ThinkSpatial

The UCSB brownbag forum on spatial thinking

presents

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The Nature of Geospatial Knowledge (and when to teach it)

Ellison Hall 5824, 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, 21 May 2008

Abstract: Knowledge of spatial concepts is the key to enriched Spatial Thinking. I distinguish between the unconscious awareness of space and spatial relations that permeate our everyday behavior, and the level of spatial awareness that is achieved by developing a spatial concept vocabulary along with a (learned) comprehension of what the concepts and relations embedded in that vocabulary imply. To elaborate this idea, I build on the basic work of Mark and Egenhofer’s “Naïve Geography” paper. The result is a compendium of language and behaviors in space that support the idea that we all have different mixes of incidental and intentional spatial knowledge.

Reginald Golledge obtained his PhD in Geography from the University of Iowa, and holds BA and MA degrees in Geography from the University of New England, Australia. His research interests focus on cognitive behavioral geography, including spatial decision making and behavior and environmental perception; transportation modeling; and geography and disability. Golledge is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Honors of the Association of American Geographers, Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Grosvenor Medal for Geographic Education, and the Institute of Australian Geographers International Geographers Gold Medal. He also holds honorary degrees from Göteborg University and Simon Fraser University, Canada, and served as a Past President of the Association of American Geographers.

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The objectives of the ThinkSpatial series are to exchange ideas about spatial perspectives in research and teaching, to broaden communication and cooperation across disciplines among faculty and graduate students, and to encourage the sharing of tools and concepts. Please contact Don Janelle (ext 5267, janelle@spatial.ucsb.edu) to review and schedule possible discussion topics or presentations that share your disciplinary interest in spatial thinking.