



Mardi 10 mars 2020, de 14h15 à 16h

Montpellier Supagro (salle du conseil, bâtiment 11, 1^{er} étage)

Conférence-débat

(en anglais)

Daniel Block, Professeur de géographie, Chicago State University, visiting professor à INRAE, UMR Innovation, avec le soutien de MUSE Explore

Deconstructing Food Access and Food Deserts in Chicago and Beyond: Public Health, Geographic Information Systems, and the Power of Maps

The rise of food access research is intimately tied to availability of GIS technology and data on store locations. This presentation discusses the importance of mapping technology in shaping food desert research as well as research on the environmental impacts of health in general, as well as the use of food desert in popular communication. Much of the power of the term lies in the use of maps. The food access or “desert” concept visualizes inequality through the use of GIS. The fact that studies of food access often begin and end with easily accessible store address data, which is also easy to put into a map, has promoted the analysis of food access data by academics and non-academics alike. This presentation will discuss basic findings of GIS and qualitative food access projects in Chicago. The presentation will then focus on issues with these and many other food access research projects, as well as debates about how to analyze them, which are often overlooked in public discussions. The presentation continues by addressing the history of popular discourse on food deserts and the importance of community-based work in addressing food access issues, and finally gives suggestions for future research and action.

Keywords: critical cartography, food deserts, food access, public health

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