamental doubts, had to be postponed. Again, the learning was great, anyways.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

In general, I think my sensitivity to spatial data increased greatly.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

great improvement

General understanding of spatial demography

again, great improvement

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

I'll definitely use some of the maps I produced in the workshop in my dissertation. I want to use some spatial modeling too, and this course will be useful for that too, as a first step. I still need to read much more about this though.

Research

same

Teaching

I'd love to teach a course on sociology and space in the future....Right now, I'll focus on my dissertation. I'll definitely do some informal teaching though, by sharing with colleagues what i've learned in the workshop.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

the content was very appropriate for a general workshop. As i said, i would have liked more of spatial statistics, but I knew i was coming to a more general thing. I have some encountered feelings about the final project. On the one hand, it's great to have had the pressure and the oportunity to work with our own project, and apply right there what we were learning. On the other hand, it took time away to learn about other stuff not necessarily related to what we were presenting on the final day. It's a trade off I know, but I just wanted to comment what I felt regarding that.

Facilities

awesome

Exercises

also, very detailed, great.

CD Resources

good

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

In general, great. I thought maybe there was too much time devoted to the cartography-mapping part...(Jeremy's lectures). Maybe some of that could have been devoted to go over spatial statistics slower, and more in detail.

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

I had very little exposure of ArcGIS before the workshop, so the two day training was very helpful. I feel I have an intermediate level of understanding of the software and its capabilities. With practice and working on real data, I hope to increase the knowledge and efficiency with the software. In general I feel that this would be a great tool for me to use in my dissertation work.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

I worked extensively with ArcGIS and not very much with GeoDa, but I feel that both packages were very user friendly and I would not have a problem figure things out since I have a foundational understanding of the packages.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

I probably could have used a little more practice and theory in this area. I am still a little shaky on the spatial statistics and will need to revise key concepts to make my understanding more intuitive

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

I am also a little weak (still) on the spatial modeling aspects and probably would need further reading to completely grasp the concepts.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

I understand and appreciate the usefulness of spatial data (have already been convinced but this workshop really put things in perspective).

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

This is probably a useful tool for my research and I'm glad I got some really good hands-on practice in this respect

General understanding of spatial demography

I have a better understanding of spatial demography than before entering the workshop and hope to incorporate some of this into my work.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

It's hard to say at this point specifically, but I know that I will audit some spatial statistics class to reinforce what I've learned from the workshop.

Research

Spatial analysis will definitely be a part of my research. Depending on the availability of the spatial data I will be able to collect or have access to, I hope to approach answer some of our questions using the spatial methods I've learned

Teaching

Spatial epidemiology is an exciting and fresh field and I hope to incorporate this new angle into my future teaching.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

More on spatial statistics, more exercises and calculations. The multi-level modeling session was a bit too cursory and I didn't get a lot out of it.

Facilities

The computer lab was fantastic, lots of good resources. I wish it wasn't so far away from the housing facilities though. Some of us worked late at night in the computer lab and safety might have been an issue walking back to the dorms.

Exercises

Great. I think the instructors (especially Stuart) put a lot of forethought into the exercises and I really appreciate it.

CD Resources

The CD resource is great (thanks to Dr. Tobler for his CD as well).

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

Guest presenters were good, perhaps front load them in the first group so that we can concentrate on the project during the second week.

Workshop Organization

Well organized:

Housing Arrangements

Manzanitas was great and convenient. I just wish it didn't take up most of the scholarship. I wish I also knew about the alternative of subletting near Isla Vista (didn't know that it was so close to campus).

Preparation and Assessment**Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?**

Mostly. The reading material was very informative. It was only my fault that I didn't have enough time to go through all of them.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

This is truly a valuable workshop for me and I feel that I have spent the time well to learn a new skill that will be useful for my academic and professional development. I really appreciate the opportunity to meet with other doctoral students and seeing how people in different social science fields approach problems.

Other comments

Thanks for a well-organized, worthwhile workshop. I hope it continues in the future to introduce more social scientists to the idea of spatial analysis.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

The workshop was a helpful refresher, and it was nice to be able to ask Mr. Detwiler specific questions about writing Python code. His answers weren't very helpful, however, because he does not work much with Python himself.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

I knew nothing about GeoDa before coming in, so that was helpful. I knew some basic elements of cartography, but it's helpful to have another set of notes. Mr. Detwiler's reference to ColorBrewer was very helpful on the visualization end.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

Extremely useful.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

Also extremely useful. Perhaps an improvement could be to focus on the types of research questions that would NOT benefit from a spatial approach. I know there's really no hard and fast method out there, but maybe a background reading involving a scientist who managed to reduce or eliminate spatial dependence in the dependent variable by choosing the "right" set of independent variables would be helpful.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

I learned quite a lot -- particularly concerning the ecological fallacy and the modifiable areal unit problem (MAUP). Prof. Tobler's presentation on pycnophylactic interpolation was very helpful on these lines and I know to use his approach in the future if I ever need to use it. By the way, "pycnophylactic" is not in Webster's unabridged dictionary. I think you need to market this technique more.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

Very helpful. I think you could also enrich the material by talking about how to deal with resolving data from different years for which the census tract boundaries do not match up.

General understanding of spatial demography

Probably the most immediate benefit was the discussion of Moran's I and different approaches for dealing with spatial dependence and simultaneity. I feel like I've just scratched the surface of a complex topic. Regarding Prof. Weeks's presentation, I'm sad that I didn't have time to cover the readings for that day, since we were pretty busy with the projects for that time. I can see advantages and disadvantages of moving his presentation to an earlier block of time.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

I'll ask a great many more questions about spatial dependence and place a priority on covering Bayesian inference. For now I want to sink my teeth into some research, however.

Research

I plan to actively become involved in combining agent-based modeling with GIS systems. Currently I'm looking for a RePast discussion forum and have subscribed to the Swarm modeling discussion list.

