4. Conferences

**Europe**

**September 2024**

1. 9-10: [QGIS User Conference 2024](#)
   Venue: Faculty of Civil Engineering, Slovak Technical University, Bratislava, Slovakia

2. 25-27: [5th Spatial Humanities Conference 2024](#)
   Venue: Bamberg, Germany

**October 2024**

3. 14-16: [XX Congress of Geographic Information Technologies](#)
   Venue: Palma, Mallorca, Balearides Islands, Spain

**South America**

**July 2024**

4. 03-05: [XVII IDERA Conference](#)
   Venue: Santiago del Estero, Argentina

**December 2024**

5. 01-08: [FOSS4G](#) (stay tuned for more news in the future)
   Venue: Belém, state of Pará, Brazil

**Asia**

**November 2024**

6. 17-21: The 2nd [Ramon International Geospatial Intelligence 360](#)
   Conference Geospatial Intelligence for Sustainable and Resilient Future
   Venue: Tel-Aviv, Israel

**North America and Central America**

**July 2024**

7. [Hacking Limnology 2024 and Data Science and Open Science in Aquatic Research](#)
   Venue: Virtual Summit

**August 2024**

8. 14-16: CPGIS; 2024 - The 31st International Conference on Geoinformatics
   Venue: Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**September 2024**

9. 9-11: [FOSS4G NA 2024](#)
   Venue: St. Louis, MO, USA

**October 2024**

10. 14-16: [I-Guide Forum 2024](#)
    Venue: Jackson, Wyoming, USA
# Editorial Board

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GeoForAll Themes

- **OpenCity Smart**
  Theme under revision

- **Teacher Training & School Education**
  - Chairs: Elżbieta Wołoszyńska-Wiśniewska (Poland), Nikos Lambrinos (Greece)
  - Mail list: geoforall-teachertraining@lists.osgeo.org
  - Website: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/GeoForAll_TeacherTraining_SchoolEducation

