

“The Time Geography of a Canadian City Project—Revisited”

A Geography Colloquium presentation by **Dr. Donald G. Janelle**

January 20, 2011: 1930 Buchanan, 3:30–4:45

Don Janelle came to UCSB in 2000 and is currently Program Director for the Center for Spatial Studies. He is a Professor Emeritus from the University of Western Ontario, where he was a faculty member of the Department of Geography for thirty years. His research and publications are based broadly within geography and affiliated social and behavioral sciences. Primary themes include space-time analyses of individual behavior, the time-geography of cities, the temporal-spatial ordering of social systems, locational conflict analysis, social issues in transportation, and the role of space-adjusting technologies in structuring new patterns of social and economic organization. For more information, see <http://www.csiss.org/janelle/>.

Abstract:

This presentation reviews historical paths for embedding temporal representation in the demographic and human social ecology of cities. Based on an early (1971) space-time diary survey of 2500 respondents in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the Time Geography of a Canadian City project ¹ explored the kinds of research questions that might be answered if the Census included information on the whereabouts and activities of people at different times of the day. These potentials are illustrated through representation of a broad set of descriptive space-time measures and mappings (e.g., density, concentration, dispersion, segregation, speed of movement, fragmentation of activities, and others) along with composite approaches to explain variance in social ecological structures by time of day, spatial regions, and population/activity attributes.

The theme of space-time human ecology is revisited in the context of early 21st-century geo-spatial and information technologies (including cell phones, GPS, and VGI) now embedded in the personal lives of city inhabitants.

¹ For an overview of the Time Geography of a Canadian City project, see <http://www.csiss.org/janelle/docs/Copy-of-Janelle-Klinkenberg-Goodchild-Temporal-order-1998.pdf/>.