
University of Pennsylvania



Institute for Environmental Studies

presents

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Geographic Information Systems: The Bird's Eye View from a Worm's Eye

The field is maturing even as we speak. And it will continue to mature in a manner that largely depends on how we speak. Both the nature and the usage of geographic information systems (GIS) are rapidly emerging from a promising but sheltered childhood into an adolescence that holds even greater promise as the number of users and the diversity of their applications continue to grow so dramatically. Particularly promising is the prospect of productive interaction among such applications. When the landscape ecologist, the real estate agent, and the archaeologist (as well as the transportation planner, the geologist, the farmer, the economist, the politician, the epidemiologist, the retailer, and so on) are all speaking the same language, one is bound pick up some surprisingly useful tools and techniques from some surprisingly-unexpected places. In order for that to happen, however, they must share that common language. Or, if not a language, they must at least share a common set of mental constructs: mind's eye conceptions of the data with which we are working, the means by which these data are processed, and the manner in which that processing is controlled. This presentation describes one attempt to develop such constructs in the form of a methodology that has come to be referred to as "Map Algebra."

Date: **Thursday, October 31, 2002**

Time: **NOON - 1:30 pm**

Place: **Auditorium at Wistar Institute**

On Penn's campus: Spruce Street & Penn's 36th Street Walkway

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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