

LSGI Distinguished Lecture Series

“The Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA) UCL: Research Activities at CASA”

Overview

It was our pleasure to invite Prof. Michael Batty, Emeritus Professor of Planning at University College London, United Kingdom, to deliver a seminar of the LSGI Distinguished Lecture Series on 26 April 2017.



Abstract

I will present a summary of our work at CASA over the last twenty years since it was set up in the mid 1990s to exploit research in GIS. I will explain how it fits within UCL, which is one the main university colleges in the University of London system, and I will recount how our focus is largely on cities and the application of geospatial and simulation methods to urban development. Our focus has evolved in three ways from our initial emphasis on urban GIS. First we have worked on various methods of urban modelling which has now become more focussed on transport, second on visualisation and multimedia which has evolved from 2 and 3D visualisation to developing virtual cities, and third on smart cities, which has evolved from our interests in mapping and cyberspace where many of our other research activities have fused. I will explain how our centre has evolved from a soft money research focus to more of a teaching centre involving our new Masters program in Smart Cities and Urban Analytics, and in conclusion tell you where I think our future lies.

Prof. Michael Batty



Michael Batty is Bartlett Professor of Planning at University College London where he is Chair of the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA). He has worked on computer models of cities and their visualisation since the 1970s and has published several books, such as *Fractal Cities* (Academic Press, 1994) *Cities and Complexity* (MIT Press, 2005) which won the Alonso Prize of the Regional Science Association in 2011, and most recently *The New Science of Cities* (MIT Press, 2013). His blogs www.complexcity.info cover the science underpinning the technology of cities and his posts and lectures on big data and smart cities are at www.spatialcomplexity.info. He is the editor of the journal *Environment and Planning B*. His research group is working on simulating long term structural change and dynamics in cities as well as their visualisation, as well as urban analytics for smart cities. He is a Fellow of the British Academy (FBA) and a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) and was awarded the CBE in the 2004 Queen Birthday Honours List. Most recently he was the 2013 recipient of the Lauréat Prix International de Géographie Vautrin Lud, and in 2015, he received the Founders Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society.