

Space and society: Some social research applications of GIS technology

Dr Dean Carson, Dr Nick McTurk, David Lamb, & Martin Young explore the range of social research applications through GIS mapping in the context of future directions for the development of spatial social science by the School and its internal and external research partners.

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ABSTRACT

The School for Social and Policy Research (SSPR) undertakes scholarly and applied research aimed at solving the complex issues confronting communities in North Australia and surrounding regions. SSPR is currently developing a social research agenda that integrates spatial analysis concepts such as distance, location, proximity, neighbourhood and region across its range of themes (including gambling, demography, educational systems reform, and regional and economic development). Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology has shown considerable potential in this endeavour both as a spatial data storage and integration mechanism and as a powerful spatial investigative tool. SSPR has developed a nascent social research group that integrates this technology with other forms of social research from data analysis through to ethnographic research. This seminar will outline the range of social research applications to which GIS is currently been applied by SSPR researchers and outline some future directions for the development of spatial social science by the School and its internal and external research partners.