

# Perspectives on the Complex Social Ecosystem of Public Participation in Digital Earth

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Huadong Guo  
Michael F. Goodchild  
Alessandro Annoni *Editors*

# Manual of Digital Earth

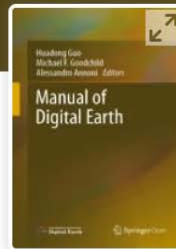


International Society for  
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## Chapter 18

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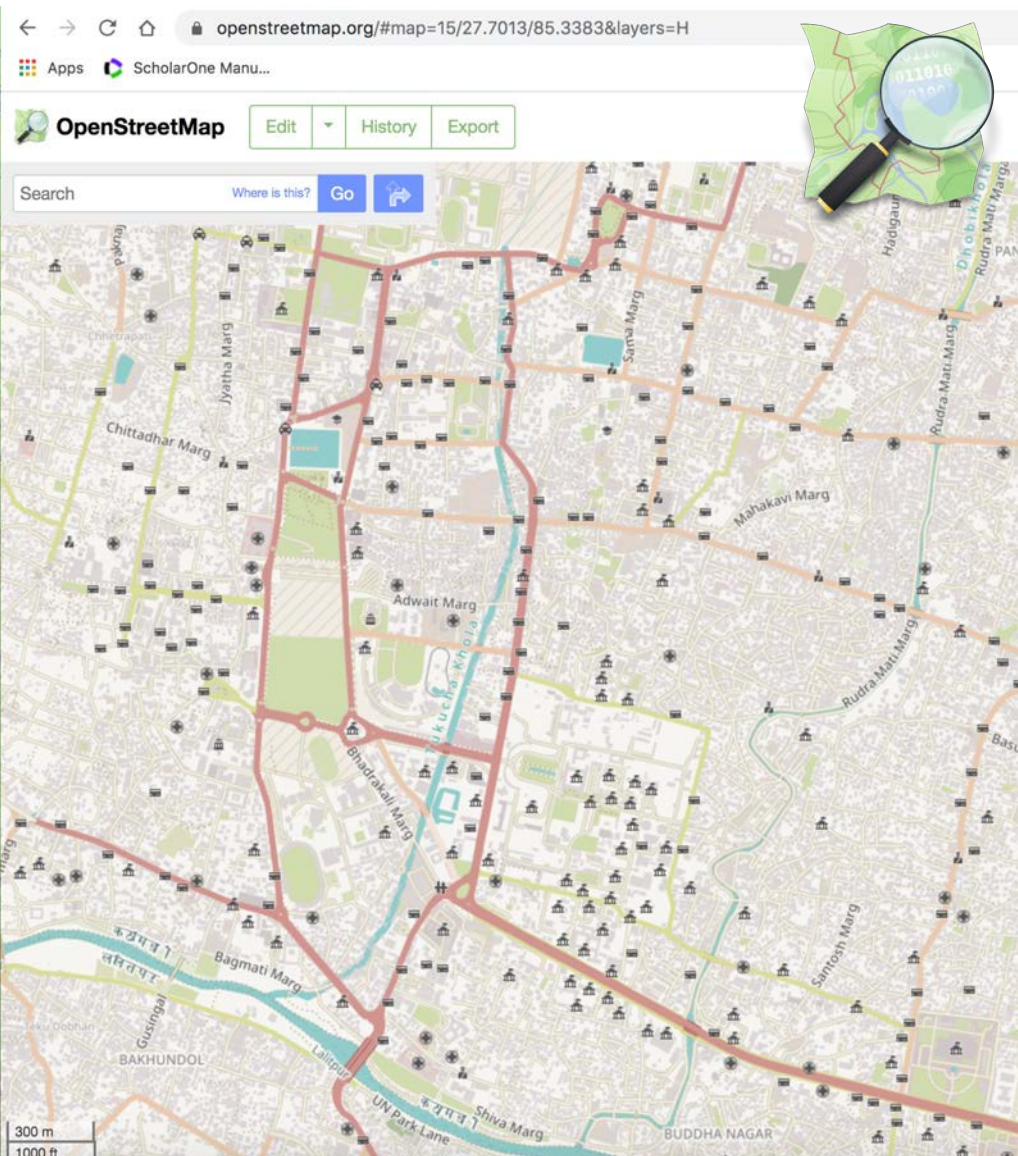
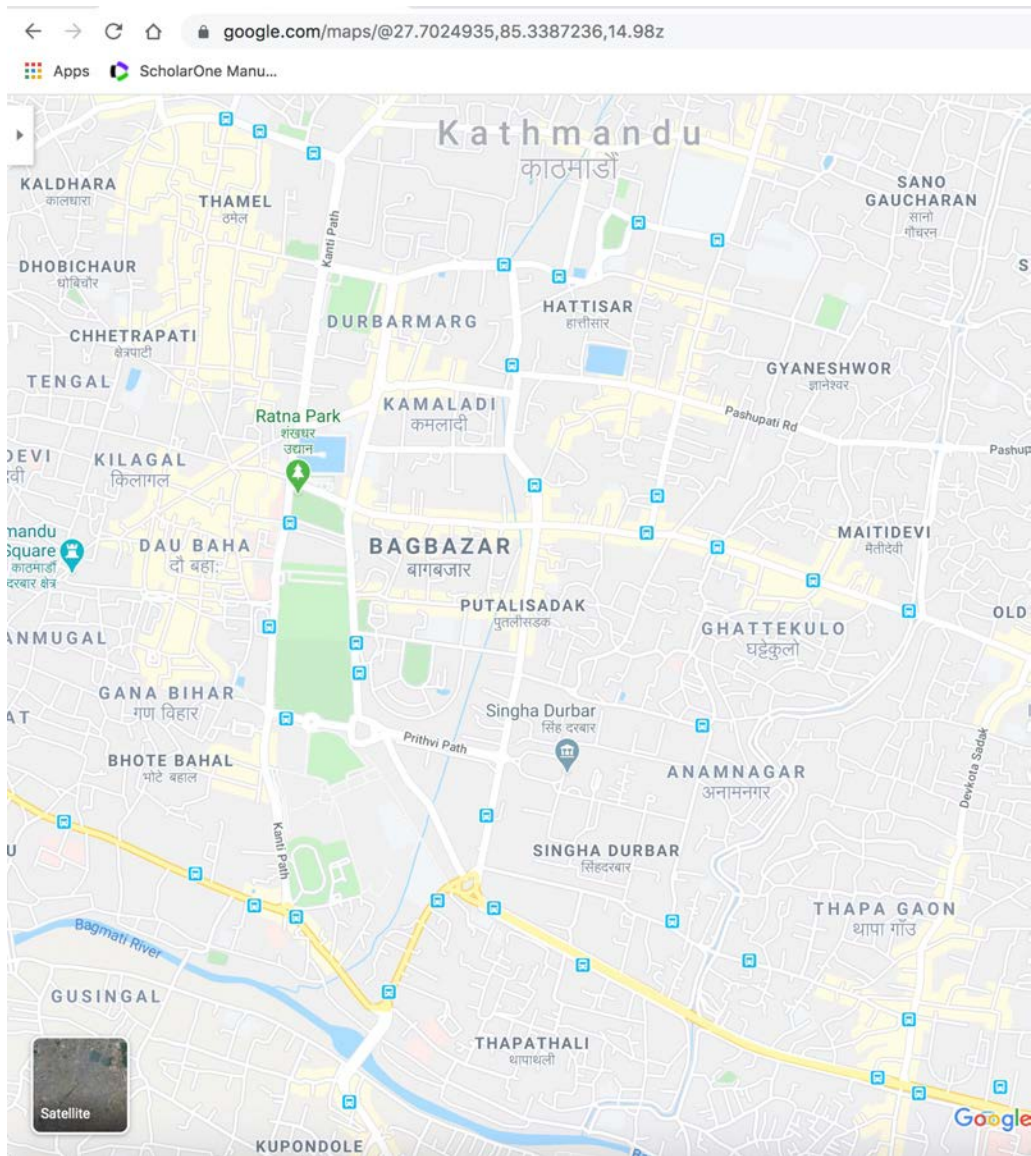
**Manual of Digital Earth** pp 593–622 | [Cite as](#)

## Citizen Science in Support of Digital Earth

[Maria Antonia Brovelli](#) , [Marisa Ponti](#), [Sven Schade](#) & [Patricia Solís](#)

Chapter | [Open Access](#) | [First Online: 20 November 2019](#)

