



Futures for Geography

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Structures

IGU

European

national, local, other



Structures



Academic geography: trends

GIS

Inter-disciplinary world of GIS: software designers, hardcore IT specialists, mathematicians, geographers, engineers...

We APPLY rather than INNOVATE or DEVELOP the GIS field!



Academic geography: trends

**Cultural studies / post (post-) modernist
theorizing**

Highly multi- and inter-disciplinary

Most of it: highly theoretical



Academic geography: trends

A plethora of new inter-disciplinary fields:

- Climate studies**
- Natural resources studies**
- Environmental studies**
- Urban studies**
- European studies**

And many many more, in which geographers participate



Academic geography - trends

**Communicative function of geography
(books for teachers, books for wide
audience)**

endangered by research pressure.

**Why does GEOGRAPHY seem to suffer
from this, while HISTORY does not?**



The model of academic geography

**Many new flowers on the edges of the
discipline**

And an increasingly hollow old core?

The edge city model?



School geography

WHAT we offer (orientation to an ever changing world, that influences our lives in many ways)

is generally considered as USEFUL by the outside world!

We need a convincing KNOWLEDGE BASE that supports what we claim.



BA / BSc Programs

**Broad disciplinary base plus room for
specialization**

**A truly academic education - research skills
and understanding of major academic
debates**

Employability!



About 'futures' debates

Personal preferences color our expectations!

Complaints about 'what is being lost' - often made in 'future of geography' debates - not very productive.

We cannot stop the process of 're-classification' of academic fields.

