

Participation in WAS*IS Workshop

Statement of Interest

Olga Wilhelmi

I am interested in attending the WAS*IS workshop for several reasons:

Currently I am a project scientist in the Institute for the Study of Society and Environment and a PI of NCAR GIS strategic Initiative. I have interdisciplinary background (geography, agricultural meteorology, natural resources) and interested in interdisciplinary research questions especially those that address issues of science and society interactions. Some of the research topics I have been working on in the past several years include use of GIS in the Earth system sciences; impacts of climate variability, extreme climate and weather events, and global change on society and natural resources; drought risk and vulnerability; use of GIS and remote sensing techniques in mitigation of meteorological and climatic hazards.

Though my work on the GIS Initiative I have been exploring the question of usability of scientific data and information. In particular, this applies for distributing NCAR weather and climate science results to a wide community of users. I am interested to learn more about how people (GIS users in particular) interpret and use weather information, so we can increase the usability of our science data and products.

One of the program elements of the GIS Initiative is community building. To address interdisciplinary questions of weather/climate – society interactions I have been working on bridging geographic and atmospheric science communities. The WAS*IS workshop presents a perfect opportunity to bridge the gap between social and atmospheric sciences communities so we can address complex societal relevant questions.

I am interested in developing methodologies for better integration of social and atmospheric data. I am in particular interested in spatial analysis methods that effectively incorporate data and information on demographics, infrastructure, health, environmental conditions and real (or near-real) time weather forecasts.

I am excited about an opportunity to attend the workshop, meet other participants with common interests, share my knowledge with others and learn about integrative ways to study weather and society.