**35k** Accesses | **10** [Citations](#) | **3** [Altmetric](#)





# OpenStreetMap



# Shirk J, et al. (2012) Public participation in scientific research: a framework for deliberate design. *Ecol Soc* 17(2):29–48

ic

Aspects of scientific research/monitoring process:	Contractual Projects	Contributory Projects:	Collaborative Projects:	Co-Created Projects:	Collegial Projects
Choose or define question(s) for study	X			X	X
Gather information and resources	(X)			X	X
Develop explanations (hypotheses)				X	X
Design data collection methodologies			(X)	X	X
Collect samples and/or record data		X	X	X	X
Analyze samples			X	X	X
Archive data					



Haklay M, Mazumdar S, Wardlaw J (2018) Citizen science for observing and understanding the earth. In: Mathieu P-P, Aubrecht C (eds) Earth observation open science and innovation. **Springer** International Publishing, Cham, p 69–88

# Citizen Science

Long-running  
Citizen Science

Citizen  
Cyberscience

Community  
Science

Ecology &  
biodiv.

Weather  
obs.

Archaeo-  
logy

Volunteer  
computing

Volunteer  
thinking

Passive  
sensing

Particip.  
sensing

DIY  
science

Civic  
science






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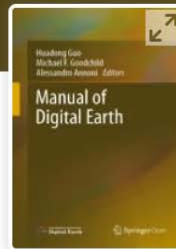


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# OpenStreetMap Community

“community of communities”



## Table 18.1 Dimensions of characterizing OpenStreetMap as a community of communities

From: [Citizen Science in Support of Digital Earth](#)

Sector-based categories	Modality of engagement	Social-based categories
Nonprofit/civil society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Humanitarian Sector (e.g., International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent)</li> <li>• Local nonprofit entities</li> </ul> Education/Academic Sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K-12 teachers</li> <li>• University students/faculty</li> </ul> Government/Public Sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local municipalities (e.g., World Bank's Open Cities)</li> <li>• State /Regional governance (e.g., Transport planning entities)</li> <li>• National agencies</li> <li>• Multinational (e.g., World Bank's Open Cities)</li> </ul> Private Industry/For-Profit or Commercial Sector <sup>a</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Technology and Services</li> <li>• Computer/GIS Software (e.g., MapBox,</li> <li>• Internet Companies (including Social Media)</li> <li>• Use-Driven (e.g., Restaurants, Construction, Retail, Health Care)</li> </ul>	Data contributors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local mapping (e.g., Craftmappers)</li> <li>• Local and remote (e.g., YouthMappers)</li> <li>• Remote mapping</li> <li>• Dataset uploading (e.g., road networks)</li> </ul> Providers of Map-based Services or Value Added to OSM <sup>b</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General (e.g., Geofabrik, OpenTopoMap)</li> <li>• Functional Providers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Edit/Compare</i> (e.g., <i>OSMCompare</i>)</li> <li>– <i>Live/real-time edits</i> (e.g., <i>Show me the way</i>)</li> <li>– <i>Quality Assurance</i> (e.g., <i>Keep Right, Osmose</i>)</li> <li>– <i>Export</i> (e.g., <i>Walking Papers, Field Papers</i>)</li> <li>– <i>3D Rendering</i> (e.g., <i>OSM Buildings</i>)</li> <li>– <i>Routing</i> (e.g., <i>OpenTripPlanner</i>)</li> <li>– <i>Interaction</i> (e.g., <i>Wikipedia overlay</i>)</li> <li>– <i>Services</i> (e.g., <i>OSMNames, OSM Landuse, OpenFireMap</i>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Thematic Providers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Biking, geocaching, hiking, sport</i></li> <li>– <i>Art, history, archaeology, monuments</i></li> <li>– <i>Public Transport</i></li> <li>– <i>Other</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Educational (e.g., TeachOSM, LearnOSM)</li> </ul> Consumers <sup>c</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As Base Maps (e.g., Facebook, Wikipedia, Weather.com, Snapchat)</li> <li>• As Data (e.g., Pokémon Go)</li> <li>• As Media (e.g., films and TV) <sup>d</sup></li> <li>• Internal systems (e.g., Uber)</li> </ul>	<b>Purpose-driven</b> (e.g., Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team) <b>Identity-focused</b> (e.g., GeoChicas) <b>Place-based</b> (e.g., Tanzania Development Trust)

