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THE Department of Geography, Environment and Society

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Mark B Lindberg

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Department Affiliations

- **Geography, Environment and Society**

Narrative

I studied both art and geography as an undergraduate. At the master′s level, I started studying cartography, but also developed strong interests in quantitative techniques and computational methods. My doctoral work, while focussing on cartography, added a strong psychological element and continued the quantitative and computational threads. Although not done by design, these various facets of my post-secondary education have considerable impact today on my approach to cartography. Much of that approach is tempered by the necessities of actual map production" " where theory meets the applied side of the subdiscipline.

For reasons that I can no longer remember, the PostScript language caught my attention in the early 1980s and shortly thereafter I was able to obtain the first commercially available PostScript engine (Apple LaserWriter printer). My initial interest was narrowly on PostScript as a general-purpose programming language, albeit one with very highly developed graphic capabilities. I seldom write code in PostScript anymore and my current work with PostScript is typically limited to its use as a file format (e.g. EPS). However, I am frequently reminded how much knowledge of the structure of PostScript impacts my thoughts on cartography" " including theoretical principles. For example, I believe there are benefits for conceptualizing enumeration units in a choropleth map in a manner structurally equivalent to one of PostScript′s fundamental composite objects, the dictionary. One of my current research threads consists of completing a cycle through the typical forms of cartographic symbolization and how they might best be implemented in PostScript" " regardless of how they might be handled by a drawing package or device driver.

Specialties

- GIS, Cartography, Map Design, Spatial Data Management

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