

## Session proposal for Panel Discussion at Spatial Data Science Symposium 2021

**Title:** From Analysis to Action: Engaging through Spatial Data Science Storytelling

**Session Type:** Panel Discussion

**Short description:** Algorithms give us answers, but stories drive action. Turning sophisticated analysis into compelling stories is critical in the spatial data science workflow and is often overlooked. From the way we design tools for end-users to how we communicate the results of our analysis, helping end-users, stakeholders, decision-makers, and the public make sense of complex analysis is at the heart of that analysis being effectively used to drive action. We will discuss some compelling examples of this type of storytelling and provide an opportunity for an open discussion on the importance of storytelling in our work.

### Confirmed Panel Participants:

- Moderator (and organizer):  
Lauren Bennett, PhD  
Group Product Engineering Lead, Spatial Analysis and Data Science  
Esri
- Panelist 1:  
Francesca Dominici, PhD  
Clarence James Gamble Professor of Biostatistics, Population and Data Science  
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health  
<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/francesca-dominici/>  
Co-Director Harvard Data Science Initiative  
<https://datascience.harvard.edu/>
- Panelist 2:  
Song Gao, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Department of Geography  
University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Panelist 3:  
Kevin Butler, PhD  
Science Community Liaison  
Esri

### Expected participation:

- Anyone doing spatial data science and hoping to increase the impact of their through effective storytelling.
- Anyone interested in discussing the challenges of compelling communication of complex analytical workflows for stakeholders, decision-makers, and the public.
- Anyone interested in seeing the value of spatial data science more widely recognized and understood.