<sup>a</sup>The OSM Wiki lists 80 entities in this category

## **Sector-based categories**

### Nonprofit/civil society

- Humanitarian Sector (e.g., International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent)

- Local nonprofit entities

### Education/Academic Sector

- K-12 teachers
- University students/faculty

### Government/Public Sector

- Local municipalities (e.g., World Bank's Open Cities)
- State /Regional governance (e.g., Transport planning entities)
- National agencies
- Multinational (e.g., World Bank's Open Cities)

### Private Industry/For-Profit or Commercial Sector<sup>a</sup>

- Information Technology and Services
- Computer/GIS Software (e.g., MapBox,
- Internet Companies (including Social Media)
- Use-Driven (e.g., Restaurants, Construction, Retail, Health Care)



## Modality of engagement

### Data contributors

- Local mapping (e.g., Craftmappers)
- Local and remote (e.g., YouthMappers)
- Remote mapping
- Dataset uploading (e.g., road networks)

### Providers of Map-based Services or Value Added to OSM<sup>b</sup>

- General (e.g., Geofabrik, OpenTopoMap)
- Functional Providers
  - *Edit/Compare* (e.g., OSMCompare)
  - *Live/real-time edits* (e.g., Show me the way)
  - *Quality Assurance* (e.g., Keep Right, Osmose)
  - *Export* (e.g., Walking Papers, Field Papers)
  - *3D Rendering* (e.g., OSM Buildings)
  - *Routing* (e.g., OpenTripPlanner)
  - *Interaction* (e.g., Wikipedia overlay)
  - *Services* (e.g., OSMNames, OSM Landuse, OpenFireMap)
- Thematic Providers
  - *Biking, geocaching, hiking, sport*
  - *Art, history, archaeology, monuments*
  - *Public Transport*
  - *Other*
- Educational (e.g., TeachOSM, LearnOSM)

### Consumers<sup>c</sup>

- As Base Maps (e.g., Facebook, Wikipedia, Weather.com, Snapchat)
- As Data (e.g., Pokémon Go)
- As Media (e.g., films and TV) <sup>d</sup>
- Internal systems (e.g., Uber)

Data Contributors

Providers of Map-based  
Services or Value Added

Consumers

## **Social-based categories**

### **Purpose-driven**

(e.g., Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team)

### **Identity-focused**

(e.g., GeoChicas)

### **Place-based**

(e.g., Tanzania Development Trust)



