

Kicking off the Final Year of the Geothink Partnership Research Grant

In this issue, we celebrate the transition into the ultimate year of the Geothink partnership research grant. The beginning of this new phase was marked by the launch of [Geothink&Learn](#), a series of monthly webinars which bring together Geothink's emergent themes. In addition, [two books will be published](#) in the new year on Geothink's collective research findings.

We also bring updates on recent Geothink research, including the announcement of Geothink Student Shelley Cook as the awardee of the [Dr. Alexander Aylett Scholarship in Urban Sustainability and Innovation](#).

We would like to thank all our partners, co-applicants and students for participating in and contributing to ongoing Geothink research.

Cover image: Geothink [Summer Institute 2017](#)

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Launch of Geothink&Learn Webinar Series

On Wednesday October 4, Geothink Co-Applicant [Pamela Robinson](#) launched the [inaugural Geothink&Learn Webinar](#) on Pokémon GO and Governance. The first instalment of this series covered a wide variety of themes surrounding the popular augmented reality game. These included the digitization of government, the legal implications of location-based technologies and issues of identity, race and surveillance in hybrid spaces.

The series [marked the beginning of a new phase](#) for the five-year Geothink partnership research grant. The monthly webinars will bring together Geothink themes that have been developed over the course of the grant, allowing researchers to share and discuss their work with a wide audience.

“In the final year of our five-year partnership grant, our original themes have emerged into concrete research collaborations and products,” Geothink Head and associate professor in McGill University’s [Department of Geography](#) and



Geothink's first Geothink&Learn webinar explored themes surrounding 'Pokémon GO and Governance'. [Image courtesy of @PokemonGoApp]

[School of Environment](#), [Renee Sieber](#) said of the evolution of the grant. “As a result, we’re inviting the Geothink community and the public at large to come learn with our experts, think about what they’ve just heard, and discuss online with our community.”

Alongside presentations, the sessions feature open discussions between panelists on questions posed by the webi-

nar’s attendees. Listeners are encouraged to reflect on the ideas discussed by the researchers. They can submit live feedback to spark new conversations or to draw relationships between ideas.

“The online webinars are intended to bring together our grant’s co-applicants, partners, collaborators, students and public to learn and share,” Geothink Project Manager [Sonja Solomun](#) said. “We were really excited to hear dynamic panelists in our first two Geothink&Learns this October and November on Pokémon GO and the Future of Open Data.”

The first session was convened by Robinson, an associate professor in Ryerson University’s School of Urban and Regional Planning and the associate dean for Graduate Studies and Strategic Services. Speakers included Sieber; [Tenille Brown](#), adjunct professor and doctoral



Second in the Geothink&Learn series was 'The Future of Open Data'. You can catch up on Geothink's past webinars [online](#). [Image courtesy of [gcn.com](#)]

candidate in the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law; [Nick Seaver](#), assistant professor in Tufts University's Department of Anthropology; and [Adriana de Souza e Silva](#), associate professor at the Department of Communication at North Carolina State University.

featuring Geothink Partners [Jean-Noé Landry](#), executive director of Open North, and [Marcy Burchfield](#), executive director of the Neptis Foundation; and, Co-Applicants Robinson and [Teresa Scassa](#), a Canada Research Chair in Information Law at the University of Ottawa.

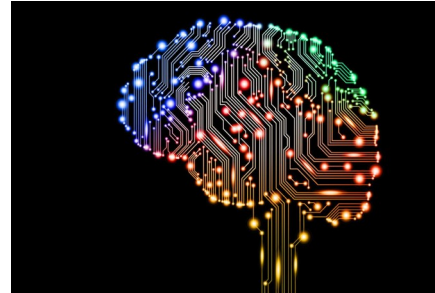
The panelists considered a wide range of issues surrounding the location-based, augmented reality game Pokémon GO, in which users catch, collect and battle virtual creatures (Pokémon). The evolving conversations around these issues suggest that maybe it is more than just a game.

Further Geothink&Learn webinars will take place each upcoming month until the grant concludes in April 2018. The most recent webinar, on November 14, focused on the [future of open data](#). It was convened by Geothink Co-Applicant [Peter Johnson](#), an associate professor in University of Waterloo's Department of Geography and Environmental Management.

"We were really excited to have had dynamic panelists for our first two Geothink&Learns in October and November on Pokémon Go and the Future of Open Data," Solomon said. "We invite you to register in advance as we publish updates on each monthly webinar on our Web site."

