



Geographical referencing for social scientists: A practical workshop



**Wolfson Teaching Room, Main Library, University of Edinburgh
21 November 2007**

A workshop for social science researchers who need to work with geographically-referenced data

Q. Do you have data which you want to map or link to other data which have some form of geographical referencing but are not sure how to go about it? For example:

- Postcoded survey data which you wish to link to census data
- Addresses which you wish to map relative to roads, rivers and administrative areas
- GPS data which you wish to link to aerial photographs

Q. Are you a social scientist, but not a geographer?

...If so, the Geo-Refer workshop may be a valuable learning opportunity for you.

Aims

The primary aim of the workshop is to provide social science researchers with the principles and methodological understanding to enable them to carry out the specific geo-referencing task(s) that they need to undertake. For example, researchers sometimes wish to attach geographical references to their data or to link datasets which contain different types of locational information. This geo-referencing is often necessary to enable them to produce maps of their data or so that they can conduct specific geographical data analyses such as multi-level modelling, point pattern analysis or geographically weighted regression. Participants will be asked to provide a brief summary of their research project when they register for the workshop and to bring a sample of their data for the practical sessions. However, you do not need to be working on a specific project to take part in this workshop. Based on participants' profiles, the project team will customise the workshop programme, comprising a morning session focused on principles, methods and key datasets and a hands-on afternoon workshop in which participants can apply the lessons learned to their own data or to data we supply.

Learning objectives:

- To obtain a conceptual understanding of the issues involved in geographical referencing of social science datasets
- To gain practical skills and familiarity with key methods and reference datasets which can be applied to participants' own research needs
- To have the opportunity to share geographical referencing questions with an expert team and a group of users with similar research challenges and experiences

Who is this workshop aimed at?

This workshop is aimed at social science researchers, who are not geographers, but who have a specific research problem which requires that they use geographically referenced data. No previous experience of geographical information systems or geo-referencing data is necessary. We are also seeking to be able to use participants' research profiles as case study examples as part of the collection of online learning resources that we are creating as part of the Geo-Refer project (see below).



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Outline schedule for the day

10.30	Arrival and coffee
11.00	Welcome and introductions
11.15	Geo-referencing concepts and methods
12.40	Using Geo-Refer online resources
13.00	Lunch
14.00	Hands-on workshop using participants' datasets
15.30	Presentation of worked examples
16.00	Tea and close

Workshop instructors

The instructors for this workshop will be the Geo-Refer project team, who have extensive experience of advising and assisting researchers from many social science disciplines in dealing with the geographical aspects of their data:

David Martin, a Professor of Geography at the University of Southampton has research interests based on 20 years working with social science applications of geographical information systems. He developed the system for output area design used in the 2001 Census in England and Wales, is director of the ESRC/JISC Census Programme and a co-director of the ESRC National Centre for Research Methods.

Samantha Cockings, a lecturer in Geography at the University of Southampton has extensive experience in teaching geographical information systems and in research particularly with geographically referenced health data.

Samuel Leung, a learning technologist with expertise in the development of online learning resources in geography is a surveyor by background and has most recently worked on the JISC/NSF funded DialogPLUS project.

The Geo-Refer project

The Geo-Refer project (<http://www.geog.soton.ac.uk/geo-refer>) is part of the ESRC Researcher Development Initiative (<http://www.rdi.ac.uk>). Its primary aim is the creation and deployment of online learning resources targeted at social scientists whose research requires them to use and link geographically referenced data, but whose main discipline is not geography. The online learning resources will be highly modular and organized into four levels dealing with principles, methodology, data and exemplar applications. These are designed to be reusable, updatable, and conform to the main educational technology interoperability standards. They are delivered through the project's learning site in such a way that users can profile their own learning needs to obtain customised tutorial sequences through the principles, methods and datasets relevant to their own work, accompanied by relevant case study examples.

As part of the project we are offering a series of practical workshops, of which this is the third. These workshops will allow us to better understand and profile the needs of social science researchers and to add to the pool of real-world example case studies that can be used in the online resources.



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Registration form - Please complete one registration form per delegate		
1. About yourself		
Title	First name	Last name
Institutional affiliation		
Full postal address, including postcode		
Telephone	Fax	
Email address		

2. Your registration			Fee
Choose ONE of these:	UK registered postgraduate student*	<input type="checkbox"/>	£20
	Staff at UK academic institution	<input type="checkbox"/>	£40
	ESRC funded researcher	<input type="checkbox"/>	£40
	Registered charity organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	£40
	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	£175
AMOUNT PAYABLE			£

*Available to full time students in Higher or Further Education. Your registration form should be accompanied by a letter of support from a tutor or supervisor on headed paper.