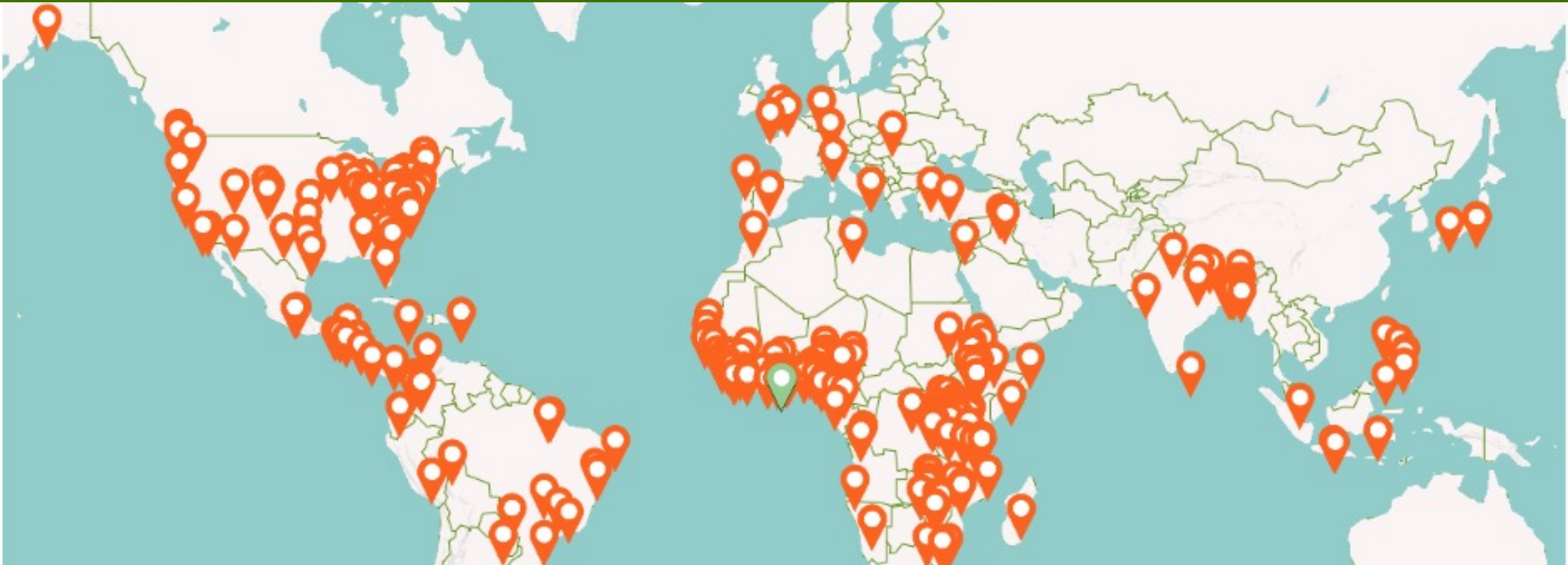




# youth mappers

Global consortium of student-led  
faculty-mentored campus-based  
chapters creating and using open  
maps for humanitarian and  
development action

