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Shawn Newsam is an associate professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Founding Faculty at the University of California, Merced. He received his Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of California, Santa Barbara, his M.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of California at Davis, and his B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the University of California at Berkeley.

Prior to joining UC Merced, he was a post-doctoral researcher with the Sapphire Scientific Data Mining group in the Center for Applied Scientific Computing at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. (So, if you are counting, he is now at his fifth UC institution!) Newsam is the recipient of a U.S. Department of Energy Early Career Scientist and Engineer Award, a U.S. National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award, and a U.S. Office of Science and Technology Policy Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). He is the founding co-director of the UC Merced Spatial Analysis and Research Center (SpARC) and is the vice-chair of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) special interest group on spatial information and analysis (SIGSPATIAL). He is also a founding associate editor of the ACM Transactions on Spatial Algorithms and Systems. His research interests include image processing, computer vision, pattern recognition, and data mining with a particular focus on geographic information science and systems.