You can catch up on Geothink's past webinars on [Geothink's Youtube Channel](#) and keep up to date on the future Geothink&Learn schedule on [Geothink's website](#).

We would like to thank the partners, co-applicants and students for their participation in the Geothink&Learn series.



The next Geothink&Learn will be held on Dec 7 at 12:00 (EST)

Join us on Thursday, December 7 at 12:00 (EST) as Geothink.ca will host its [third monthly Geothink&Learn](#) video conference session on the topic of governing artificial intelligence. It will highlight Geothink's unique interdisciplinary perspective and include a myriad of ideas from our faculty, students and partners.

[Image courtesy of digitaltrends.ca]

Geothink&Learn 1 Recap: Pokémon GO and Governance

The contrasting but connected perspectives from our first Geothink&Learn offer insight into how developers and researchers of augmented reality (AR) and Global Positioning System (GPS) based applications need to bear in mind a wide range of potential implications. In particular, the panelists suggest that governments and municipalities trying to take advantage of new technologies will need to consider issues of surveillance, inclusivity, vulnerability and law. Highlights from the inaugural Geothink&Learn webinar and each of its speakers follow below.

Pamela Robinson - Pokémon GO and governance

Collaborating with student researchers at Ryerson University, Robinson and her team explore the question: "What if local governments try to use AR like Pokémon Go?" The researchers developed an evaluative framework to assist municipal staff in considering the multiple dimensions of new technologies in their services, emphasizing the usability and inclusivity.



"The students found that new technology presents both opportunities and challenges, and this evaluative framework that they've developed is a good working tool for municipal staff."

Adriana de Souza e Silva - Mobility, sociability and surveillance in Hybrid Spaces

In her presentation on Mobility, sociability and surveillance in hybrid spaces, de Souza e Silva traces AR history, explaining how GPS and augmented reality games can alter the ways people move in the city, create different perceptions of space, foster collaborations between users and form new tenets of neutral surveillance.

"We need to think about how Pokémon GO follows a trajectory of location-based hybrid reality games, how people move differently through space, to experience things in different ways, to collaborate with other people and to survey other people in public space."



Tenille Brown - Pokémon's Properties

This section offered a perspective on the ongoing legal activities around property law and augmented reality which have arisen from Pokémon GO. Players of the game wandering onto private property to catches Pokémon has raised legal questions in trespass law, nuisance law and property law surrounding the use of GPS coordinates as a public resource.



The new part is the GPS coordinates - can they constitute trespass, are they included within the boundaries of private properties, and is it possible to interfere with a properties GPS coordinates in a way that constitutes nuisance?"

Renee Sieber - Race, Class and Geography

In her talk, Sieber discusses the often underrepresented implications of using algorithms to match game elements to real world places through geospatially aware devices. Automation of feature-to-feature attachments can often ignore human sensitivities, and can mask underlying normative agendas.

"As we create these tools to understand spaces, we're essentially creating a custom view of place. With the increasing application of machine learning algorithms, you are not seeing the same searches that others are; it is in the interest to customize."



Nick Seaver - Pokémon GO and Three Kinds of Capture

With reference to his recent research on anthropological traps, Seaver explores the ways in which Pokémon GO reverses the 'capture' concept on its users. Gamers are incentivised to spend large amounts of time interacting with the augmented reality in the game, with user desires being anticipated by developers: you gotta catch 'em all.



"What's being caught are not only the Pokémon themselves, but also you. It is important to recognize how behaviorism principles can be incorporated into game design to get people hooked, when building habit forming technologies"

Shelley Cook Awarded the Dr. Alexander Aylett Graduate Scholarship

Geothink Student Shelley Cook Awarded Dr. Alexander Aylett Graduate Scholarship in Urban Sustainability and Innovation

[Shelley Cook](#), a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of British Columbia (UBC)-Okanagan, will be the recipient of Geothink's first [Dr. Alexander Aylett Scholarship in Urban Sustainability and Innovation](#) (La Bourse Dr. Alex Aylett en Durabilité Urbaine et Innovation. Her doctoral work is supervised by Geothink Co-Applicant Jon Corbett, an associate professor at UBC-Okanagan's Department of Community, Culture and Global Studies.

"I think It's hard for me to articulate how much it means to me," Cook said of this honor. "I'm utterly blown away by the privilege."