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### GeoAmbassador Content table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Author/Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2016</td>
<td>Vol.2</td>
<td>no.7</td>
<td>Prof. Georg Gartner, Vienna University of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2016</td>
<td>Vol.2</td>
<td>no.8</td>
<td>Prof. Silvana Philippo Camboim, Federal University of Paraná, Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2016</td>
<td>Vol.2</td>
<td>no.9</td>
<td>Nimalika Fernando, Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2016</td>
<td>Vol.2</td>
<td>no.10</td>
<td>Sergio Acosta Y Lara, Montevideo Uruguay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2016</td>
<td>Vol. 2</td>
<td>no.11</td>
<td>Victoria Rautenbach, Centre of Geoinformation Science Univ. of Pretoria, South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2016</td>
<td>Vol.2</td>
<td>no.12</td>
<td>Dr. Daria Svidzinska, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.1</td>
<td>Dr. Mark Ware, University of South Wales, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.2</td>
<td>Dr. Rafael Moreno Sanchez, Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences, University of Colorado Denver, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.3</td>
<td>Dr. Tuong Thuy Vu, School of Environmental and Geographical Sciences, University of Nottingham, Malaysia campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.4</td>
<td>Michael P. Finn, U.S. Geological Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.5</td>
<td>Dr. Peter Mooney, Maynooth University, NASA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.6</td>
<td>Patrick Hogan, NASA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.7</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Josef Strobl, Salzburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.9</td>
<td>Sven Schade, Joint Research Centre, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.10</td>
<td>Luciend Stamat Delazari, Universidade Federal do Paraná in Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.11</td>
<td>Charlie Schweik, Univ. of Massachusetts, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.12</td>
<td>Julia Wagemann, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2018</td>
<td>Vol.4</td>
<td>no.1</td>
<td>Barend Köbben, Department of Geo-Information Processing University of Twente</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2018</td>
<td>Vol.4</td>
<td>no.2</td>
<td>Kurt Menke, Birds Eye View</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2018</td>
<td>Vol.4</td>
<td>no.3</td>
<td>Dr. Clau Rinner, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2018</td>
<td>Vol.4</td>
<td>no.4</td>
<td>Martin Landa, Department of Geomatics, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Czech Technical University (CTU) in Prague</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lab of the Month, Content table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Lab/Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2015</td>
<td>Vol.1</td>
<td>no.1</td>
<td>Open Source Geospatial Lab, Kathmandu University, Nepal (Asia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2015</td>
<td>Vol.1</td>
<td>no.2</td>
<td>FOSS4G Lab, University of Colorado Denver (USA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2015</td>
<td>Vol.1</td>
<td>no.3</td>
<td>Open Source Geospatial Lab, University of Southampton, UK (Europe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2015</td>
<td>Vol.1</td>
<td>no.4</td>
<td>The Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology of Chinese Academy of Science, China (Asia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2016</td>
<td>Vol.2</td>
<td>no.1</td>
<td>Centre for Geoinformation Science, University of Pretoria, South Africa, (Africa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2016</td>
<td>Vol.2</td>
<td>no.2</td>
<td>Open Source Geospatial Lab, University of Newcastle, UK (Europe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2016</td>
<td>Vol.2</td>
<td>no.3</td>
<td>SMART Open Source Geospatial Lab, University of Wollongong, Australia (Australia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2016</td>
<td>Vol.2</td>
<td>no.4</td>
<td>Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, Nairobi, Kenya (Africa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>Vol.2</td>
<td>no.5</td>
<td>GeoDa Centre – Arizona State University, (USA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2016</td>
<td>Vol.2</td>
<td>no.6</td>
<td>Direccion Nacional de Topografía – MTOP Montevideo, Uruguay, (South America)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2016</td>
<td>Vol.2</td>
<td>no.7</td>
<td>SIGTE – University of Girona, Spain (Europe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2016</td>
<td>Vol.2</td>
<td>no.8</td>
<td>Open Source Geospatial Lab, Department of Geodesy and Surveying, Budapest Univ. of Technology and Economics, Hungary (Europe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td>Vol.2</td>
<td>no.9</td>
<td>Open Source Geospatial Lab, Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb, Croatia, (Europe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2016</td>
<td>Vol.2</td>
<td>no.10</td>
<td>Hellenic digital earth Centre of Excellence, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, (Europe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2016</td>
<td>Vol.2</td>
<td>no.11</td>
<td>Department of Geoinformatics, Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2016</td>
<td>Vol.2</td>
<td>no.12</td>
<td>Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.1</td>
<td>Spatial Lab, Texas A&amp;M, Corpus Christi, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.2</td>
<td>Open Source Geospatial Lab, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Belgrade, Serbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.3</td>
<td>Geomatics and Earth Observation Laboratory (GEOlab), Politecnico di Milano, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.4</td>
<td>Faculty of Civil Engineering, Department of Geomatics, Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.5</td>
<td>the Laboratory of socio-geographical research of the University of Siena, ITALY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.6</td>
<td>A World Bridge program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.7</td>
<td>Department of Civil, Environmental and Mechanical Engineering of the University of Trento, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2017</td>
<td>Vol.3</td>
<td>no.8</td>
<td>Institute of Geography, Faculty of Science, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2020</td>
<td>Vol.6</td>
<td>no.11</td>
<td>Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2021</td>
<td>Vol.7</td>
<td>no.01</td>
<td>gvSIG Uruguay Community, Uruguay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Webinars

- If you want to start learning how to use QGIS, there are some excellent free resources at https://www.gislounge.com/free-ways-to-learn-qgis/

7. Training programs

- GeoForAll educational materials have been transferred to our new web site. GeoForAll educational inventory system, a place to search and share educational materials

11. Free books, educational materials, etc.

- Visit the YouTube QGIS channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGS162t4hkOA0b35uf1yng/videos to get videos of QGIS applications, representations and ideas.

