

## Keynote Speech

### Dr. Michael Goodchild

Dr. Goodchild is a professor of geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara; Chair of the Executive Committee, National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (NCGIA); Associate Director of the Alexandria Digital Library Project; and Director of NCGIA's Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science. Dr.

Goodchild received his B.A. degree from Cambridge University in Physics in 1965 and his Ph.D. in Geography from McMaster University in 1969. After 19



years at the University of Western Ontario, Dr. Goodchild moved to Santa Barbara in 1988. He was Director of NCGIA from 1991 to 1997. He was elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and Foreign Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2002, and member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2006. Dr. Goodchild has received honorary doctorates from Laval University (1999), Keele University (2001), McMaster University (2004), and Ryerson University (2004). He was Editor of *Geographical Analysis* between 1987 and 1990 and Editor of the Methods, Models, and Geographic Information Sciences section of the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* from 2000 to 2006. He serves on the editorial boards of ten other journals and book series. Dr. Goodchild's current research interests center on geographic information science, spatial analysis, and uncertainty in geographic data.

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### *Abstract*

#### **The Changing Face of GIS**

Rapid advances in a number of technologies, and the impact of these advances on the availability and applications of GIS, are driving a fundamental reconsideration of the nature and role of geospatial technology. I address two specific issues: the growth of user-generated content, otherwise known as volunteered geographic information (VGI); and the emergence of the field of critical spatial thinking as a necessary conceptual envelope in a world in which simple GIS functions are available to all. Both topics are significant for applications of GIS in the humanities and social sciences. I discuss recent research on who contributes VGI, about what topics, and with what quality; and introduce recent work on fundamental spatial concepts at the Center for Spatial Studies at UCSB.