About the Contributors

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Franziska Albrecht has been a Research Assistant at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in the Ecosystems Services and Management Program since September 2011. From 2005 to 2008, she studied international forest ecosystem management at the University of Applied Sciences Eberswalde, Germany. In December 2011, she graduated with a Masters degree in forestry from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna. Her research interests include ecosystem services, ecology and global information science, as well as remote sensing and land cover mapping.

Karl Atzmanstorfer is a Research Associate in the Paris-Lodron University Salzburg, Austria, and Academic Coordinator of UNIGIS in Latin America, University San Francisco de Quito (USFQ), Ecuador. Karl Atzmanstorfer holds an MSc in Applied Geoinformatics and an MSc in Geography, History, and Political/Social Sciences from Salzburg University. His scientific interests focus on the use of GIS in Latin America. He worked on the application of GIS in Public Health Planning at UNAN Leon, Nicaragua and on the development of a GIS-model for environmental niche detection that was designed to support the diversification of tropical smallholder agriculture with high-value crops (master thesis at the International Center of Tropical Agriculture, CIAT, Colombia). Since 2009, he is coordinating the postgraduate distance learning program UNIGIS in Latin America (www.unigis.net/quito). Furthermore, he is giving support to the participatory capacity building initiative AmazonGISnet, an indigenous-lead initiative for the local and regional planning of the Ecuadorian Amazon Provinces, and other community based (GIS-) projects in Ecuador.
Ashwin Balakrishnan is currently a candidate for a Masters in City Planning degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He is focusing on urban health and economic development, and how planners can use technology to improve public participation in urban planning processes. His previous experience includes working as a campaign coordinator for the Southern Bronx River Watershed Alliance – a collaboration of Bronx-based community organizations and city-wide advocacy organizations working primarily to remove the Sheridan Expressway and replace it with housing, open space, and economic opportunities for the South Bronx. Ashwin graduated from Pomona College in 2009 with a degree in Environmental Analysis, Biology. He has researched and worked on environmental justice and health projects in California, Louisiana, and India.

Elena Bellio, M.sc., Research fellow at CERMES - Department of Marketing of Bocconi University, Milan, Italy. Her research activities are focused on the following areas: Social and public service Marketing, E-government, E-Health, Innovation and marketing of public services, Citizen Relationship Management. She has several published papers and articles on national and international reviews.

Thomas Blaschke is Full Professor at the Paris-Lodron University Salzburg, Austria, Deputy Chair, Department of Geoinformatics, Head of Research Studio iSPACE, and Director of Doctoral College GIScience. His research interests include methodological issues of the integration of GIS, remote sensing and image processing also with aspects of participation and human-environment interaction. Prior positions comprise several lecturer, senior lecturer, and professor positions in Germany, Austria and the UK as well as temporary affiliations as guest professor and visiting scientist in Germany and the US including a Fulbright professorship at California State University. His academic record yields 280+ scientific publications including 60 journal publications. He is author, co-author or editor of 17 books and received several academic prices and awards including the Christian-Doppler Prize 1995. He has been and is project leader in various international and national research projects and serves on various editing boards of international journals, conference committees and for a dozen National research councils.

Daren C. Brabham is an assistant professor in the School of Journalism & Mass Communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is also a faculty fellow in the Center for Urban and Regional Studies and an executive education instructor for the Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC-Chapel Hill. Among the first to publish research on crowdsourcing, his work has appeared in Convergence; First Monday; Information, Communication & Society; Planning Theory; and The Participatory Cultures Handbook; and his research has been funded by the U.S. Federal Transit Administration and the IBM Center for the Business of Government. His first book, Crowdsourcing, will be published in spring 2013 with MIT Press. He earned a B.A. at Trinity University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in communication at the University of Utah.
Marc Brenman was Executive Director, Washington Human Rights Commission, and Senior Policy Advisor for Civil Rights, U.S. Dept. of Transportation. His work focuses on race, limited English proficiency, disability, sex discrimination, LGBT rights, culturally appropriate ADR, corporate social responsibility, international human rights, and other social justice issues. He co-authored, The Right to Transportation and Planning as if People Matter: Governing for Social Equity with Tom Sanchez. He has taught civil rights history, human rights, public policy development, and advocacy at Evergreen College. In 2010, he assisted Public Advocates in winning the first civil rights case under the federal stimulus law, for $70 million. In 2012, he won first prize in the Americans for Democratic Action essay contest, on what Martin Luther King would say to President Obama.