Cook's research was recognized as aligning with the late Dr. Aylett's vision for urban sustainability. Her work empowers homeless populations in the city of Kelowna by building new connections with homeless service providers such as community housing organizations.

Aylett's legacy for creative and durable solutions to social justice issues in cities lives on in Cook's work. He [passed away on July 23, 2016 from cancer](#) leaving behind a rich legacy of research into how cities can provide solutions on topics such as climate change and social justice using digital technology and open data.

Aylett's research explored how cities' use

of digital technology, citizen-sensors, and open data could allow local communities, government leaders and private businesses to manage urban areas more sustainable. One outcome driven by these new mediums for exchanging information has been an enhanced capacity of cities to use citizens and resources to strategically tackle issues such as climate change.

"Alex was a wonderful person—intense, caring, and insightful"

"Alex was a wonderful person—intense, caring, and insightful into how to derive practical political solutions to urban sustainability," Geothink Head Renee Sieber, associate professor in McGill University's Department of Geography and School of Environment, said. "He brought hackers, politicians, and environmentalists together to solve environmental and social problems through consensus and the pragmatic building of networks."

Geothink's Dr. Alexander Aylett Scholarship in Urban Sustainability and Innovation was established in Aylett's memory to provide vital support to graduate students sharing Aylett's passion for, and commitment to, sustainable urban development.

The award recognizes exceptional research contributing to the field of urban sustainability, and represents only one way in which Dr. Aylett's work is continuing to generate innovative, far-reaching impacts.

"Alex was an exceptional person and his presence seems to continue to surround those who knew and loved him," Richard Aylett wrote in an e-mail to Geothink. "And so, it is important that an award in his name goes to a project of value."

Alex' family is equally honored to award Cook's research, writing "Her work on mapping resources for homelessness in British Columbia corresponds with volunteer work that Alex did for street youth in Vancouver and is thus very appropriate."

The generous support from the Dr. Alexander Aylett Graduate Scholarship is invaluable for ensuring continued commitment to the idea of cities as sustainable and equitable sites for innovation and development.



Geothink Co-Applicant Alexander C.E. Aylett who passed away July of last year.

Cook's Research Brings Focus to City of Kelowna's Homelessness Plan and Services to Those in Need

One of the major challenge faced by anyone who finds themselves homeless involves finding shelter at places operated by a multitude of religious, government and nonprofit organizations. Thanks to the doctoral work of one Geothink student, that task just became a bit easier for those struggling with it in the City of Kelowna.

Shelley Cook, a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of British Columbia (UBC)-Okanagan, has worked with Geothink Co-Applicant Jon Corbett, an associate professor at UBC-Okanagan's Department of Community, Culture and Global Studies, to design iSearch-Kelowna.

Via the app and website, individuals seeking low-income rentals, emergency shelter and drop-in services are able to search for live, user-specific information about resource availability within the city of Kelowna.

"As we've moved out of phase one of our project, its morphing into another phase as it's getting picked up as an important tool to inform this homelessness strategy, and people are running with it," Cook said.

In fact, this past summer the City of Kelowna decided to make iSearch Kelowna a central part of their strategy on homelessness. This highlighted Cook's developing collaboration with the city on a project already supported by a team of researchers, funders and partner organizations.

Early feedback on iSearch Kelowna indicates that it is already providing users with a sense of ownership and advocacy over their own well-being and simplifying access to shelter information.

"It's really about promoting empowerment, a greater sense of fairness and equity on the distribution of resources," Cook said. "What we've done in terms of evaluation is directly talk to people who were formerly homeless or struggling with issues of maintaining adequate safe housing for themselves. That's the one big thing they've talked about. And



Shelley Cook developed the iSearch Kelowna site for her dissertation work.

there's lots of different elements around the interface that make it really usable and accessible."

Speaking with Geothink during the Summer 2017 Summer Institute, Corbett added that issues of social and spatial justice motivate the research he and Cook have undertaken.

"There's I think 84 different organizations that work on social justice related issues in and around the City of Kelowna," Corbett said. "Which is kind of shocking because the population of Kelowna is only 185,000 people. So the fact that you've got 84 different organizations working is indicative of how serious the problem really is."

The initial tool Corbett envisioned was going to be aimed at service-providers using real-time data to help coordinate where to send homeless people for specific services. That changed as Corbett and Cook began discussing the project with the City of Kelowna. It now includes portals for a variety of different types of users—including the homeless themselves.



