

Preface

Twenty years is a long time for a follow-up meeting but this is exactly what happened when the 20th Anniversary Meeting on Cognitive and Linguistic Aspects of Geographic Space was held in Las Navas del Marques in July 2010. Twenty years prior, from July 8 to 20, 1990, 60 researchers gathered for 2 weeks at Castillo-Palacio Magalia in Las Navas del Marques (Avila Province, Spain) to discuss Cognitive and Linguistic Aspects of Geographic Space. This meeting was the start of successful research on cognitive issues in geographic information science, produced an edited book, and led to a biannual conference (COSIT), a refereed journal (*Spatial Cognition and Computation*), and a substantial and still growing research community.

The 2010 meeting brought together many of the original participants, but was also open to others, and invited contributions from all who are researching these topics. Early career scientists, engineers, and humanists working at the intersection of cognitive science and geographic information science were invited to help assessing the achievements and to reconsider the research challenges in the field. The meeting was very successful and compared the research agenda from then with the achievements over the past 20 years, and then turned to the future: What are the challenges today? What are worthwhile goals for basic research? What can be achieved in the next twenty years? What are the lessons learned?

This edited book assesses the current state of the field through chapters by participants in the 1990 and 2010 meetings and also documents an interdisciplinary research agenda for the future. All chapters underwent a rigorous review process, which we believe resulted in an interesting and high-quality book. As editors, we thank Michael Gould and Werner Kuhn, who were involved both in the organization of the Las Navas 2010 meeting as well as in the early planning of this book. Our sincere thanks go also to all authors for their contributions and last but not least to the reviewers who provided their time and expertise (listed in alphabetical order): Maureen Donnelly, Geoffrey Edwards, Christian Freksa, Scott Freundschuh, Antony Galton, Tilbe Göksun, Stephen Hirtle, Toru Ishikawa,

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