Teaching

I'm a Research Assistant this year, so this question doesn't cover me yet, although it will.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

The ArcGIS intro at the beginning was a helpful review but basically was pointing and clicking. The ESRI certification is nice, but in many ways not particularly helpful. The lectures were a review of a GIS course I took as an undergraduate, and I didn't need to spend two days of workshop time working on the exercises -- those I could do at home with the manual, at much less cost to everyone involved. More productive for me would have been a day of quick review of GIS and a day of learning Python coding. I know those are kind of idiosyncratic preferences, of course. The hierarchical linear modeling piece was great. I really need to take a hierarchical linear modeling class -- this was too fast and the amount of reading that Prof. Pan assigned was required to really grasp the material, but also too much for preparation for just one morning. What to do? I'm not sure. I think we took too much time on general concepts of cartography. I would have preferred some more concrete examples of research designs that were improved by spatial approaches, as opposed to John Snowe a number of times -- especially since he drew his maps after solving his problem.

Facilities

Very nice facilities. Losing wireless access at exactly 5:00 every day was somewhat unfortunate, but understandable.

Exercises

Excellent job! I liked having more than we could do and having to pick what was most useful for us, then taking the worksheets for the other exercises home.

CD Resources

One of the best parts -- ensures that the learning from this workshop lasts far more than three weeks.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

Just fine, except for not being able to read Prof. Weeks' work at the end. In particular I loved Prof. Goodchild's talk, and Carter Butts was phenomenal.

Workshop Organization

Smooth. Nicely done.

Housing Arrangements

I ended up living in a hostel in downtown Santa Barbara for a fraction of what it cost to live on campus. It cost me some time, but I worked on the bus and was generally productive on my way to the bus stop as well. A bit noisy at night, though.

Preparation and Assessment**Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?**

Yes. A hierarchical linear modeling course would have helped however.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

It was a fantastic investment of my time.

Other comments

I am extremely appreciative of your scholarship support. I cannot thank you enough for this opportunity. Best wishes, and I'll keep in touch.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

I am much more proficient in the use of this tool, and feel more comfortable in my ability to find answers to questions that arise while using it- as we were given good information regarding help resources. I also have a greater understanding of the capabilities of the software.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

Again, I feel much more comfortable with the language and available tools. I know that there is still a great deal for me to learn from these software packages...and I'm far from proficient, but I feel confident in my ability to pull into data and do some basic analyses with it. I also know where to look for help and was given a great deal of resources to deal with problems when/should they arise.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

Similarly to above, I am much more comfortable with the language and tools available. This course has provided me with an excellent base from which to continue learning.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

I wish we had more time to discuss this topic (as well as MLM) because this is one of the most relevant topics for me in Nutritional Epidemiology. After the workshop, I understand more deeply the need for spatial modeling, particularly in my own work, and know where I can go to learn more about issues surrounding this topic. Again, we were provided with excellent resources on the topic, so despite the fact that I could have used more time with this topic I now have tools at my disposal.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

This was clearly covered over the course of the workshop and I appreciate the complexities, problems, limitations and methods for dealing with many of these issues much more clearly than I did before...in fact with most of these issues I hadn't considered a lot of the problems we discussed (the problems with choropleth mapping for example) and am energized by the prospect of getting to create better representations of data.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

I plan to continue to study the use of GIS in health research through a course this fall and will continue with independent reading on MLM and spatial statistics for my dissertation work. I have also begun thinking about how this material might guide a post doc experience for me.

Research

I am interested in defining the food environment and its impact on consumption of food away from home, dietary patterns, and the development of overweight/obesity. Issues of space are central to these problems and the material covered in this course will directly guide my research in thinking about the factors that are important for defining a "food environment", assessing area vs. individual level characteristics (keeping in mind how area actually applies to the individual) and assessing the degree to which space plays a role in explaining variations in individual behavioral patterns. Also, I plan to continue with the project started at the workshop...and may try to publish from it.

Teaching

I plan to bring many of these issues to the forefront in my research group by introducing and discussing these issues with my advisors and peers.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

For our research group, I think the material was taught at an appropriate level (which is difficult, I realize considering the varying levels of knowledge we had coming in) but I would have liked to have more examples of putting these issues into practice. Talks by social scientists who have used these skills, resources, tools, softwares in their own research and having them lead us from beginning to end of a project would have been very helpful for me in being able to organize my thoughts about how to proceed when back at home. Overall, however, the content was very interesting and a great introduction to the myriad issues contained in geography and spatial analyses. The workshop organizers, speakers and lab assistants are to be commended for their efforts.

Facilities

UCSB was a fabulous location for this workshop. I thought the classroom and computer lab were more than adequate- it was clear that the department /organizers made it priority for us to feel comfortable, safe, and provide access that made us feel as though we belonged there.

Exercises

These were very helpful...I can't think of one that was not. It was also helpful when lecturers/assistants provided additional resources from classes they taught (Jeff, for example, showed us more detailed examples of using geoda and making certain types of maps from lectures he had given in his courses).

CD Resources

These were-are- fantastic. Most helpful, and most appreciated. I will be referring to these often.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

Not too many. they were all interesting and engaging with the participants, which was very nice. See my note below about the timing for Jeremy Crampton's lecture.

Workshop Organization

The only comment I have here is that it seemed like Jeremy Crampton had a lot of material to present to us that we had already covered earlier in the week. Perhaps keeping all "mapping" topics together would be more appropriate. Also, I would like to have more formal time throughout the two weeks, rather than just at the end, to play around with our own data (or with group data that is assigned to everyone). Having time to make maps after talking about mapping, then to work in Geoda after discussing spatial analyses...this would have helped solidify the topics, use of tools and problem solving methods even more than they were.

Housing Arrangements

I did not take advantage of the housing, but did spend time there just hanging out with the other participants. They seemed like nice rooms...comfortable and a beautiful view!

