



Spatial information on citizens and the citizen-government relationship

GEOGOV-project
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Research question



What are the implications of government use of spatial information on citizens and the technology involved on the citizen-government relationship?

Considering

- A better spatially informed government
- A better spatially informed citizen


Within the citizen-government relationship:

- Changes in the division of power?
- Changes in rights and obligations?
- Social changes?


Concepts

- Spatial information on citizens
Location and temporal data connected with personal data on individual citizens or groups of citizens
- Spatial information technologies involved
 - Collecting data: GPS, RFID, GSM (tags on people)
 - Processing data: GIS, ... (connecting to other databases)
 - Using data in practice: GIS, GSM (policy execution – inform citizens based on location)




Policy fields

- Traffic management
- Healthcare
- Justice
- Public safety

Theoretical approach

- Lessons learned from the history of state use of spatial information
 - Maps have created boundaries, territories, sovereignty > state power
 - So, maps form and transform “reality”
 - States want to be in control of the production of maps
- Territorialisation paradox
 - ICTs make people and processes independent of place and time > deterritorialisation
 - Spatial information technologies refocus attention on place and time of people and objects > territorialisation

