



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Geospatial Technologies in Higher Education: Saviour or Sideshow?

**HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORK** *of the Geological Society*

18<sup>th</sup> January 2012, at **The Open University**, Milton Keynes  
9.30 am – 4:30 pm

**Hosted by:** Department of Environment, Earth and Ecosystems  
eSTEEeM

**Keynotes:** **Dr Claire Jarvis**, University of Leicester  
**Dr Richard Walker**, University of Durham

Teaching and practice of the GEES disciplines have always been strongly dependent on spatial skills, both native and nurtured. There is now a dazzling array of technological aids for geospatial teaching and learning, designed to integrate the spatial aspect painlessly into the workflow, and enrich learning by simultaneously offering multiple layers of data for analysis. Many of these (but not all) have their roots in GIS. But are these technological tools more hindrance than help for GEES students?

This meeting aims to provoke a lively, informed debate between teachers, students, practitioners, employers and other stakeholders on the merits or otherwise of geospatial technologies in the GEES disciplines. Should they be used in education at all? Are there effective strategies to introduce them, perhaps in particular situations? Does the answer lie in a blend of the traditional and the technological? Or should we embrace these high-tech tools unreservedly, to ensure our students don't lag behind modern professional practices?

We invite contributions that shed light or provoke discussion on the broad interface between geospatial technologies and teaching practice in the Geographical, Earth and Environmental Sciences.

For more details, visit the HEN coop: <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/groups/hen>  
or contact Dr Tom Argles ([t.w.argles@open.ac.uk](mailto:t.w.argles@open.ac.uk))