Preparation and Assessment**Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?**

Yes, for the most part. The only place I felt like I was lacking- and this has less to do with my background and more to do with immediate issues of preparation- was with respect to the fact that my spatial data was not ready for me to bring. After these two weeks I was able to anticipate many of the issues that will arise for me with this data, and it would have been great for me to have access to the people and resources I did over the workshop period. Had the data been ready for me, I would have come with more specific questions related to my own data, and may have been able to address many of the questions that will arise in my own work. Aside from this, my course work and personal reading of many of these topics was preparation enough for me to have a handle on what was being discussed. It was not the first time I had heard most of what we discussed (save the heavily geographic topics...and using GPS!)

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

ABSOLUTELY. Not only for the amount that I learned and the enthusiasm that I left CA with, but because we were given, as I've said, incredible resources and met amazing people whose friendships and expertise I will call on again and again.

Other comments

I really liked, despite the pressure we put on ourselves, the project component of the workshop. Throughout the process of preparing our presentations I learned a great deal from my fellow participants, which was amazing. While it was nice- for many- to have the opportunity to work on their own projects, another option would be to provide data for everyone- the same data, or various sets of data- and have people work in pairs or groups to cover in practice the topics that are covered in theory in the classroom. This way, everyone could follow a project from beginning to end and have the experience of working closely with others, learning from them as well as the instructors. It would be neat to see what everyone comes up with at the end of the two weeks. Should you bring in people to follow social science projects from beginning to end, this exercise would pair nicely with that...as well as allowing for an in-depth extension of all of the assigned exercises. Just a thought.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

The ArcGIS sessions from the workshop have allowed me to more easily manipulate ArcGIS for my dissertation research. Prior to the workshop, my geocoding and mapping skills were very limited. I had also never explored a lot of the extensions in ArcGIS. Since the workshop, I have become much more efficient at geocoding and manipulating data (e.g. adding projections to maps, spatial joins, etc) for analysis in other spatial analysis programs such as SatScan.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

I have become more comfortable using GeoDa, and SatScan (which was not officially one of the packages used at the program, but recommended by one of the instructors). R remains a challenge...but had I tried learning it on my own without the help of the instructors or other students...I doubt I would have been able to figure it out. The labs from Stewart were very helpful. Jeremy Crampton did an excellent job with concepts of visualization, and his notes on constructing maps have been helpful. It was also nice to be introduced to the "color brewer" website.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

I think this is the aspect of spatial analysis that I improved upon the most...but given the length of the workshop, I think this is one area that was probably the easiest to grasp.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

The GeoDa program has provided a great deal of practice with this, and as I had never worked with GeoDa before, I feel that my understanding improved tremendously.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

Mike's lectures on these were very good. I certainly feel like he provided a good conceptual framework for thinking about spatial data

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

Greatly improved. I also feel like I have more resources for looking for data...I am still trying to get through Stephen Matthews' cd!

General understanding of spatial demography

Definitely improved. The workshop has made it easier for me to incorporate concepts of spatial demography in my epidemiology research...although I would have to say the 2 aren't that far off...

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

This workshop has really helped me move forward with my dissertation proposal. The training and resources (sources of data, readings) received have certainly put me on track to graduate in the next year.

Research

Before the work shop, I was worried about including spatial analysis in my research as my university does not professors with a great deal of expertise in this area. I was able to parlay the skills learned from the workshop into a research assistant position with a study that is examining physical activity and food purchasing habits of African Americans in 2 Chicago areas. This research fits in nicely with my dissertation, and will only improve my skill set in the area of neighborhood effects on health outcomes

Teaching

I think that researchers in chronic disease epidemiology could certainly benefit from the content of the workshop. I might actually be conducting a seminar for fellow graduate students in my department in November of 2006.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

The content was great but I would have liked more lectures on spatial analysis.

Facilities

The facilities were great. I would suggest having other software analysis packages available for students on the lab computers like SPSS and SAS.

Exercises

The lab exercises were definitely excellent, but I think we need to spend more than one day on R. I don't think it was a good idea trying to have us work on GeoDa and R in one morning lab session. I think it would have been better to use an half a day for each software package.

CD Resources

Excellent. Again, I am still trying to get through Steve Matthews' cd

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

I think we had the right number of guest presenters and I found them to be very approachable and helpful. I would have to say though, that I felt like the Penn site had more presenters with a focus on health research. Maybe there could have been one more presenter from epidemiology or public health at the UCSB site. I would also suggest not having any new presenters after Wednesday of the last week...most people really seemed to be stressed out about their presentations by then, and seemed less interested in what the presenters had to say.

Workshop Organization

I think this should certainly be kept the same - content the first week....practice the second week.

Housing Arrangements

Nice and convenient. It also forced us to have some sort of daily physical activity.

Preparation and Assessment**Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?**

Definitely...although I would also suggest recommending that students do ALL of the readings before the workshop.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

This workshop was one of the best investments in my academic career. I would give the workshop a 9.5/10.

Other comments

Thank you again for putting this workshop together and giving me the opportunity to participate. The organization of the workshop afforded a great opportunity to learn from my peers in other social science disciplines. If you need a letter from a former participant for your next grant application, I would be more than willing to write one...and definitely do it in a more timely fashion than this survey!

Personal Information

Name
Diana Grigsby

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

my ability to use GIS Software has increased insurmountably. Both basic use and extensions in population research, although instruction in terms of the software focused on the former, and our own exercises towards individual projects focused on the latter.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

Became much more familiar with concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9, GeoDa, and Flow Mapper, although not ESTAT.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

Not sure I really learned how to manipulate geospatial data mainly because I didn't have that as an issue in my own work.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

The lecture on this topic confirmed my general understanding of spatial modeling but I would need an entire class or two to understand all the math behind it.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

Dr. Matthews' lecture was perhaps most closely related to this issue, and it was fascinating and instructive. Many other lectures touched on this issue, too. I definitely gained an appreciation for the uses and problems of spatial data, and will apply that understanding in my own work.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

Yes, absolutely. I didn't really know how to map census data prior to this workshop, and now I can create beautiful, informative, meaningful maps. Learned the techniques but also much of the philosophy behind mapping, as well as geographers' preferences for certain style and information decisions.