12. Article

Acronyms

by Nikos Lambrinos, Chief Editor, and Michael Finn.

For those who would like to support this effort, please send any acronyms to the Chief Editor (labrinos@eled.auth.gr).

3DEP: 3-D Elevation Program
AGI: Ambient Geographic Information
AGS: American Geographical Society
AGU: American Geophysical Union
AI: Artificial Intelligence
AM/FM: Automated Mapping/Facilities Management
AOSP: African Open Space Platform
API: Application Programming Interface
ASPRS: American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
AURIN: Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network
BBSRC: Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
BDS: BeiDou Navigation Satellite Demonstration System
BIM: Building Information Modelling
CAADP: Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme
CAD: Computer Aided Design
CaGIS: Cartography and Geographic Information Society
CCGI: Collaboratively Contributed Geographic Information
CEGIS: Center of Excellence for Geospatial Information Science
CEOS: Committee on Earth Observation Satellites
CHIRPS - Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station data
CI: CyberInfrastructure
CLGE: The Council of European Geodetic Surveyors
CODATA: Committee on Data for Science and Technology
COGO: Coordinate geometry
CRC: Census Research Centre
CRS: Coordinate Reference System
CSA: Canadian Space Agency
CSSTEAP: Center for Space Science & Technology
Education in Asia and the Pacific
CUDA: Compute Unified Device Architecture
DAAC: Distributed Active Archive Center (of NASA)
DEM: Digital Elevation Model
DSM: Digital Surface Models
DWG: Design file format
DXF: Drawing Interchange File
ECMWF: European Center for Medium range Weather Forecasting
EOS: Earth Observation Science
EOSDIS: Earth Observing System and Data Information System
EPA: Environmental Protection Agency
EPSG: European Petrol Survey Group (used in projection IDs)
ESA: European Space Agency
ESERO: European Space Education Resource Office
EUROGI: European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information
EuroSDR: European Spatial Data Research
FDO: FAIR (Find, Access, Interoperate, and Reuse) Digital Objects
FOSS: Free and Open Source Software
FOSS4G: Free and Open Source Software For Geospatial
GCP: Ground Control Point
GDAL: Geospatial Data Abstraction Library
GEO: Group on Earth Observations
GEO: Geosynchronous Earth Orbits
GloFAS: Global Flood Awareness System
GNSS: Global Navigational Satellite System
GODAN: Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition
GPS: Global Positioning System
GPX: GPS Exchange Format
GRACE: Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (satellite program)
GRASPgfs: Geospatial Resource for Agricultural Species and Pests and Pathogens with workflow integrated modeling to support Global Food Security
GSoc: Google Summer of Code
HLPF: High Level Political Forum (of UN)
HOT: Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team
HPC: high-performance computing
ICA: International Cartographic Association
ICIMOD – International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ICSU-WDS: International Council for Science – World Data System
IDE: Spatial Data Infrastructure
IFAD – International Fund for Agricultural Development
INSPIRE: Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe
IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPGH: Pan American Institute of Geography and History
ISO: International Organization for Standardization
ISPRS: International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
ISRO: Indian Space Research Organization
JAXA: Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
KML: Keyhole Markup Language
LBS: Location-Based Service
LEO: Low Earth Orbits
LiDAR: Light Detection and Ranging
LOC: Local Organizing Committee
LOD: Level Of Detail
MEO: Medium Earth Orbits
17. Ideas / Information

1. If you are interested in educational material, then go to https://www.osgeo.org/initiatives/geo-for-all/in-your-classroom/, where you can find software resources for your classroom. Also, go to “Resources” https://www.osgeo.org/resources/ to get a guidance on how to use open source projects and tools.

2. From SUCHITH ANAND (S.Anand@exeter.ac.uk)

Professor of Practice in Science Policy at the University of Exeter
Senior Adviser to Governments and International Organisations

Dear colleagues,

Climate change is an urgent global challenge that affects us all. And for those who are vulnerable and already struggling, the impacts are even harsher. Earth observations offer a vital scientific framework for monitoring and addressing these pressing issues.