**~5,000** students on **345** university campuses in **72** countries





## Remote (explicit) and Local (implicit) mapping







## Mapping with our communities

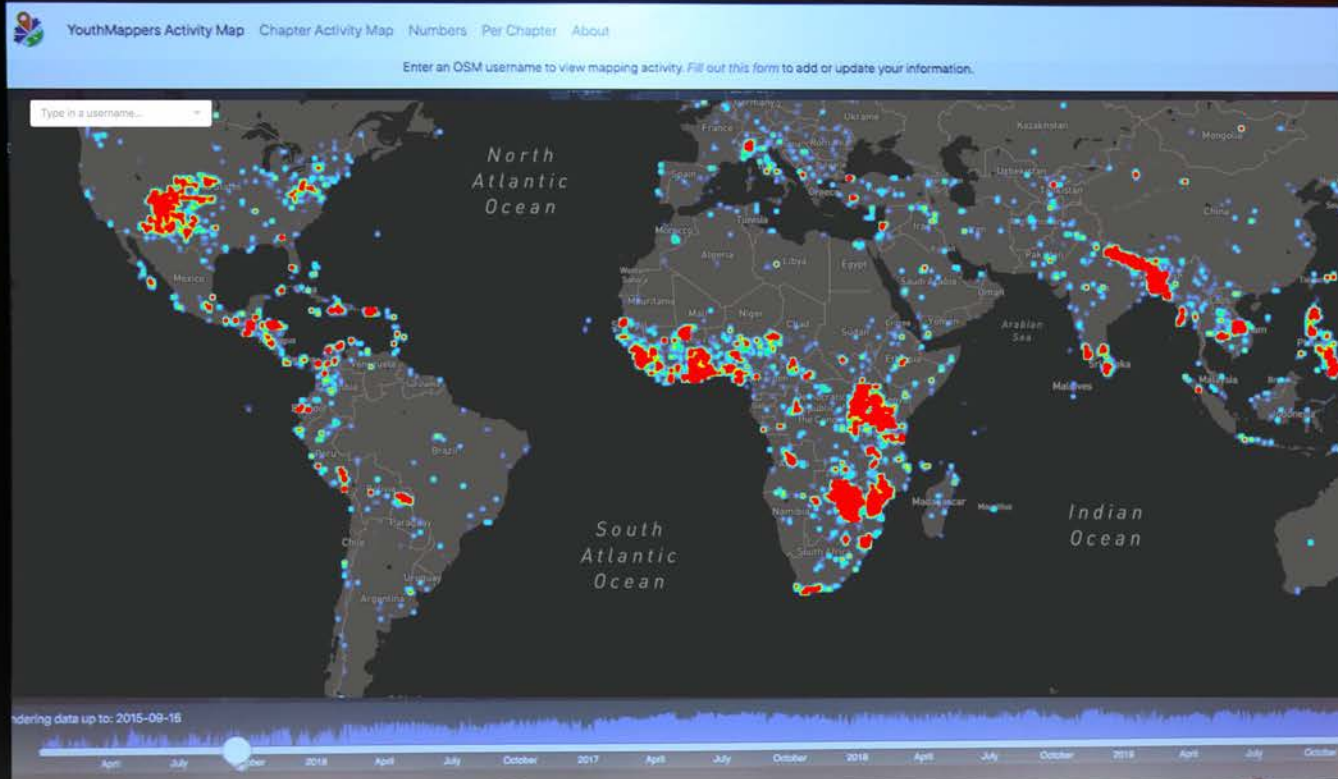






# Mapping with each other





activity.youthmappers.org



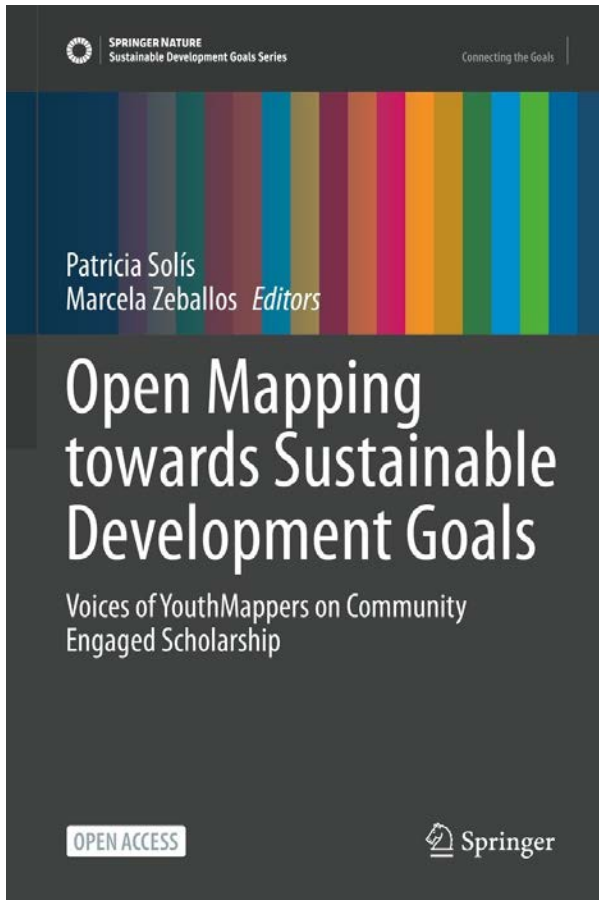


we don't  
just build  
maps.

we build  
**mappers.**

# youth mappers

**SPRINGER NATURE**



Open Mapping towards SDGs:  
**Voices of YouthMappers on  
Community Engaged Scholarship**