[Home](#) [Map](#) [Help](#) [Definitions](#) [About](#) [For Agencies](#)

Designed to assist individuals looking for low-income rentals, supportive housing or emergency shelters, this website helps pinpoint housing and the agencies that provide it, within the City of Kelowna.

[Get Started](#)

[Drop In Services](#)

The iSearch Kelowna website is designed to assist individuals looking for low-income rentals, supportive housing or emergency shelters in the City of Kelowna.

"For us, it's been a whole set of reasonable technical challenges," Corbett added. "But we've also been dealing obviously with this very, very important social question."

There are also endless applications for how the open data collected as a part of the project can make services more accessible and comprehensive for those in need. One worry has always been how to make what is a digital application accessible to a population that might not always have internet access.

"The main branch of the Kelowna library, a main point around Kelowna's homeless community, has a dedicated monitor station during opening hours, is accessible for people to be able to search," Cook said. "So it's really about promoting service equity, and greater sense of fairness, and equity around the distribution of resources."

"They now possess the knowledge," she added of the homeless people using the site. "And what we know is they didn't have the knowledge of all of [the city's services]."

"So what that does is—the creating these forms of open data—opens up services to people and creates a more level playing field. Which is an incredibly powerful use of tools like this and was one thing that we weren't necessarily anticipating."

In the future, Cook plans to include more types of homeless services in the database and expand the site and offerings to other cities that have already expressed an interest in it.

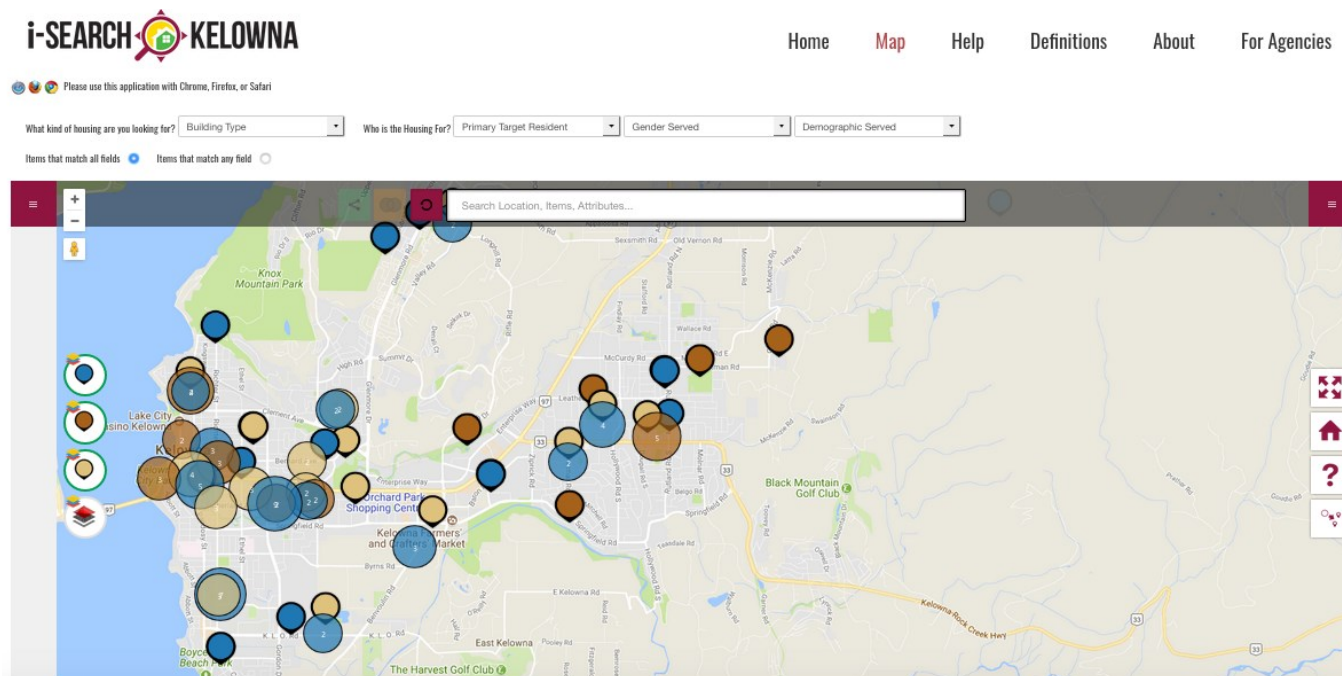
"The final piece is an awareness raising and an ongoing partnership," Cook said. "We're doing presentations where communities have an interest in British Columbia and Alberta at this point. We can be of assistance in helping them develop

a similar process and mentoring in that way."