Earth observations offer far more than just images from space. They provide valuable information on various aspects of the Earth’s well-being, from deforestation rates to urban resilience, and more. These insights contribute to climate models that help guide policy decisions, making science and policy mutually reinforcing.

This BBC article “Canada wildfires: Trudeau criticises Facebook over news ban amid crisis” might be of interest.

According to this BBC article published on 21st August 2023, “Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has accused Facebook of putting "profits ahead of people's safety" after it blocked news amid devastating wildfires in the country. Facebook banned news on its platform in response to Canadian law forcing it to share profit with news outlets. Wildfire evacuees have said the ban has impacted their ability to share critical news with each other.”

Details at https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-66573512

If this is the situation in a rich country like Canada, imagine the situation in a poor country in the developing world? Some Big Tech companies are becoming more powerful than countries.

Digital Feudalism

In 2022, I wrote a Data Values article which looks into Digital Feudalism in Earth Observation (EO) data affecting farmers. I thank the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) for inviting me to write this article. More details at https://datavaluesdigest.substack.com/p/how-digital-feudalism-hurts-farmers

Data Colonialism/Data Feudalism might also lead to questions around the rise of EO data platform monopolies benefiting a few big companies and the power imbalance that could create; as well as the resulting EO data asymmetry and its impact on the global society.

As a member of the Ethics Sub Group at the Group on Earth Observations(GEO), I have been raising these topics for many years in GEO. For example, What is the impact of EO Data Colonialism for African countries and for the people of Africa?

Who owns Africa EO/Geo Portals? What are the costs to be paid per year to the GIS/EO Vendor Owners by African countries and citizens in a few years’ time for accessing EO data and insights?

The Ethics Sub group was closed by GEO Secretariat in 2022. The closing of Data Ethics sub group in GEO raises many ethical questions.
It is essential that GEO Secretariat advance the dialogue on developing ethical principles and policy guidelines as a means to help address these issues. Thank you.

These articles might be of interest:

This recording of Data Talk "Beyond "Data Colonialism": Shaping Data Governance through African Cultural Realities" organised by the Data Innovation Lab and links to various resources might be of interest. Details at [https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/wa-jisc.exe?A2=ind2405&L=GIS-UK&O=D&P=19244](https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/wa-jisc.exe?A2=ind2405&L=GIS-UK&O=D&P=19244)

**Big Tech Companies Are Becoming More Powerful Than Nation-States**

“They are already richer than many countries, and the rise of AI looks set to increase their influence. The world’s biggest tech companies are now richer and more powerful than most countries.”

Details at [https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/big-tech-companies-more-powerful-than-nations](https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/big-tech-companies-more-powerful-than-nations)

**The Big Tech Antitrust Battle Is A Fight For Democracy**

[https://www.commondreams.org/views/2022/06/17/big-tech-antitrust-battle-fight-democracy](https://www.commondreams.org/views/2022/06/17/big-tech-antitrust-battle-fight-democracy)

Big Tech and AI companies are getting even more powerful than governments. Will this lead to the rise of Billionaire Tech CEOs as the most powerful rulers of the world in the future? What will be the impact of this for humanity?

Governments need to regulate the Big Tech to protect democracy, protect human rights and prevent corruption.

**3. Tracking India’s Air Quality**

NASA Earth Observations Assist in tracking air quality in India.

Air Quality Index (AQI) values across India routinely surpasses World Health Organization limits for healthy breathing, contributing to the country’s rising rates of illness and premature death. NASA Earth observation data are helping scientists track and monitor pollutants across the country.

**4. The Significance of SWOT**

There never has been an orbital hydrology mission quite like the Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) spacecraft. SWOT’s freshwater science lead, Dr. Tamlin Pavelsky, talks about what makes SWOT special and how you can maximize your use of SWOT data.