Proceedings of the 4th AGILE PhD School 2017

Preface

The Association of Geographic Information Laboratories for Europe[1] (AGILE) has more than 80 member laboratories. It seeks to promote academic teaching and research with, using and on Geographic Information Science and Systems. As part of these activities it runs a biennial PhD School to support the early career researchers within the AGILE community. The 4th of these was held in Leeds following on from previous schools in Wernigerode, Germany, in 2012, in Frauenwörth Germany, in 2013 and Champs sur Marne, Paris, France in 2015.

The purpose of the school is for PhD students to exchange ideas. This will allow them to to gain insight about the nature of GI science is, to be exposed to the diversity of fields and common features of our domain, exchange about the PhD process itself and to develop their own networks. The school offers a platform for PhD students to present their research to date, their future activities and critically to discuss the GI-related methods and the context for their research. The focus of the PhD School is to develop generic research skills related to the presentation of research, selling the research to an audience, positioning research and submitting scientific paper to a conference or a peer reviewed journal. Each applicant submits a short position paper presenting their PhD, its context, research questions, etc and these wre subject to a review process. Fpr the Leeds PhD School a total of 12 participants were selected and each of them was invited to give a short talk, presenting their work to the group. The Schhol had 2 full days of activities focused on developing attendees generic research skills, related to writing and positing research, with each participant given the opportunity to develop their written output. These form the basis of this volume.

The PhD topics discussed during the 4th school covered a wide spectrum of information science fields related to spatial data with respect to geoinformatics and GI science. These included point pattern analysis, semantic, spatiotemporal analysis, analysis of access and mobility, multi-sensor data integration, data generalization data visualisation with applications in social media, hydromorphology, crime, mobility and geological mapping. This exposed students breadth and depth of the GI science domain and exposed them to the diversity of research areas and methods used. Most of the sessions focused on the nature of the PhD process 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. Special hands-on sessions on Agent Based Modelling were included in the programme run by Dr Nick Malleson.

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.
The PhD school has been financed by AGILE and some participants received a subsidiary from AGILE to alleviate their costs.

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[1] https://agile-online.org