For Corbett and Cook, this means getting the project into the hands of city officials where it will live and exist for the community in perpetuity.

"So from the perspective of urban sustainability, we're seeing municipalities, more so than in the past, getting involved with complex social issues like homelessness, and taking a lead role around these things," Cook said. "Having a technological backbone that can help function not only to generate important information but to help people come together under a collective virtual umbrella."

"That's a very powerful way to maximize and sustain existing community resources, and find innovative ways to create linkages and partnerships through tools and technology like iSearch Kelowna."



Through its map view, iSearch Kelowna lets users visualize residential services and housing agencies throughout the City of Kelowna.

Current Projects: GovEx and Geothink Launch New Open Data Standard Directory

New First-of-its-Kind International Open Data Standards Directory Launched by GovEx and Geothink Partnership

Deciding how to make Open Data publicly available presents a significant challenge to governmental data providers. Geothink partners and researchers have developed a unique tool to better coordinate government data collection and analysis.

Last week Geothink and the [Center for Government Excellence](#) (GovEx) at Johns Hopkins University [launched](#) a first-of-its-kind [Open Data Standards Directory](#) that identifies and assembles standards for open data shared by governments. The new directory provides guidance on the best format for sharing specific types of data to ensure its interoperability across local, regional and national jurisdictions.



Former McGill University student Rachel Bloom initiated the Open Data Standards Directory as her undergraduate project.



The first-of-its-kind Open Data Standards Directory identifies and assembles standards for open data shared by governments.

erability across local, regional and national jurisdictions.

The site [began as a Geothink project](#) led by McGill University student [Rachel Bloom](#) and was supervised by Geothink Head Renee Sieber, an associate professor in McGill University's [Department of Geography](#) and [School of Environment](#).

For her undergraduate honors research in the Department of Geography, Bloom developed a tool for searching and querying relevant open data standard for a diverse range of municipal open data. In partnership with GovEx, Julia Conzon and Nicolas Levy as McGill undergraduate students contributed to the project via visualizing and researching the directory.

"The standards directory helps people not only know what's out there," she added. "But based on a systematic approach, it allows people to also evaluate the standard and help them on their decision of which one to adopt. So I think that's really valuable."

This initiative has been further developed by The Center for Government

Excellence (GovEx) at Johns Hopkins University in partnership with Geothink and members of the open data community. It now represents the first ever international data standards directory. It helps governments provide data in formats that will most effectively support informed decision-making and the provision of services.

"There's a serious need for coordination on how governments at all levels classify different types of open data," Sieber said. "A collaboration with McGill University, this directory provides a comprehensive inventory of how data on transit, road construction, public facilities and more has been classified. It also allows evaluation of different standards to help guide governments in choosing the most useful ones."

The project emphasizes a collaborative approach that opens a two-way dialogue with municipalities. This allows its creators to better understand what is valued within the decision-making process and to encourage the adoption of specific standards for how open data is released. Users around the world are able and

encouraged to contribute additional information and update existing standards.

“Open data improves the lives of hundreds of millions of people, many incrementally and some dramatically,” [Andrew Nicklin](#), GovEx Director of Data Practices, said. “Our new directory will encourage global standards for how data is organized for more effective production and consumption at scale. This will insure an even greater impact on the local government services level.”

Historically, city governments and others have faced several challenges in dealing with open data sets. Among these challenges is a lack of agreement and coordination on how data sets

should be structured to best serve the public that are intended to be able to access them. The establishment and organisation of common standards can address this problem by encouraging practices that ensure data is accessible and usable by citizens. It can also ensure that datasets released by differing municipalities will be interoperable.

“The directory’s inventory helps simplify and demystify choices for governments and citizens by answering the question ‘what’s out there?’ but also takes it a step further by assessing the value of these standards to a city’s data provision,” said Jean-Noé Landry, Executive Director of [OpenNorth](#), a Geothink partner in this work. “The directory allows us to align data practices, join up

data, and enable emergent data uses. Data interoperability is one key to unlocking open data’s innovation potential and we believe this inventory is a very important step towards it.”