General understanding of spatial demography

There seemed to be less of an emphasis on demography than on spatial stuff in general.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

Intend to take one or two more classes on multi-level modeling.

Research

I hope to incorporate a spatial element into my dissertation and other future work. At a minimum, I will use GIS as a tool to describe and explore geographical patterns in my data, but I hope to spatially analyze my data as well.

Teaching

Certainly will incorporate what I've learned and my appreciation for spatial patterns into my classes. Not sure I could teach GIS at this point but I could use it to create examples or in other ways.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

In general, yes, especially given the diversity of backgrounds in the classroom. The two day class on ArcGIS was perfect for me, as were the first two or three general lectures on spatial stuff, mapping, etc. Some of the lectures were a bit redundant (namely Jeremy Crampton's lectures in week two). Perhaps could have used a bit more time on the more complicated stuff that Stuart and Bill taught.

Facilities

Facilities were great. The dorms were perfect, food was good, Star Lab and 2620 were good spaces to be in. UCSB campus is lovely.

Exercises

Yes, useful for becoming familiar with the programs. Grad student assistants were stellar.

CD Resources

WOW. Fantastic. Thank you so much.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

By the second week some of the lectures were a bit redundant. Would have preferred less generalized lectures and more lectures that feature the actual research (like giving a talk at PAA) that asks demographic questions and uses spatial analysis to answer them. It would have been cool to see how accomplished scholars thereby apply these general concepts and solve specific data problems in their

own work.

Workshop Organization

Except for the redundancy in week 2 lectures, workshop was well structured and organized. Not a lot of down time, which was good.

Housing Arrangements

Excellent.

Preparation and Assessment

Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?

Yes--I had some exposure to GIS, as well as to spatial modeling--and in general understanding the research process (to which spatial analysis was being applied) was key.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

Absolutely! Very valuable. It's hard to believe it was a free/funded program, it was so useful.

Other comments

Hope it's funded again in the future!

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

none

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

none

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

none

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

none

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

none

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

none

General understanding of spatial demography

some

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Research

Prior to the workshop I expected to intergrate spatial analysis as a small part of my next project (Nutrition and well being in eighteenth century China), I now expect to work what I have learned here through out the project.

Teaching

I do not expect to integrate what I have learned here into teaching...my skill level is insufficient. I will however use map making technqiues and the like to improve t6he visuals in my lectures.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

As a novice, I found much of the statistical work tough going. I appreciated efforts of instructors to make this easier to understand through illustrated examples. A certain level of preparation was required to understand the more conceptual ideas, however. Lacking that preparation made some of the lectures hard to follow at the rather fast pace. I (am not sure what can be done about this, given the wide range of previous knowledge. I don't think it would slow things done much, however, if instructors provided definitions or quick and dirty explanations of "regression" analysis before going into the more complex models.

Facilities

Everything was great

Exercises

very useful

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

overall, eberything was very good. Jeremy Crompton was very good, but perhaps his content could have been presented faster and in in one session. More time could then be given to Stuart Sweeney and William Pan--whose lectures were good but needed more time to present these much more complicated ideas.

Workshop Organization

excellent

Housing Arrangements

fantastic

Preparation and Assessment**Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?**

not really...but the exercise provided by the workshop before hand were useful.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

though i am now exhausted and eager to head home, the overall experience was wonderful. Though long, the material needs about two weeks and I thought you made very good use of our time. I would certainly recommend such a workshop to others.

Other comments

THANKS

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

I haven't used any GIS software before. This workshops helped me to understand spatial data, different datasets (raster vs vector), layers and tables manipulation, queries, shapefiles and most of basic functions of ArcGIS 9. Now I know how to use ArcCatalog, ArcMap, ArcToolbox, coordination systems and different map projection systems. However, I haven't known how to use ArcGIS to perform spatial analysis yet.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

Both ArcGIS and GeoDa can help to represent research data with a geographical presentation. However, ArcGIS is better in terms of map design to make the map more userfriendly and better visualisation. I didn't have a chance to use the Flow Mapping and R during my time at the workshop. I only had enough time to do basic R excersie from the instructor. Since my data was areal unit, I used GeoDa for my project at the workshop. It is powerful enough for me to analyse spatial health data with the download data & shapefiles. The main problem was I could not perform the join table function in GeoDa. I had to use ArcMap to join tables and exported new shapefile for use in GeoDa. R programming is very powerful for analysing point-pattern data. However, it is a command-based program and it would take me more time to learn and remember these commands.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

This is the first time I learned spatial statistics and I was so thrilled to be able to use simple Exploratory Data Analysis, Spatial autocorrelation and Spatial regression. They are quite useful for spatial-based health research (e.g. linking, brushing, smoothing, global and local clustering).

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

I learnt different spatial modelings as well as related statistical operations. Each model is suitable for different types of data.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

Spatial analysis requires the association of each observation with its geographic location. Geocoding is used to translate the street address to its longitude and latitude co-ordination. Bias can arise when the addresses that are unsuccessfully geocoded are not missing at random. E.g. If the address file is several years old, the addresses of newer subdivision will not be match; or rural address is imprecise in terms of street boundaries. I found time consuming in reformatting addresses to fit the standard expected for matching with the addressed master file from GIS software vendor. Another issue is spatial sampling. Since I am working with health data, I think systematic spatial sampling methods should be considered when it is important that the sample represents the population of interest across space.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

After the workshop, I am able to download census data, clean it up, join tables and manipulate choropleth maps. I also learn Geocoding techniques. It would be very useful for my own collected data in the future. Mapping is very useful for geographical presentation of spatial health research.

General understanding of spatial demography

Even this topic was taught on the second last day of the workshop, but it was very interesting. It shappen my understanding about the role of spatial analysis in demography research.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

I already have PhD in science and technology. I have changed to the new career as academic with a focus on population health. This workshop is the foundation for me to build up my career in GIS and spatial statistics area. I would love to have many oppotunities to participate in similar workshops at the higher or advanced level to consolidate what I have learnt from this workshop.

