

Mark Nichter précis for SB

My ongoing research interests relate to the interface between anthropology, public health, and consumer behavior; ecosocial epidemiology and political ecology; changing perceptions of risk and vulnerability and the way they are mediated by harm reduction practices; and the politics of responsibility. At present I am actively involved in research on tobacco use and nicotine dependence in the US as well as in South and South East Asia, pharmaceutical use and practice, and the study of infectious and vector borne illness.

I have no experience conducting spatial analysis. In principle I could see this type of analysis assisting me map a population's exposure to a host of things (contagious disease, vector breeding sites, density of cigarette advertisements/ distribution points, fast food chains), the availability of resources (food stores, clinics, pharmacies), syndemic patterns of illness associated with particular contextual/environmental factors, and environments of risk as well as resilience. This type of tool might be useful in studies of health inequity. Whether I directly use it or not, I want to know enough about the methodology to introduce it to students as a valuable tool.