

EDITORIAL

Editorial

It is my honor to succeed Somayeh Dodge as Co-editor in Chief of the Journal of Spatial Information Science (JOSIS). I have taken over her tasks in March 2025. I want to thank Somayeh for her dedication to the journal in working with authors and reviewers and further co-developing the vision of the journal with editors Ross Purves and Ben Adams.

As a Geo-Information Scientist, I see JOSIS as an important journal; on the one hand because of its “by researchers, for researchers” mission, without the involvement of publishers, and on the other hand because of its focus on the conceptual and theoretical foundations of spatial and geographical information science (GIScience), guarding the basis of the methods we work with. I see the latter as important for advancing GIScience in its role to 1) develop new concepts, theories and methods for emerging research questions, 2) make the concepts, theories and methods visible and reusable in ‘neighboring’ research domains, both methodological and applied, potentially requiring to extend and refine existing methods, and 3) disseminate the methods to ‘more distant’ applied research domains in which spatial analyses are still underused. An example from my own field of expertise are geosimulation models, for which new calibration methods are developed that consider the role of space (pillar 1), that are adapted to include domain theory, as in pedestrian simulation models that consider spatial cognition of the agents (pillar 2), and continue to spread to new domains. For example, a current project I am involved in simulates how languages spread and evolve through time (pillar 3).

In my view, JOSIS is a great outlet for research in the first two pillars with its focus on the development of new methods, or the adaptation of existing methods for reuse or to make them fit application domains with different requirements than the original. I am committed to ensuring such high-quality GIScience research by monitoring the conceptual and theoretical foundations of the used methods and the domain knowledge that determine the conditions for the application case. I bring this into the editorial practice by trying to find reviewers from both sides (theoretical/conceptual and domain-oriented) for each manuscript I handle. I express my gratitude to all reviewers that have supported me with this in the past eight years, in my role as associate editor for Computers & Geosciences, and to all who have helped and will help me in the future in my new role as Co-editor in Chief of JOSIS. Looking forward to working with you!

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