

Reginald G. Golledge: In Memoriam

The Editorial Board of *Spatial Cognition and Computation* notes in sadness the passing of Dr. Reginald (Reg) G. Golledge at the age of 71 on 29 May 2009 in Goleta, California. Reg was a member of the Advisory Board of this journal since its inception. In this capacity, he was eager to help shape the journal's mission and promote the journal to a wide range of audiences. He was co-author of an article published in the very first issue of the journal (Klatzky, Beall, Loomis, Golledge, & Philbeck, 1999) and followed that up as co-author on an article published the next year (Waller, Loomis, Golledge, & Beall, 2000).

Reg was born on 6 December 1937 in the small town of Dungog, New South Wales. As a boy, he worked hard on the farm, fished, and pushed other boys around on the rugby field. As a young man, he studied at the University of New England in Australia, receiving his B.A. and M.A. degrees in Geography. After a short stint as lecturer at the University of Canterbury in NZ, he received a scholarship to study in America, at the University of Iowa, where he earned his Ph.D. in Geography in 1966 with Harold McCarty. Reg took a faculty position at the University of British Columbia, followed a year later by a position at The Ohio State University. He spent his summers as a visiting professor at several universities in the United States and elsewhere, but in 1977, he was recruited by David Simonett to come to the Geography Department at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He spent the rest of his career there.

As an academic, Reg was highly innovative, amazingly productive, communally directed, and very influential. He became something of a legend in the discipline of geography, virtually canonized in numerous textbooks and histories of the field. In the 1960s and 1970s, he was a main creator and popularizer of the subfield of behavioral geography, co-editing the 1969 symposium proceedings *Behavioral Problems in Geography* (Cox & Golledge, 1969) and writing influential early articles and chapters on cognitive aspects of economic decisions in space and place, and on people's cognitive representations of cities, particularly Columbus, Ohio. The core insight of behavioral geography is that people's behaviors in space and place depend on their *beliefs* about reality, not just reality itself, and that people's behaviors can differ considerably from each other as a result of differences in their subjective worlds. People might shop at a particular market because they believe it is closest and has the best products, not because it actually is the closest and has the best products.

Of course, beliefs and reality do correspond more than occasionally, but given the distorted spatial beliefs that Reg and his colleagues documented (such as dilated or compressed distances), beliefs truly do differ considerably from reality in some cases. The behavioral insight put Reg at variance with traditional economic geography and its assumption of economic rationality (Daniel Kahneman received a Nobel prize for his later work in behavioral economics). Reg's consistent claim that humans have "irrational" geographic beliefs, but that these could be studied productively within the metaphysical framework of quantitative science, put him at odds with various "postpositivist" geographies throughout his career.

Although Reg's philosophy opposed him to some inside of geography, it easily and naturally led to rich interactions with many outside of geography, including economists, psychologists, planners and architects, mathematicians, education researchers, and more. He became a lifelong force for interdisciplinary research within geography and academia in general. His sociable personality and communal spirit certainly worked together with his intellectual curiosity to bring this about.

Reg contributed to many areas of research, including urban and regional modeling, travel and transportation, individual and organizational economic behavior, cognitive mapping and spatial learning, methodology and statistical analysis (e.g., multidimensional scaling), cartography and visualization, the philosophy of geography, human factors of GIS, multimedia communication, disabilities geography, geographic education, geographic ontology, and navigation technologies for the visually impaired. It is an impressive understatement to say that Reg was academically productive for a long time. He wrote or edited (sometimes with others) 16 books, starting with *Traffic in a New Zealand City* (Johnston, Golledge, King, & Williman, 1965), and ending with *Person-Environment-Behavior Research: Investigating Activities and Experiences in Spaces and Environments* (Amedeo, Golledge, & Stimson, 2009).

In addition to *Behavioral Models in Geography* (Cox & Golledge, 1969), some of his other notable titles include *Environmental Knowing* (Moore & Golledge, 1976); *Proximity and Preference: Problems in the Multidimensional Analysis of Large Data Sets* (Golledge & Rayner, 1982); *Behavior and Environment: Psychological and Geographical Approaches* (Gärling & Golledge, 1993); *Spatial Behavior: A Geographic Perspective* (Golledge & Stimson, 1997); *Spatial and Temporal Reasoning in Geographic Information Systems* (Egenhofer & Golledge, 1998); and *Wayfinding Behavior: Cognitive Mapping and Other Spatial Processes* (Golledge, 1999). He also wrote over 100 journal articles, over 60 book chapters, and numerous monographs and reports. Reg's work was also widely disseminated in the popular media, including radio, TV, newspaper, and a feature article in *Smithsonian Magazine* (Parfit, 1984).

Reg delivered conference talks and invited addresses all over the world, and was given numerous awards. Göteborg University in Sweden gave him an honorary Ph.D., and Simon Fraser University in Canada gave him an

honorary L.L.D. He was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Science, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a Fellow of the Regional Science Association International, and a Guggenheim Fellow. Reg served as a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Decade of Behavior during 2004–2006. In 2000, he received the Institute of Australian Geographers International Geographers Medal, and in 2002, he received both the Grosvenor Medal for Geographic Education and the Researcher of the Year Award from the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS). He served as President of the Association of American Geographers in 1999–2000 and received Lifetime Achievement Honors from that organization in 2007. His final academic honor came just this year when UCSB selected him to present the 2009 Faculty Research Lecture, the highest academic honor bestowed at that campus.

But the outward record of Reg's academic achievements can never tell the whole story of his life and contributions. Reg was a leading mentor and a champion for diversity in academia. He was a fine colleague, and a role model and inspiration for many researchers and students. In part, this is because he was so incredibly hardworking and productive, even after he lost much of his sight around 25 years ago and repeatedly suffered other serious health problems. But perhaps most important, Reg Golledge was a great and generous man, and a cherished friend to many, many people. He will be sorely missed but never forgotten.

Daniel R. Montello and Stephen C. Hirtle

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