

Proceedings of the 3rd AGILE PhD School 2015

Preface

The AGILE (Association of Geographic Information Laboratories for Europe) with its more than 80 member laboratories seeks to promote the academic teaching and research on Geographic Information Systems. To support the scientific work of young researchers, the AGILE Council decided to initiate a PhD School that is focused specifically on PhD candidates so as to prepare the next generation of research leader in our very dynamic scientific field. Following first editions in Wernigerode, Germany, in 2012, in Frauenwörth on the “Fraueninsel”, Germany, in 2013, the 3rd AGILE PhD School was run from September 15th – 18th at Champs sur Marne (Paris), France. It was hosted by IGN at the ENSG (National School for Geographic Information Science, Cité Descartes).

Major goals of the PhD-School are to bring together PhD students from different countries to exchange ideas and develop their own networks. The PhD topics discussed during the 3rd edition covered a wide spectrum of scientific fields with respect to geoinformatics and GI science, like for example image geocoding, distributed process modelling, big data analysis, usability assessment, visualization, user generated content management, spatio-temporal modelling, semiotics. Application domains were especially rich : climate change, ecosystem services, road regulation, vulnerability of maritime territory, informal settlements, urban corridors, health care, addressing. It was hence an opportunity for PhD students to gain insight about the nature of GI science domain and to be exposed to the diversity of fields and common features of our domain. Two contributions from senior researchers were also in the programme : from Danny Vandembroucke on the GI-Need2Know/Body Of Knowledge and from Professor Arnaud Banos on “Modeling complex spatial systems: new challenges for geography and GI science”.

Another goal of the PhD-School is to learn about the phd process itself. Several sessions organized by Professor Lex Comber were devoted to the process of doing a PhD itself : identifying and then telling a good story, developing writing styles, and realizing that they become the ‘experts’ at some point in the supervision process.

The organizers would like to thank the participants who submitted in a first step position papers, provided valuable input in the discussions of the PhD School, who worked hard during the phd School to improve their presentation of their work and afterwards issued papers that are now composing these proceedings.

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Stefan Ivanovic
Lex Comber
Bénédicte Bucher