Thomas A. Bryer is assistant professor and director of the Center for Public and Nonprofit Management in the School of Public Administration at the University of Central Florida. His research and teaching focuses on public participation, cross-sector collaboration, and citizenship. He has published widely in top ranked journals including Public Administration Review, Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, American Review of Public Administration, and Public Performance and Management Review. He has presented his research on social media for public participation in the United States and Europe.

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Yannis Charalabidis is Assistant Professor in the University of Aegean, in the area of e-Governance Information Systems, coordinating policymaking, research, and pilot application projects for governments and enterprises worldwide. A computer engineer with a PhD in complex information systems, he has been employed for several years as an Executive Director in Singular IT Group, a leading software development and company expansion in Eastern Europe, India and the US. During the last 20 years he has been the coordinator or technical leader in numerous FP6, FP7 and National research projects in the areas of e-Business and e-Governance (PRAXIS, GENESIS, WEB.DEP, LEXIS, MOMENTUM, FEED, Greek e-GIF, Greek Interoperability Centre, PADGETS, CROSSROAD, ENSEMBLE, ENGAGE). He has published more the 100 papers in international journals and conferences. He is Best Paper Award winner of the EGOV 2008 Conference, Best e-Government Paper Nominee in the 42nd HICSS Conference and 1st Prize Nominee in the 2009 European e-Government Awards.
**Caren Cooper** is a scientist at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Cornell University, USA. Cooper carries out research on birds almost exclusively with data collected by willing and able hobbyists. Research via citizen science permits her to study ecological patterns and processes at continental-scales, in natural areas and around residences. Cooper has a PhD in Biology from Virginia Tech, a Masters in Zoology & Physiology from the University of Wyoming, and a Bachelor of Science in Zoology from North Carolina State University. Cooper is co-editor of an upcoming special feature about citizen science for the online journal *Ecology & Society*. Also, Cooper is a Senior Fellow in the Environmental Leadership Program, writing a book exploring the social and scientific impacts of citizen science, highlighting stories of the co-production of knowledge around the globe. Cooper is a guest blogger for *Scientific American* and blogger for *Citizen Sci* in the PLoS blog network.

**Doris Dransch** is Professor for Geoinformation Management and Visualization at Helmholtz Centre Potsdam, German Research Centre for Geosciences, and Humboldt-University at Berlin. She studied Geography, Geology and Cartography at Free University Berlin and received her Ph.D. in Geography. She is member of the Center for Disaster and Risk Reduction Technology (CEDIM) and member of the Advisory Board of the German Committee for Disaster Reduction. Her research area is Geoinformation Science. One focus is on the application of volunteered geographic information VGI in disaster management. Another research field is visual analytics which facilitates data exploration by interactive visual means.

**Enrico Ferro** is the Head of the Business Model and Policy Innovation Unit at Mario Boella Institute (ISMB), a research team studying the economic, social and policy implications of information and communication technologies. Over the last ten years Dr. Ferro has worked in many projects financed by the European Commission with roles ranging from scientific supervisor to senior expert (Regional-IST, UNDERSTAND, B3Regions, IDEAL-EU, PADGETS, CROSSROAD, ENGAGE). Dr. Ferro also holds an Adjunct Professor position at the Polytechnic of Turin and at the International Labour Bureau of the United Nations where he regularly lectures on information management and strategies in both the public and the private sector. His research work has produced over forty academic publications, one handbook of research and over fifty research reports.