Research

I have a strong interest in spatial analysis of diseases applications. I would like to the perspective of my current research (health services, obesity, mental health etc.) to spatial perspectives. With the incoming census in Australia (2006), I would have an opportunity to do some research projects using census data. The main challenge for me now is to look for Australian boundary shapfiles as Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) as soon as possible. I am also looking for oppotunities for joint publication and grant submission when they are available.

Teaching

The main function of the Department where I work is research and development. We only have postgraduate and research students. This workshop would help me and my Department offer a wider range of research topics for students who are interested in population health.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

Even a few sessions went quickly but the content was taught at an appropriate level. This could be due to the reason that the instructors wanted to deliver as much available information and resources as they could. I have to do a lot of readings in order to catch up with teaching notes.

Facilities

The study room and conference room were well equipped, clean and comfortable. Support staff are very friendly and helpful. It would be great if we could have longer break between sessions (approx 20 minutes) for Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) reason.

Exercises

The exercises were very useful, clear and easy to follow. However, the pratical time in the lab was quite short for some sessions. The GPS pratical exercise in the form of treasure hunting on the beach was so fun even after a vely long walk. It was very creative. The only suggestion is that we should inform participants to wear sport shoes or comfy shoes for the exercrise.

CD Resources

It is very comprehensive and profound resources (readings, sample data, links etc.). It is like a bible for anyone who wants to start a new career in GIS and spatial statistics.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

The number of presenters was just right. The teaching team was very enthusiastic, professional, inspring, patient and helpful.

Workshop Organization

It was excellent. Support and teaching staff memebers were very friendly, patient and helpful. UCSB is a nice place for future workshops.

Housing Arrangements

Accommodation reservation is very easy. There is a free shuttle bus for airport pickup. This service is excellent for a budget traveller. The room is very clean and have in-room Internet access. The only problem is the study chair in the room is not suitable and doesn't meet OH&S standards.

Preparation and Assessment

Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?

I would like to start my career in health and well-being in a spatial setting. My previous background only helps me with some quantitative research methods and statistics. I learnt heaps from this workshop and I gained a lot of benefit when attending the workshop.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

Excellent! It is definitely the best investment for my research pathway.

Other comments

I would love to learn R and how to analyse spatial point-pattern data using GeoDa. It would be great if I could have a chance to learn how to analyse spatial data using ArcGIS. I like to learn different ways to solve the same problem rather than be restricted to one solution. Each GIS software has its own power and the combination would offer the best result.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

I have gained a great deal of knowledge and experience with ArcGIS 9. As a novice user, the workshop provided a package of great training materials, instructor support and guidance, and also lots of practical experience sessions. As a result, I have learned how to utilize many new software such as Arc Catalogue and ArcMaps. Even though I will have a long journey to achieve any mastery level, I am not able to make simple maps, and utilize software tools for geocoding data.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

I first learned about Geoda and Arc GIS 9 at this workshop, and it essentially clarified lots of misconceptions that I once held regarding maps and projections. For spatial analysis, the concept of visualization is most important to modeling data. With the knowledge given to me at this workshop, I am now much more cautious about using projection, scale, for variables that are extensive of my models.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

My knowledge of spatial analysis has improved substantially. In particular, I now understand the differences between spatial lag and spatial error models! This knowledge will aid my research in conducting spatial analysis for my future.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

My understanding of spatial modeling has improved greatly as well. I have gained much experience in understanding essential spatial models and related statistics such as Moran's I, and autocorrelation, and I sincerely hope to incorporate various models in my future spatial analysis.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

The concept of spatial data and all the limitation and problems associated with spatial data were one of the most clear concepts I gained from attending this workshop. In particular, I have learned much about the concept of generalization and practical application in applying spatial analytical tools to most large scale secondary data source.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

I have gained significant knowledge of Mapping, particularly due to learning from Jerney regarding the various pitfalls of distortions in projections and coloring in maps. This workshop essentially opens a new and long journey for new students like myself to learn much more mapping techniques. I am truly grateful to Jerney for all his instructions and assistance.

General understanding of spatial demography

My understanding of spatial demography has been boardened substantially. As a student in demography, this workshop has casted a whole new entire research perspective for domographic research. I sincerely hope to utilize these new acquired knowledge in my future research in demography.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

The direction of my future research and education will always be inclusive of a spatial component, as this workshop has given me a great deal of knowledge and experience with spatial anlytica tools, spatial data, understanding of the limitations of spatial data, and my hopes are to be able to give brown bag discussion to all the data consultant and graduate students at my institution.

Research

I plan to utilize spatial models in my dissertation project in examining the spatial patterns of healthcare utilizations. This project will mainly all the software tools that I have learned to used, including R, geoda, ArcGIS, and Flowmapper. The implication of this spatial analytical project of healthcare utilization will provide insights to health policy makers for a better allocation of state medicaid funding, and development of improved healthcare programs for narrowing health disparities across income groups.

Teaching

Teaching spatial analysis in demography will be my next goal for a class in the spring quarter of 2007. This will be perhaps the only course at my institutions in spatial demography, and my hope is to be able to expose students to a new set of ideas in spatial demography.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

The materials were always well prepared and organized. Given the limited amount of time, the well organized presentation styles of new materials was really helpful. As such, some presentation were packed with a lot of dense materials for students to absorb at one time. A suggestion would be to assign a bit more time for some of the presentations with the most important concepts of spatial data analysis.

Facilities

The computers in the Star lab contains all the spatial software that we need in order to complete our work. However, at times when students were creating sophisticated maps, the computers did have some minor memory problems which resulted into overload or software crashing. A helpful recommendation would be to improve the computer's RAM, and processor, and to always remind students to save their work at all times.

Exercises

The exercise in ArcGIS were most valuable, as it introduced a series of new tools for students to incorporate spatial models in their own data. A suggestion would be to assign the exercise through out the entire first week, instead of its current short time slots of only 2 days.