Edited by Patricia Solis and Marcela Zeballos

**68**

**co-authors**

**25**

**countries**



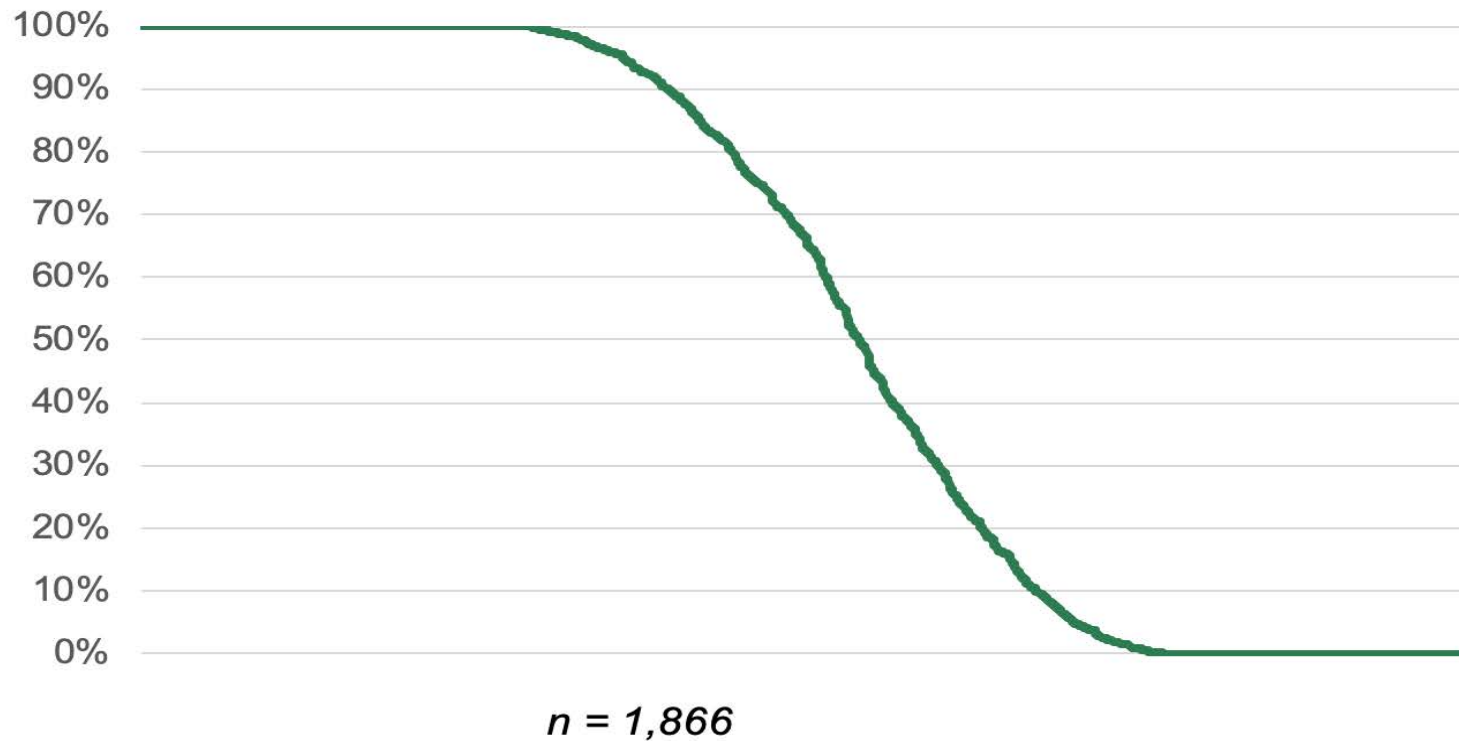


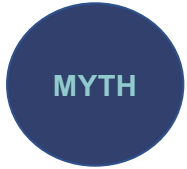
MYTH

## Participating youth only map remotely



Percentage of In Country to All Edits

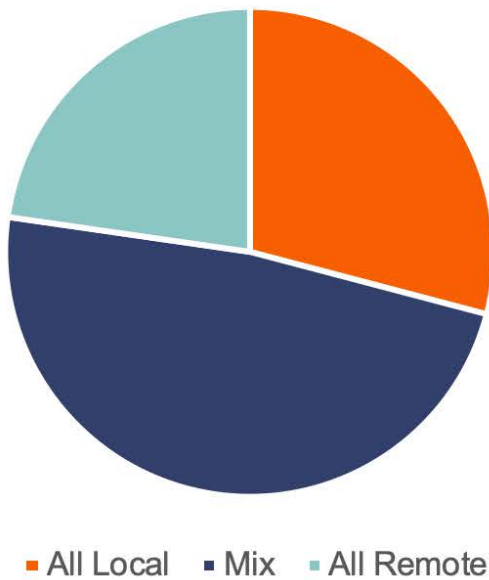




# Everyone in a community maps the same way



Number of Mappers by Tendency to Edit



Edit Output of Mappers by Tendency

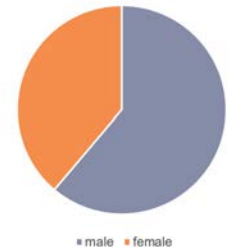


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# Participants in a community map the same features