**Joachim Fohringer** is a scientist at the Centre for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Technology, a research association of the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ) and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). He received a Diploma in Computer Science from the Free University Berlin. His research work is related to Web-based information systems and social media. One focus is on the application of Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI) in disaster management. He investigates localization and evaluation of messages from micro-blogging-services like Twitter for rapid damage assessment after hazard events such as floods, earthquakes, or hurricanes.
About the Contributors

Steffen Fritz is a Research Scholar in the Ecosystem Services and Management Programme at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). He is the driving force behind Geo-Wiki, a global land cover validation tool based on crowdsourcing. He is currently the principal investigator of several projects funded by the Austrian Agency for the Promotion of Science, the European Space Agency, and the European Union. Dr Fritz studied physics and geography at the University of Tübingen, received his MSc from the University of Durham in 1996 and a PhD from the University of Leeds in 2001. He worked as a post-doc at the Joint Research Centre in 2002 where his tasks were to mosaic, harmonize, and produce the Global Land Cover 2000 database, and to carry out the validation of the regional GLC-2000 contributions within the tropics.

Stefan Höffken is scientific researcher at the University of Kaiserslautern (Germany), department of Prof. Dr.-Ing. Bernd Streich, since 2009. He was lecturer for Cartography, Webmapping, and GIS 2010/2011 and research assistant for Emotional Webmapping in 2009 at the University of Technology of Berlin. He worked at Zebralog (eParticipation, Online Moderation) from 2007 - 2009, and as a freelancer in different Planning Offices in Berlin. He is a founder and member of Urbanophil - Netzwerk für urbane Kultur e.V (www.urbanophil.net), member of the Editorial staff for the journal PLANERIN (www.srl.de/planerin), and author for BAUWELT (www.bauwelt.de).

Jim Huebner is a senior management and information technology professional, having held chief executive positions in business, government, and non-profit sectors. He specializes in strategic planning and technology, and has designed and managed customer relationship management projects for multinational companies since the early 1990s. He reports and lectures on project management, marketing, and finance, as well as cultural psychology, sustainability, and social innovation. His PhD research at University of Waterloo examines the role of ICT and specifically CiRM in municipal public engagement. He holds an MBA from Wilfrid Laurier University, BA from University of Waterloo, BEd from University of Manitoba, professional certification in municipal finance, is a certified technology professional, a Certified Management Accountant, and a Senior Member of the American Society for Quality. He is founder of the Strategic Participatory Applications Research Cluster (SPARC) at University of Waterloo, has a passion for philanthropy, and is a member of the Order of Arctic Adventurers.

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Christian Lucas is a post-doc researcher at the Institute of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). At the same time, Dr. Lucas is member of the Center for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Technology (CEDIM), a research association of the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ) and the KIT. He studied Geodaesie and Geoinformatics at the Leibniz University of Hanover and obtained in 2010 a PhD in the field of spatial information science from KIT. His research interests are on spatial information theory with a focus on methods and algorithms for modeling uncertain and fuzzy spatial information. Currently, he investigates the field of crowdsourcing in the context of disaster management.

Ian McCallum is a researcher in the Ecosystem Services and Management (ESM) Program at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Austria. He holds a graduate degree in Forest Science from Lakehead University in Canada, where he specialized in the application of geographic information systems and remote sensing. He has contributed to numerous research projects at IIASA applying geo-spatial analysis to global environmental problems ranging including biomass estimation, carbon accounting and modelling, and global land cover validation. He is an active member of the GeoWiki team and co-leads the GEO Task ID-03, which focuses on the incentives needed to join the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

Kimberly L. Nelson is an assistant professor in the Division of Public Administration at Northern Illinois University. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Virginia Tech and a Ph.D. from North Carolina State University. Her research and teaching focuses on local government management with emphases on form of government, council relations, and local government innovation. She has published a number of book chapters and her work has appeared in academic journals including The American Review of Public Administration, Urban Affairs Review, and State and Local Government Review. In addition, Dr. Nelson has served as a local government consultant for strategic planning and facilitating board relationships.
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Nancy J. Obermeyer is an Associate Professor of Geography at Indiana State University, USA. Her research interests have emphasized the institutional and societal ramifications of implementing geographic information systems. She has also been involved with the development of certification for GIS professionals, and is co-author (with Jeffrey Pinto) of Managing GIS (Guilford 1994, 2004). In an earlier career in public service, Nancy held professional assignments with the State of Illinois in the areas of Planning, Transportation, and Energy. Nancy earned her Ph.D. at the University of Chicago in 1987 and did a Post-Doc at the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis at the University of Maine from 1988-1990. She is currently a member of the board of directors of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association.