Currently there are over 60 standards on the directory from around the world and in multiple languages. GovEx hope to expand these efforts to continually broaden its range of standards, languages and user-bases.

To find out more about the open data standards directory project, you can listen to Geothink’s [podcast](#) on the initial project, catch an update on GovEx’s [latest Datapoints podcast](#) or visit the GovEx Beta [Data Standards Directory website](#).

What are Open Data Standards?

“Data standards are open, collaboratively developed sets of schematics or semantics that are agreed upon and that facilitate interoperability between multiple providers and consumers for the public good.”

“There are two main types of data standards. The first is schematic standards or the structure of the data and how information is related to one another. The second is semantic standards which are terms and definitions throughout the data in which definitions should be consistent.”

— [Connie Ress](#), Associate Director of Marketing & Communications at GovEx



Partner Spotlight: City of Montréal Unveils New Digital Services to Better Connect with Residents

One Geothink Partner, the City of Montréal, [recently launched](#) a set of new digital services this fall that aim to expand communication between citizens and the municipality. Via a new website and mobile application, Montréal residents can now report whether their trash has been collected and receive alerts on their smartphone about snow removal, alongside a number of other new services.

The newly launched [beta version](#) of the site features a user-focussed redesign that gives residents access to personalised online services. Users can create accounts with up to five listed addresses and receive alerts on city services such as snow removal, emergency notices, or neighbourhood events.

Alongside the site, a mobile application (app) has been made available on [iOS](#) and [Android](#). Users of the application can report problems on the go and subscribe to location-based notifications. Right now residents can use the app to report potholes, graffiti, broken street lights, damaged street furniture, cleanliness issues and tree branches that need to be collected.

“This is a new digital platform that will serve the transition of Montréal to a smart, digital city,” former Mayor Denis Coderre said in a statement about the launch. “We continue tirelessly our goal to develop and deploy human, open and innovative co-creation with our citizens, technological solutions to the major urban issues of the metropolis.”

This set of services is expected to grow as the digital platforms gains traction. By 2018 there are plans to grow the current available list of six reporting services to more than 200.

The service will also be adapted as feedback is gathered and there are proposals to include features that would avoid repeat reporting by sharing reporting information among users.

The City of Montréal’s announcement noted that “this is the first version that will be enhanced by new content and digital services over the coming months.” Eight of the city’s 19 boroughs are currently served by the mobile application while all 19 will be added to new platform by the start of 2018.

The new platforms will complement the pre-existing 311 system and increase

the number of ways that Montréal residents can ask questions of the city to address various situations.

There are many challenges associated with establishing new conduits of communication between the city and its residents through digital platforms. These include the need to build trust between parties and ensure that accessibility remains universal. The new launch represents one way the City of Montréal is aiming to tackle these challenges.

On their site, the City of Montréal encourage users to [participate in shaping the new service](#). They write that “the city’s new digital look cannot be complete without the input of users. Since we want to offer you a practical site that meets your needs for information every day, your feedback is essential.”



*The City of Montreal has launched new digital services to better connect with residents
[Image courtesy of [beta.montreal.ca](#)]*

Publications and Announcements

To increase awareness of the work happening at Geothink, we are reproducing calls for papers as well as announcements of new knowledge mobilization projects such as books and journal special issues. This lets everyone know when work on a planned book or paper is started. Partners are also invited to collaborate in writing. Not only are we including calls for papers or chapters for Geothink-specific output, we are also including related calls for papers from Geothink researchers.

Tenille E. Brown Selected as Visiting Scholar at the Centre for Critical Thought, University of Kent, England

Congratulations to Geothink student [Tenille Brown](#), a Ph.D. candidate and Part-time Professor in the [University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law](#), who has been [selected](#) as a Visiting Scholar at the [University of Kent Law School](#), England.

Kent Law School's Visiting Scholars Scheme offers academics the chance to spend a period of time during the UK academic year at the law school, undertaking research and participating in the school's diverse critical research community.

Brown's research is based in legal geography, emphasizing the property and spatial components of citizen engagement in Ottawa. Her research emphasizes the development of critical and justice-oriented understandings of law and its functions, utilizing non-traditional methodologies to interrogate the ways law can apply to areas without a deep awareness of the places it inhabits.

While in Kent, Brown will be based in the [Centre for Critical Thought](#) as she works on the "critical legal geography" aspect of her research. She will also be guest lecturing in property law theory.