CD Resources

The CD resources are most valuable to students like us who find the material both educational and helpful. I truly appreciate all the materials prepared and provided for us. Because of the well organized materials, I have learned such a great deal. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all the instructors and staffs who had helped to prepare and provide such great training to us. Thank you very much!

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

The Guest presenters were all very very knowledge in each of their own field. The only limitation is that each presenter only had a very short amount of time with students in the classroom. A recommendation is to assign longer period of time to each presenter and shorted the practice TA session, as students who were not exposed to the material in the past may need more time to get a detailed understanding of spatial analysis.

Workshop Organization

The organization of the workshop was very good, and most appreciated by students. We had instructors and TAs working with us during all times whenever we need help.

Housing Arrangements

I did not utilize the housing arrangement, and thus will not be able to offer any suggestion.

Preparation and Assessment**Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?**

My prior background in demography and Hierarchical Linear Modeling set up the basic foundation of spatial analysis. As a result, I was able to learn a great deal of spatial statistics that are most pertinent to my demographic background.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

This workshop has provided me with a series of statistical softwares that would benefit my future research in demography. As a result, my own understanding of spatial analysis has improved a great deal.

Other comments

I only wish to express my sincere gratitude to all the instructors, teaching assistants, and software specialists for all their time and teaching. Thank you very much.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this

workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

In general not much, but I did get some useful suggestions about the Network Analyst extension from Jeff and Sarah.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

The different types of interpolation and rasterizing were very useful. In all of my past work, I have used pre-defined polygon shapefiles, but now I'm looking forward to exploring ways to change the data to match with other available sources of information.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

I don't think I gained anything in this area. The multi-level modeling went over my head, and the other modeling presentations were a little too basic for me.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

Listening to geographers gave me a new perspective (compared to sociology), but I'm not sure I learned anything that I can immediately apply to my own work.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

The dasymmetric approach to population density was very exciting. The large amount of front-end work required to use the technique may prevent me from implementing it in my own work, but it is good to know that such a thing exists.

General understanding of spatial demography

I thought John Weeks presented a great overview, but this topic should have been presented early in the workshop.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

Geography and economic geography will probably play a large role in my Ph.D. work. I want to learn more about the theories used to explain the spatial and non-spatial linkages between economic agents. This builds on some of the work I've done already, but I want to apply more explicitly spatial approaches to the ideas of urbanization and economic development.

Research

I would like to move towards using point-pattern and raster datasets in my future work. After having used census data exclusively in my master's thesis, I want to find other data that captures economic activity at precise locations.

Teaching

I've never had a teaching assistant appointment, so I'm not sure.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

Allow the GIS certification to be optional. I would have rather spent the time corresponding with people at UCSB.

Facilities

Great.

Exercises

?

CD Resources

I never got the chance to digest the content of the spatial analysis journal issue on the CD. Maybe if one of the presenters had directly referenced some of the articles, it would have helped guide me to the important parts.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

I would have liked a more formal presentation on GWR and/or spatial Bayesian techniques. I think Jeremy Crampton was given too much time - his talks were thought provoking but they were hard to translate into direct uses. Michael Goodchild's presentation should have been the first thing. Avoid talking too much about datums and projections on the first couple of days.

Workshop Organization

see above

Housing Arrangements

Great.

Preparation and Assessment

Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?

I felt well prepared, and I took a great deal of information away from each presenter and the helpful UCSB geography students

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

Great workshop. Definitely worth my time.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

Greatly

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

Greatly

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

Greatly

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

Greatly

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

Greatly

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

Greatly

General understanding of spatial demography

Greatly

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

Space will be a platform in which to merge other disciplinary perspectives.

Research

A spatial perspective will be fundamental in my research trajectory.

Teaching

Dido

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

Include more spatial statistics.

Facilities

Great

Exercises

Great

CD Resources

Great

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

Great quality and diversity of topics.

Workshop Organization

Great

Housing Arrangements

Great

Preparation and Assessment

Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?

Yes

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

I am very fortunate to have attended the workshop. And yes, a valuable investment of my time.

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

I had no prior experience in working with ArcGIS, but now I can perform basic operations and use the output in my research papers.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

Very useful to know the range of analyses that can be performed by the various packages.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

I think I have learned a lot in this area.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

I have learned the basics of spatial modeling, but haven't had a chance to apply them to my research yet, so I am not very confident.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

I learned a lot by using Census data to work on my project, especially about the problems.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

I learned how to be critical about a map and how to make sure mine reflect accurately the information I am trying to convey.

General understanding of spatial demography

Greatly improved.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

I would like to learn more about spatial modeling, and more advanced uses of GIS, so I plan to look for more training opportunities in this direction.

Research

I plan to include spatial analysis in as many of my projects as possible.

Teaching

I would like to teach an Urban Sociology course, and if this happens I would use GIS and spatial analysis to convey important information about the urban environment, such as land use and residential segregation.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

I think the material was taught at an appropriate level, but I think more time could have been spent on multi-level modeling, which was presented too quickly, and on spatial modeling. On the other hand, the cartography portion on the workshop was too long and it included many issues that had already been covered by other instructors. Also, presentation of examples of research using these methods would have been tremendously useful.

Facilities

Very good. I especially appreciated and used the on-site library.

Exercises

Very useful

CD Resources

The Geographical Analysis CD came in very handy for me.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

They all had valuable contributions.

Workshop Organization

I really, really liked the fact that we had time (and incentives) to work on our own projects, having a chance to apply the many things we had learned. I also appreciated the availability of the instructors and consultants, they were an extraordinary resource. I think the workshop has realized the goal of creating a community of scholars, which includes the participants, the instructors and the consultants.

Housing Arrangements

Very nice

Preparation and Assessment**Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?**

Yes

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

This was an extraordinary opportunity for me learn new things and to work on my project while having specialists close by to help with various difficult issues. Really great experience.

Other comments

THANK YOU!

