



Integrating GIS and Urban Geography in the Classroom (& Beyond)

SPACE Follow-up Presentation for UCGIS, February 10, 2005



David R. Rain, PhD
Department of Geography
The George Washington University
1957 E St, NW, Suite 512
Washington DC 20082
david.rain@gwu.edu

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON DC



Geography @ GW

- Department of Geography: part of Columbian College of Arts & Sciences, but physically located within the Elliott School of international Affairs
- Faculty: 7 full time, ~10 part time
- Majors:
- Grads:



The Urban Laboratory

- GIS and Urban Geography @GW
- The conundrum
- Reflect methodological gleanings from SPACE



Reflect methodological gleanings from SPACE

Field opportunities for students

- *Locally*
 - Dedicated field courses: Environmental Science/Studies
 - Study in Metro DC
 - Lead in the water supply
 - Urban redevelopment in aging inner suburbs
- *Study Abroad*
 - Summer courses
 - Curriculum linking field exploration with service learning

An international agenda for urban planning using GIS

- World Urban Forum – Barcelona, Sept 2004
- Gleanings from WUF: [quotes]
- Way forward: UN-Habitat



1000 Cities Program



- Encourages development of capacity at the municipal level to use GIS in urban planning
- MOU signed Feb 2003 between UN-Habitat and ESRI in to distribute 1000 copies of ArcGIS software to applicants from developing countries; \$15 million software grant
- Progress thus far
 - Over 100 cities have applied, over 70 packages sent out
- Cities apply for the software grant; some training is provided by UN-Habitat in the form of regional workshops; local initiative is required
- Millennium Development Goal Target 11: improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020

Emerging pieces: Nairobi as quintessential LDC urban place

- **Nairobi, Kenya**
 - A regional metropolis being loved to death
 - Over half of population in slums
 - Overstressed infrastructure
- A serious challenge to municipal planning efforts
 - JICA project: 15 out of 674 km² completed
 - Local government is simply ignoring the problem
- Opportunities for collaboration:
 - UN-Habitat, GROOTS Int'l, RCMRD





Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development {RCMRD}

[home](#) [{ photo gallery }](#)

Search

- ⌘ About RCMRD
- ⌘ Programmes
- ⌘ Partners and Collaborators
- ⌘ Products and Services
- ⌘ FAQs



Mapping For

Sustainable Development

News Highlight

⌘ Resource Centre

- ⌘ Download Maps
- ⌘ View latest project

[LOCATE / CONTACT RCMRD](#)



Mathare, a slum in Nairobi, Kenya, December 2004

All dressed up... and *somewhere* to go

- Convergence (?) of field techniques, geospatial science & technology, and a market for information
- “What are we looking for again?”
- Cities as study sites
 - Micro-data availability
 - Assessment of conditions
 - Practicalities of international field-based education
- Eliciting ideas for service learning that uses geospatial technologies to answer big questions

The image shows two hands clasped together in a firm grip. The hand on the right is covered in vibrant, multi-colored paint splatters in shades of blue, orange, red, and green. The hand on the left is a natural skin tone. The background is a solid, deep purple color. The text 'Thank you' is centered at the top in a white, sans-serif font.

Thank you

David R. Rain, PhD
Assistant Professor of Geography
The George Washington University
1957 E St, NW, Suite 512
Washington DC 20082
Voice: 202-994-8523
Fax: 202-994-2484
david.rain@gwu.edu