

Geospatial Ontology – ISAO 2016

Assignment – An essay on “Geographical Fields”

In this assignment, you will first consider the notion of a field (or coverage, in OGC's jargon). First read the entry about geographical fields at Wikipedia: ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field_\(geography\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field_(geography))). Then, read the by Couclelis, Kemp, and Camara.

The Couclelis paper is one of the first theoretical perspectives comparing the ‘object’ and ‘field’ visions of the geographical world. It is a great paper that deserves to be read many times. Kemp's paper discusses the different representations of fields and the conversions between those representations. Camara's recent paper presents a generic view of the concept of fields, that includes dynamics of change.

Then, write an essay on geographical fields (400-1000 words). Please present your vision of the topic and also consider the following issues:

1. What are geographical fields and what is their importance? What is the origin of the term ‘fields’? Why do we use ‘fields’ to refer to natural landscapes?
2. What kinds of geographical entities does Couclelis classify as fields? According to her, are there entities that could be classified sometimes as fields, and sometimes as objects?
3. In Couclelis' view, are fields always represented as raster geometries in GIS? What about Camara's view?
4. What are the similarities and the differences between the definitions of fields given by Camara and by Kemp?