

CENTER FOR INFORMATION POLICY RESEARCH &
SOCIAL STUDIES OF INFORMATION RESEARCH GROUP
SPONSORED RESEARCH TALK

BRIDGING THE GEOSPATIAL DIVIDE THROUGH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS



DR. RINA GHOSE
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
UW-MILWAUKEE

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NWQB 3511
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

Geographic Information Systems is a powerful technology that analyzes geospatial data and is used prolifically in public and private sector. GIS today is a globally dominant technology, and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy has provided \$200 million for the Big Data Initiative that emphasizes mining large spatial datasets and use of GIS. Yet GIS can be ethically criticized for being an elitist technology by virtue of its technological complexity and cost. A digital divide in GIS exists along class and race lines, whereby traditionally marginalized citizens have been excluded from using the technology. This presentation addresses the thorny issue of uneven access to GIS and the associated social power it confers.