Scassa, Teresa. "Crime Data and Analytics: Accounting for Crime in the City", in Rob Kitchin, Tracey P. Lauriault & Gavin McArdle, eds. Data and the City. Routledge 2017.

"This chapter considers crime data within a context that increasingly relies upon data and data analytics for planning, decision-making and for informing public understanding of problems and their solutions. The second section defines crime data while the third section explores those factors that limit them. The fourth section examines how crime data are communicated to the public, including as accessible, available and open data and through data visualization. The fifth section considers ways in which crime data can be used to increase both transparency of the systems that produce them and our understanding of crime in the urban context. While more and different data may enhance insight into urban crime and policing that can be derived from crime data, these data remain significantly limited by their subjectivity and by the legal institutional and cultural constraints that shape and control them."

<https://www.crcpress.com/Data-and-the-City/Kitchin-Lauriault-McArdle/p/book/9781138222632>

Brabham, Daren C., and Guth, Kristen L. "The Deliberative Politics of the Consultative Layer: Participation Hopes and Communication as Design Values of Civic Tech Founders", *Journal of Communication*, 67 (2017), 445-75

Abstract: "Drawing from communication as design and the spirit of technology, this study investigated the political values embedded in consultative layer companies, with particular attention to the influence of normative deliberative democratic ideals in tech design. Interviews with the founders of consultative layer tech startups explored (a) founders' visions for their technologies and how they were incorporated, (b) the imagined user groups for these technologies, and (c) expected broader outcomes as a result of using their platforms. Six inter-related themes emerged in the analysis that illuminate ideologies, ideals, and pragmatic considerations embedded in the consultative layer, raising new theoretical and practical questions about the role of communication in understanding this emerging industry and its reimagining of government in the online space."

<http://doi.wiley.com/10.1111/jcom.12316>

Geothink Research Themes

Theme 1: Anywhere, Anyone, Anytime

We believe that the Web 2.0 and its associated technologies will dramatically shift the way cities talk to their constituents and others. People can communicate with cities from anywhere, outside of a jurisdiction, and at any time, for example, which means outside formal venues like city council meetings. Anonymity implies that you do not know the identity of the contributor. This challenges traditional definitions of community, citizen, and participation. We will evaluate the processes of technology development and that impact on its city and the citizen.

Theme 2: Spatial Authenticity, Accuracy, and Standards

The moment you bring up volunteered geographic information (VGI) (e.g., with Open 311), you worry about the quality of data. This theme considers questions of data structures, standards, and documentation practices used by public agencies. The research produced also aims to develop consensus on terminology, data standards, and dissemination regarding the opening up of government data and acceptance of VGI.

Theme 3: Laws, Norms, Rights and Code

Data related to governance is not simply a technical matter. Issues that are policy-related and legal in nature will be a primary focus as we try to understand the way Geoweb 1) fits within existing laws and policy, and 2) shapes new policies and law. Specific legal domains of interest are privacy, intellectual property, access to information, access to justice, and the interplay between norms, codes and technology with regards to governance.

Theme 4: Open Everything

We will track municipal open data engagement over time, theorize about the impacts of open data on governance, and understand and develop best practices. We also have the opportunity to document these approaches and track the evolution of open data practices over time.

Theme 5: Social Justice

We will explore aspects of Geoweb – Society relationships as they pertain to social justice. We will identify the success and failures of Geoweb for community development. Using a case study approach we will employ participatory research to identify emerging concepts of place, the intersection of community, engagement and social justice, and accessibility to the Geoweb.

Theme 6: Geoweb Political Economy

This theme will focus on understanding the political economy of the Geoweb as it concerns ownership structures, institutions, and policies. Power relationships between actors and processes of inclusion and exclusion among social media owners and users also will be our focus.



Geothink Partners and Collaborators

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OpenStreetMap - US Chapter	Salt Lake City	Utah	Van Excel/Martijn	m@rtijn.org
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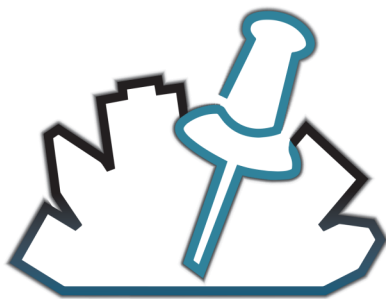
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