

# **Already Gone? the tyranny of space and the banishment of process**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The main aim of this paper is to generate discussion of the relationship between our geospatial representations of the world, our evolving society (including the research community) with its geospatial usages, and the emerging geoinfosphere in its various forms. At the heart of the paper is a concern over the barrenness of a naive spatial conceptualisation of the world and the limited progress we have witnessed in developing information systems that capture not just time but aspects of process and qualitative content. That concern is addressed through posing a number of questions that explore the different realms of geospatial representations, the most visceral riddle being why we started by designing information systems that assumed the world was like a map, and the most important query being what we would do if we started again from ground zero. The paper begins by considering the different geospatial stages that are emerging on the back of a growing embedding of spatial concepts within social practice and research. The theoretical and practical challenges that these changes pose are then identified, and tied back to fundamental debates on the nature of space, place, process and geographic realities. The final section makes a case for geographic information and visualisation systems which not only acknowledge the time dimension but also qualitatively embody an implicit sense of process and rich value in their core architecture.

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