Michael Obersteiner is leader of the Ecosystems Services and Management (ESM) Program at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Laxenburg, Austria. He joined IIASA’s Forestry Program (FOR) in 1993 and has been leading the Group on Global Land-Use Modeling and Environmental Economics since 2001. His background includes the fields of global terrestrial ecosystems and economics, having completed graduate studies both in Austria and abroad. Dr Obersteiner’s research experience stretches from plant physiology and biophysical modeling in the areas of ecosystems, forestry, and agriculture to environmental economics, bioenergy engineering, and climate change sciences. Dr Obersteiner has been a consultant to a number of national and international organizations, including inter alia the European Commission, WWF, OECD, and other national and international institutions.

Michele Osella holds a Researcher position at Istituto Superiore Mario Boella in Turin, Italy. He works in the Business Model & Policy Innovation Unit, supporting policy makers and managers in using ICTs as leverage to favor socioeconomic development and competitiveness. In the academic sphere, he is PhD Candidate and Adjunct Lecturer at the Polytechnic of Turin. Prominent strands of research on which he is focused are social computing, open innovation, as well as Internet economics, with a keen interest on groundbreaking business models. Taking into account afore-said scientific areas, Michele is currently involved in a number of national and international projects developed both in private and public sectors.

Christoph Perger received his MSc degree from the University of Applied Sciences in Wiener Neustadt (FHWN) in 2009 in Information Technology and Geographic Information Science. He worked there from 2005 to 2009 as a research and project assistant and, during an internship at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), began the development of Geo-Wiki.org, a global land cover validation tool based on crowdsourcing. Since 2009, he has worked as a research and teaching assistant in the field of GIS applications, data modelling, and application and Web programming at the FHWN. He rejoined IIASA as a Research Scholar in 2011 where he continues the work on Geo-Wiki and related land cover and remote sensing topics.

Kathrin Poser studied Geocology at the University of Potsdam and also holds an M.Sc. degree in Photogrammetry and Geoinformatics from the Hochschule für Technik Stuttgart - University of Applied Sciences. Her research experience includes hydrological modelling, flood damage estimation and geographical data analysis and management. She is currently working as a Marie Curie Experienced Researcher at Water Insight BV in Wageningen, where she is responsible for spatial data management and analysis as well as the design and implementation of Web-based information systems. In parallel, she is finishing up her doctoral thesis on “Humans as Sensors - Integration and Assessment of Information from the Affected Population for Flood Disaster Management” at the Humboldt-University in Berlin.
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Christian Schill received his diploma in physics in 1997 from the Albert-Ludwig-University of Freiburg, Germany, and joined the Department of Remote Sensing and Landscape Information Systems (FELIS) as a research scholar in 2001. His main interests are geodata infrastructures, the European INSPIRE directive and related activities, ISO- and OGC-Standards (Web services like WFS, WMS metadata [ISO 19115/ISO 19139], GML) as well as geodatabases, namely PostGIS on postgresql. He joined the Geo-Wiki team in 2009 to work on the backend of this crowdsourcing platform.

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Barney Warf is a professor of Geography at the University of Kansas. His research and teaching interests lie within the broad domain of human geography. Much of his research concerns economic geography, emphasizing services and telecommunications. His work straddles contemporary political economy and social theory on the one hand and traditional quantitative, empirical approaches on the other. He has studied a range of topics that fall under the umbrella of globalization, including New York as a global city, telecommunications, offshore banking, international networks of financial and producer services, and the geographies of the Internet. He has also written on military spending, voting technologies, the U.S. Electoral College, and religious diversity. He has authored, co-authored, or co-edited seven books, two encyclopedias, 32 book chapters, and roughly 100 refereed journal articles.