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

With help from Grad students (lab assistants) and fellow participants, I learnt to use network analyst and Fragstats. I had some prior experiencing using ARC-GIS, but working with the lab assistants helped me better understand a lot of the functionalities.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

Learning GeoDa promises to be a great asset, both in terms of exploratory data analysis and developing spatially explicit econometric models. I had no exposure to this software before the workshop.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

Jeremy's presentations will be very helpful when making posters or maps for presentations of research results, specially when presenting results within a short time or space.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

Learning to use GeoDa and R is my first exposure to explicit spatial modelling, something that I will be spending a lot more time on in the near future.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

Searching for data is one big problem, cleaning the data once you get it are multiple big problems !!

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

Using GeoDa and R as complementary tools, investing a lot more time in learning R. I will be building spatial econometric models and think knowing R will equip me to specify different models (like spatial probit/ tobit) that are not included in GeoDa right now.

Research

Same as above. ARCGIS has been transformed from a data organisation/mapping software to one that I can use to structure my data before pulling it into GeoDa or R for more sophisticated analyses.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

I think it is hard to make everything relevant to all. Maybe a shorter one week training workshop each for demography and economics students (if there is a critical mass of students in each discipline) maybe useful. Most of the material was new to me and at a level that was not too difficult to grasp, something that has made me think about my research questions in a different light and i will try to make my research more sensitive to the issues we discussed.

Facilities

Facilities were good.

Exercises

Stuart and Bill's lab sessions were the most technical, yet we had the least time allotted for them. The exercises were well-designed in general, but the GIS sessions were too preliminary -- we could have been given the booklets before we came here for familiarization that would have allowed all of us to delve deeper into the software.

CD Resources

Reading material was good, but the ARCGIS lab notes could have been sent earlier.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

Great, but I would have liked more focus on methodology, like Stuart' session. Nonetheless, I learnt lot from Carter's and Mike's lectures.

Workshop Organization

Great. Thanks to Don, Andrea and all those behind the scenes.

Housing Arrangements

We had the best location in town, food was great...wish there was wireless internet though!!

Preparation and Assessment**Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?**

I was more comfortable in the methods sessions because of my training in econometrics. The theoretical lectures in the workshop were helpful in putting the applicability of the tools in perspective.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

It was a privilege to be in the workshop, getting to know the instructors and participants. I hope to stay in touch with some of the instructors for advice and suggestions on my research

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

Very improved

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

Cery clear with ArcGIS 9, but not with other packages

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

imporved

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

not much

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

very improved

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

very improved

General understanding of spatial demography

very improved

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Research

I will apply ArcGIS technics on visualizing the data and on conducting descriptive analysis

Teaching

I am planing to have an ArcGIS introductory seminar for the sfatts at my work place

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

more on spatial analysis concept and methods using sample data.

Facillities

Good

Exercises

more extended time for lab exercise using spatial analysis packages. lab assitants and guest speakers were very helpful

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

need to schedule lectures in a content-process time line. e.g. future and limitation of spatial analysis should be scheduled at the end of workshop? I felt some of subjects were not consistant with the previous lecture.

Workshop Organization

Excellent!

Housing Arrangements

very good

Preparation and Assessment**Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?**

Yes

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

very good and yes

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

My understanding and appreciation of this software and its application to population research have been greatly improved. I learned a lot and am very excited about potential future applications of these techniques in my own research. The excellent theoretical introductions (by Professors Michael Goodchild, Donald Janelle and Steven Matthews), coupled with a highly accessible ESRI course on ArcGIS conducted by a highly qualified instructor - Jim Detwiler, truly laid the foundation to ArcGIS for me. Subsequent guest speakers solidified my knowledge and extended the scope of spatial analyses by showing how these analyses can be applied into many exciting arenas of social inquiry.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

My understanding and appreciation of theoretical concepts of visualization as well as practical uses of ArcGIS and GeoDa have improved significantly. I came to the workshop knowing very little about these concepts/software, but I left with a confindent knowledge of what they are and how they can be applied to specific research questions. Professor Stuart Sweeney was especially helpful in making GeoDa accessible and fun.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

I now have an overall/broad understanding of these issues. Though there is still a lot of learning to do in these areas, the workshop provides me with significant future learning resources and I think I now know where to turn for relevant instructions if I were to pursue research questions for which a spatial perspective is relevant. The CDs from Professors Steven Matthews, Waldo Tobler as well as Professors Michael Goodchild and Donald Janelle's book are excellent resources that provide the necessary roadmap for further explorations.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

I have come to appreciate the fact that spatial analysis, and specifically spatial modeling, is only appropriate to certain type of data and certain type of research questions. Though space/location/place matters in almost all contexts (as human interactions do not occur in a vacuum), space/location/place is more likely to exert a strong influence on some social processes than in others, and it behooves the researcher to conceptualize with great clarity the relationships that s/he seeks to theorize about as well as what the appropriate model for these spatial processes should be.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

I have gained a much more nuanced understanding of the use and potential "abuse" of spatial data. Though spatial data can add significant insight into our study of social life, it is equally important to recognize the various limitations associated with spatial data. The lectures given by Professors Keith Clarke, Michael Goodchild, Steven Matthews and Stuart Sweeney all highlighted the potential pitfalls. Altogether, these lectures have greatly enhanced my understanding of these issues, and, more importantly, sensitized me to their existence.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

The workshop has led me to appreciate the power of mapping and I think I got a bit too carried away with mapping in my final presentation for the workshop. Professor Jeremy Crampton made a strong case for the importance of mapping, types of maps and issues to be considered in visual representation. I now feel very confident in my ability to produce basic maps from various sources of data.

General understanding of spatial demography

My general understanding of spatial demography has been enhanced. The lectures by Professors Waldo Tobler and John Weeks, together with the paper by John Voss, highlighted the spatial component in demography.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

At the very basic level, applications of GIS as a mapping/visualizing tool will certainly be helpful and I anticipate using it in my research. More broadly speaking, spatial analyses can potentially be quite relevant to my research, given my interest in immigration and urban poverty. I have learned how to think spatially and explicitly asking the following questions when looking at social phenomena: "Does space matters here? If so, how can we model these spatial processes?"