Estimated Participation, by Gender



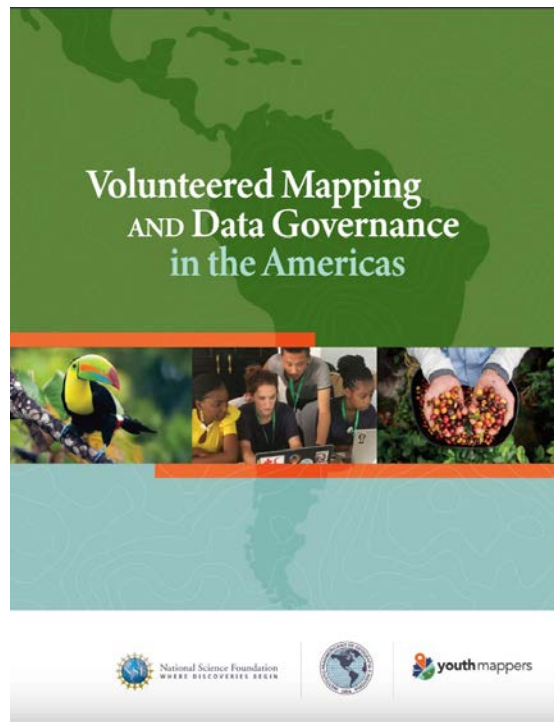
Percent of Edits that are In-Country relative to total Edits, by gender category, by feature

	Female	Male	Outliers*	All Gender Known	Difference (M-F)	Total YouthMappers OSM Username Dataset
N	n=200	n=297	n=8	n=505		n=766
Buildings	65.64%	52.55%	67.18%	55.13%	-13.09%	60.40%
Highways	44.90%	58.05%	61.26%	54.76%	13.15%	56.60%
Amenities	92.00%	91.06%	92.64%	91.23%	-0.94%	94.90%
<b>All Features</b>	<b>69.62%</b>	<b>54.03%</b>	<b>67.95%</b>	<b>57.56%</b>	<b>-15.59%</b>	<b>61.90%</b>

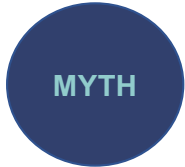
\* z-score above 3.0, effectively edits >250K

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**Student mapping is not good for anything beyond the classroom**







# Students are a fleeting community



Association for  
Computing Machinery

## Revisiting Engagement in Humanitarian Mapping: An Updated Analysis of Contributor Retention in OpenStreetMap

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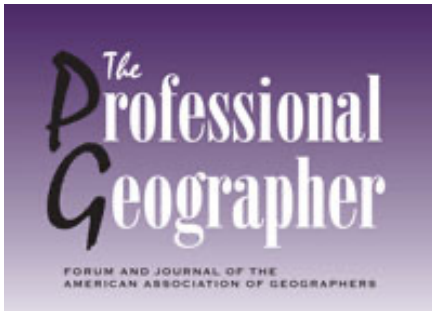
### ABSTRACT

This study revisits findings of the 2016 paper by Dittus et al. that considered trends in contributor retention in humanitarian mapping projects organized using the OpenStreetMap (OSM) platform. In addition to revisiting many of the same metrics used for the 2017-2020 time period, our research takes on a broader scope by evaluating a wider cohort of recruits, as opposed to specific projects evaluated by the original paper. As a result, our findings offer an

contributed to by people around the world. Its goals and scope are similar to Wikipedia, in that it seeks to create a decentralized method to update a body of knowledge, that can then be used freely by anyone else in the world. It was founded in 2004 in the UK, but has grown into a massive worldwide project with over 1 million unique user accounts who have collectively contributed billions of changes and updates to the global map. These changes can range from marking existing roads and houses, to updating

MYTH

## It doesn't matter why people map



### Exploring the Impact of Contextual Information on Student Performance and Interest in Open Humanitarian Mapping

Patricia Solís & Patricia R. DeLucia

To cite this article: Patricia Solís & Patricia R. DeLucia (2019) Exploring the Impact of Contextual Information on Student Performance and Interest in Open Humanitarian Mapping, *The Professional Geographer*, 71:3, 523-535, DOI: [10.1080/00330124.2018.1559655](https://doi.org/10.1080/00330124.2018.1559655)





# Some Take-aways

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- More study needed on cultural and organizational aspects of spatial data production and use in OSM specifically and Digital Earth more broadly
- Example of OpenStreetMap and YouthMappers as a community of communities (Solís 2016; Brovelli et al. 2019) helps us to recognize the diversity and complexity of social ecosystems in a people-centered approach
- Citizen Science generates a public good in many ways enabling an invested community as integral part of Digital Earth



**Life is a team sport.**

**...and so is open mapping.**

# Thank You!



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GEOGRAPHER

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**ASU** Knowledge Exchange  
for Resilience  
Arizona State University

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