3. Your other requirements
Please tell us about any other special requirements you may have (dietary, accessibility, other assistance required). We regret that parking spaces cannot be booked for workshop participants.

4. Declaration	
Please register me for Geographical referencing for social scientists: A practical workshop	
I am willing for my name and institutional affiliation to appear on the list of participants.	Yes / No



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Registration form (continued)

YOUR NAME: _____

5. About your research

In order that we can best customise the workshop programme to meet participants' needs, please tell us more about yourself and your research project. Please briefly outline the objectives of your research, the datasets you are using, any prior experience or particular questions you would like addressed. An example is provided below:

I am a PhD student in the first year of my research in the Institute for Health Policy at the University of Axminster. My thesis aims to investigate the relationship between rurality, deprivation and health inequalities in the West of England, covering the study period 1998 to 2003. My supervisor and I will be applying for access to postcoded Hospital Episode Statistics (showing hospital admissions by broad medical speciality with the patients' postcode of residence) and from a previous project at the Institute we have a list of hospital and GP surgery addresses in the region. I will be using the 2001 census to provide background populations and will need to link these to the hospital and primary care data. I need to classify the study region into urban and rural areas but we also want to use the 2000 Index of Multiple Deprivation. I have been told this is only available for 1998 wards and I am not yet sure how these relate to any of the other areas – I especially hope the workshop can help me with this!

We also ask that in order to facilitate the afternoon hands-on practical workshop, you extract a small subset of your data (for example, the first 100 rows of each data file that you would like to work with) and bring it with you to the workshop on a USB data key or CD.



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Registration form (continued)

6. Payment instructions	
Complete EITHER cheque or card payment details:	I enclose a cheque made payable to the ' University of Southampton ' for the sum of (please enter AMOUNT PAYABLE): <input type="text"/> £ <input type="text"/>
	Please charge my credit/debit card the sum of: (please enter AMOUNT PAYABLE): <input type="text"/> £ <input type="text"/>
	Card type* Visa / Mastercard / Delta / Switch <i>*Please delete as applicable. NB We are unable to accept American Express or Diners</i>
	Please note that for security reasons, you should print and complete this form and send it to us at the address below.
	Card Number (16 digits) <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	Issue date (month / year) <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> (if applicable)
	Issue number <input type="text"/> (Switch only)
	Expiry date (month / year) <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	Name on card <input type="text"/>
	Card security code <i>(Last 3 digits on signature strip)</i> <input type="text"/>
Contact telephone number <input type="text"/>	
Card billing address, including postcode	
All delegates please sign and date	
Signature	Date

This form should be sent, together with your cheque or payment details to **Geo-Refer Workshop, School of Geography, University of Southampton, Southampton, SO17 1BJ** by **16th November 2007**. Registration enquiries should be addressed to geo-refer@soton.ac.uk or by phone to 023 80593779.



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Registration form: notes of guidance

Workshop registration

The registration fee covers workshop pack and refreshments (teas, coffees and lunch) on 21 November 2007.

You should print and complete the registration form and return it, together with your cheque or payment details to **Geo-Refer Workshop, School of Geography, University of Southampton, Southampton, SO17 1BJ** by **16th November 2007**. Please note that for security reasons, we are unable to accept credit or debit card details sent by fax or email. All registration enquiries should be addressed to geo-refer@soton.ac.uk or by phone to 023 80593779.

Late booking and cancellation policies

Places are limited. To help us to organise and identify suitable case studies for the workshop, please send in your registration form no later than 9 November 2007. No cancellation refunds will be issued later than the deadline although substitutions will be accepted.

Venue and travel

The workshop will be held at the Wolfson Teaching Room on the ground floor in the Main Library of the University of Edinburgh on George Square. Please follow this link <http://www.ed.ac.uk/maps/central-area/main-university-library/> to view the campus map of the University. The Main Library is in Building 33 shown on the map. On arrival at the library, you should report to the security desk, you will then be directed to the Wolfson suite.

Please note that there is no specific parking provision for workshop attendees although there are metered parking bays nearby.

Use of PCs/laptops

Whilst you are welcome to bring your own laptop for making notes etc., please note that the hands-on parts of the workshop will be conducted using the training centre PCs in order to ensure consistency of network access and compatibility of software.