

GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE & GENDER EQUALITY

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Social Justice

- ▶ **Social justice** is based on the concepts of human rights and equality,
- ▶ It looks at "the way in which human rights are manifested in the everyday lives of people at every level of society".
- ▶ A system of fairness that provides full and equal access to opportunities, and resources for all people to achieve their full potential and thrive
- ▶ Social justice looks at the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society.
- ▶ It is typically associated with ideas of equality, freedom, and the common good

Principles of Social Justice

- ▶ **Equity**
- ▶ **Access**
- ▶ **Participation**
- ▶ **Rights**

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DELIVERING VALUE THROUGH INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

The Role of GIS



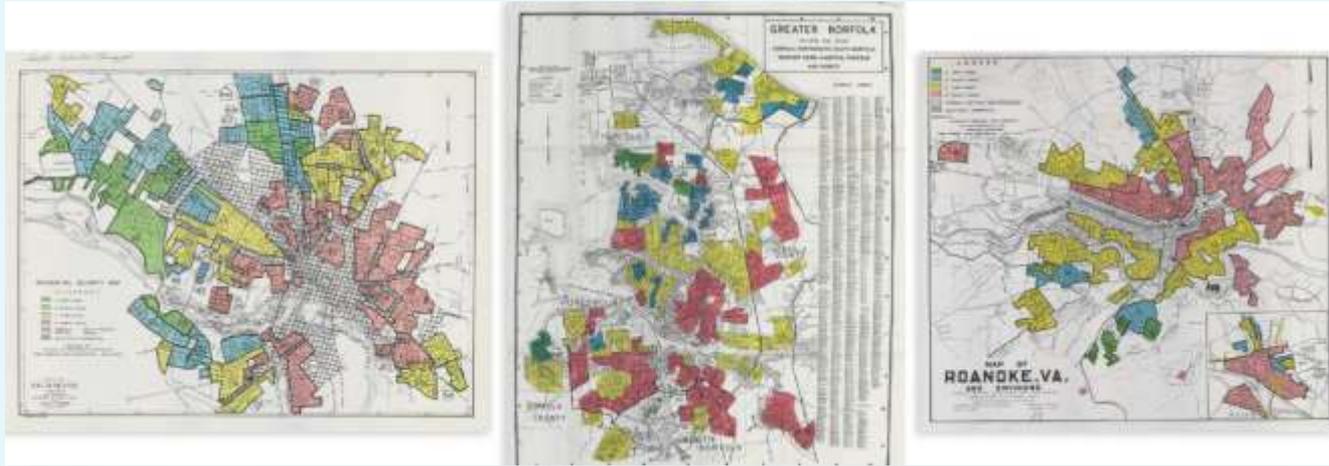
- ▶ GIS have long played a role in efforts to Understand Social Justice Issues
- ▶ GIS plays a key role in helping to understand the interactions of race, ethnicity, and place in our society
- ▶ Mainstreaming GIS for Social Justice

The Applications

- ▶ Mapping and analyzing social inequality
- ▶ Community Health
- ▶ Poverty Mapping
- ▶ Segregation Mapping
- ▶ Visualize race, income
- ▶ Community Resource Map
- ▶ Difference and Opportunity Mapping



Example



DELIVERING VALUE THROUGH INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

Beginning during the Great Depression and into the 1940s, the government-sponsored Home Owners Loan Corporation (HOLC), created a series of “security maps” in order to refinance mortgages in an effort to prevent widespread foreclosures. These maps rated neighborhoods according to several different factors, including housing stock, sales and rental rates, physical attributes of the terrain, and **“threat of infiltration of foreign-born, negro, or lower grade population.”**

Source: Johnny Finn and the Living Together / Living Apart research team
6
. www.livingtogetherlivingapart.com.

What This Meant

- ▶ Neighborhoods were classified into four categories: “A” and “B” areas were the most attractive for refinancing, while “C” areas were deemed to be “transition zones” in decline and “D” areas, colored red on the map, were “characterized by detrimental influence in a pronounced degree.”
- ▶ Race was the obvious factor in determining a neighborhood’s zone: white neighborhoods were generally classified as A or B areas while black neighborhoods were almost always redlined, classified as areas in “full decline” and ineligible for refinancing.
- ▶ As a direct result, African Americans were prevented from protecting their homes from foreclosure, while white residents were incentivized to leave redlined neighborhoods for more homogenously white areas backed by the HOLC.

Other Examples

- ▶ Kellogg's Foundation in their work with Mexico and Haiti are mapping indigenous communities
- ▶ In 22 indigenous communities across southern Mexico, community members are overcoming long-standing obstacles to community and helping to plan their futures
- ▶ Qualitative data is being used from the communities
- ▶ Geospatial information is playing a big role in the process.
 - Enabling Participatory planning
 - Allowing access to information
 - Giving communities a voice
 - Helping to build trust

How can Geospatial Professionals work towards Equity & Social Justice?

- ▶ **Advocacy**
- ▶ **Contributing/infusing mapping to social impact projects**
- ▶ **Take responsibility and allow our everyday work to have impact on equity and social justice**
- ▶ **We have an obligation to consider the potential impact of our work on equity and social justice**
- ▶ **Look for opportunities within our own groups**

Women in GIS

- ▶ GIS is still a male dominated field
- ▶ How can we advance the equality agenda?
- ▶ Are we telling the stories of women in GIS?
- ▶ How about inclusion of women on conference panels at geospatial events- how balanced is this?
- ▶ ***Women and GIS: Mapping Their Stories*** tells the tales of how 23 women applied themselves and overcame obstacles, using maps, analysis, and GIS to contribute to their professions and the world.

Women in GIS Around the World

Women in the GIS Community

Women in GIS (WiGIS) Organization

There are women working in geospatial fields around the world! The original *Women in GIS* crowd-sourced Story Map was created by Linda Loubert for Women's History Month in 2014 to recognize women in the field. Thousands of women added themselves to the map, which now also reflects the membership of the Women in GIS organization. Add yourself to the map by becoming a member - there are free and paid membership options.



Women Working in GIS
6,394

Women Working in GIS

Another Example



GIS for Social Justice

▶ **Geospatial Information is enabling:**

1. **Equity**
2. **Access**
3. **Participation**
4. **Rights**

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**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

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