Research

I am currently working on a pilot research project on the role of non-profit organizations in providing social services and social support to inner-city residents in Boston. This project is led by Professors Mark Moore and Christopher Winship at the Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. We are using ArcGIS to geocode the addresses of nonprofits in two neighborhoods in Boston - Upham's Corner and West Roxbury. We are also combining neighborhood centroids and buffer zones to create explicit criteria of inclusion/exclusion of non-profits. What I have learned in the workshop prepares me well for this type of analyses. I am also involved with the Boston Research Consortium - an interdisciplinary effort at Harvard led by Professor Christopher Winship - which seeks to use Boston as a case study for a whole range of social inquiries (from public health to sociology). We anticipate a Boston Area Survey in the coming years. Pending funding approval, we will consider giving a subsample of our respondents GPS receivers in order to precisely locate them in real time and space. I anticipate the application of the concepts and skills that I learned in the workshop into this area of research as well.

Teaching

Together with Professor Christopher Winship, I will be teaching an interdisciplinary undergraduate-level class called "Reinventing Boston: The Changing American City" at Harvard in Spring 2007. Students will be responsible for investigating in-depth a neighborhood/community of their choice in Boston City and we are contemplating the potential integration of ArcGIS in order to help our students integrate and analyze data from a wide range of sources that might be relevant to their neighborhood of choice.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

As someone without any prior knowledge of spatial analysis and ArcGIS, I think that the material was appropriate. I do feel that Professors Steven Matthews and Stuart Sweeney tried to cover a lot of important material in only one lecture, and I remember feeling overwhelmed by the amount of information that I was absorbing. Future workshops might consider giving Professors Matthews and Sweeney more lecture time, as I am certain that I would have learned a lot more if they were giving more than one lecture. They both had a lot to say about spatial analyses and took on topics that are not only essential to spatial analyses but also wide-ranging in scope.

Facilities

Excellent.

Exercises

Exercises are very appropriate and extremely detailed-oriented. I benefited a lot from doing all of these exercises and am still going back to them to refer to specific steps.

CD Resources

These are great learning resources and I would like to thank the workshop for the generous contributions of the various instructors.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

I think the choices were appropriate.

Workshop Organization

Excellent! A wonderful mix of learning and leisure activities which were extremely conducive to creating a sense of community. Professor Donald Janelle was an extremely gracious workshop director/host. His pleasant demeanor and support made the workshop a most pleasant experience.

Housing Arrangements

I enjoyed Manzanita's proximity to the ocean a lot, as I fell asleep and woke up with the ocean waves crashing onto the shore. It was a privilege to be there.

Preparation and Assessment**Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?**

Yes, I think so. The pre-workshop memo from Professor Donald Janelle was extremely useful as it pointed me to relevant sources of information to better prepare myself for the workshop.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

I truly appreciate the opportunity to participate in the workshop. I not only think that it was a valuable investment of my time, but will also strongly recommend it to most social scientists. I think Professors Michael Goodchild and Donald Janelle made a very powerful argument for the importance of "space" in their book - "Spatially Integrated Social Science." With the increasing accessibility of softwares and data for spatial analysis, we can no longer afford to ignore space in our analysis. The workshop provided me with a theoretical framework to begin thinking about these issues, which will hopefully better my own future research. Thank you very much for offering this workshop!

Other comments

This workshop introduced me to a whole new horizon for social research. It allowed me to take a glimpse at the exciting possibilities that spatial analyses can offer. It was both a pleasure and a privilege to be part of this community of scholars for two weeks. I would like to also acknowledge the financial support that the workshop had so generously provided. Finally, very special thanks to Professors Michael Goodchild, Donald Janelle and Steven Matthews for making this workshop possible. I sincerely hope that what I, along with many other workshop participants, had learned from it made your effort a worthwhile endeavor. Thank you!

Personal Information

Name

Workshop Results

Given your level of prior exposure to course material, how has your understanding of the following changed as a result of taking this workshop?

Use of GIS Software (ArcGIS 9) and extensions in population research

From very basic to very good after the workshop.

Concepts of visualization and uses of ArcGIS 9 and GeoDa (and/or other packages - e.g., ESTAT)

From None to very good after the workshop.

Spatial analysis - based on geospatial data manipulation and cartographic functions

From None to beginner's level after the workshop.

Spatial analysis - specifically spatial modeling

From None to beginner's level after the workshop.

Understanding the uses and problems associated with spatial data

From None to good after the workshop.

Mapping (e.g., of census and/or health data for demographic research)

From None to good after the workshop.

General understanding of spatial demography

From None to good after the workshop.

Future Impact

How do you anticipate using what you have learned in ...

Directing your future education / studies

I am interested in using GIS, Geoda, R and other spatial-related packages more often in my future studies.

Research

I will definitely start paying more attention to spatial analysis and will try to incorporate it into my study if possible.

Teaching

I can try to introduce the spatial thinking in my teaching if possible.

Workshop Improvement

What might be done to improve this workshop? Describe things that you think should be added, deleted, changed, or kept the same.

Content (please address whether material was taught at an appropriate level)

More spatical-statistis courses instead of concepts or a combination of the two.

Facilities

perfect. It would be super if someone could help me find the China 2000 county level shapfile for free.

Exercises

perfect.

CD Resources

perfect.

Guest Presenters (too many, quality, etc.)

I wish William Pan could give two lectures instead of one dense one. Maybe he can talk about how he applied some of the statistical modeling/methods in his own research.

Workshop Organization

It might be a bit easier to tune us in the spatial thinking if some presenters from sociology could lecture (e.g. John Weeks) on the first or second day of the workshop. I felt it is a bit harder to follow professors from geography without enough prior exposure in the very beginning.

Housing Arrangements

perfect.

Preparation and Assessment

Did your prior background prepare you to benefit from the material covered?

may not be enough.

What is your overall assessment? Was it a valuable investment of your time?

Very good experience, definitely worth my time--did some hard work, had plenty of fun and made lots of friends.

Other comments

Fantastic two weeks!

Personal Information

Name