

DOING•CRITICAL•GIS

Baltimore, MD • April 1st–2nd • <http://doingcriticalgis.umbc.edu>

Keynote by Professor **Sarah Elwood**, University of Washington
Borrowing on the Authority of the Future: Doing Critical GIS Otherwise
April 1st, 6:30pm, Red Emma's 1225 Cathedral St., Baltimore, MD

This workshop gathers us to consider what doing critical GIS, as a means of advancing social and spatial justice, actually looks like in the current moment. In my remarks, I consider a range of already-existing radical politics rendered with spatial data, GIS, locative technologies, and interactive mapping, arguing that the social, political, epistemological violences they confront are frighteningly consistent, even as the specific digital constellating of this terrain has shifted. A critical GIS for this moment starts by remembering what historically oppressed groups have long known: That making new worlds requires radical imaginaries and intentional ruptures of an oppressive status quo. Emergent theoretical innovations in critical digital geographies are building these new lines of flights, as are creative digital spatial politics that code for life, survival and thriving in marginalized communities. They have much to teach us.



Sarah Elwood is a Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Washington, and a faculty affiliate of the UW's West Coast Poverty Center, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, and Certificate in Public Scholarship. With Vicky Lawson, she co-directs the Relational Poverty Network (RPN), a transnational interdisciplinary community of scholars collaborating to develop conceptual frameworks, research methodologies, and pedagogies for the study of relational poverty. Her research program has multiple strands, contributing to urban geography, relational poverty, visual politics, critical GIS & geoweb studies, and mixed methods. Her current research examines middle class poverty politics in the U.S. and Argentina, collaboration with Vicky Lawson, Nicolás Viotti, and Santiago Canevaro. Two recently completed initiatives examined the role of the geoweb in transforming privacy, activism and visual epistemologies; and the potential of interactive mapping technologies in fostering young teens' collaborative learning and critical politics. Her work has appeared in *Progress in Human Geography*, *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *International Journal of Geographical Information Science*, among others. She is co-editor of 2 books, *Crowdsourcing Geographic Knowledge: Volunteered Geographic Information in Theory and Practice* (with Daniel Sui & Michael Goodchild), and *Qualitative GIS: A Mixed Methods Approach* (with Meghan Cope).

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