



The Geospatial Information Sciences Program

Presents

Patricia Solís, Ph.D.

School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning
Arizona State University



Date: Sept. 6, 2024 (11:30 am – 12:30 pm)

Location: GR 2.326 (San Antonio room)

Creating a Sustainable Future: Unlocking the Power of Geospatial Innovation and Youth Empowerment

Abstract:

The transformative potential of geospatial innovation can be leveraged to impact sustainability challenges, especially when engaging youth and community stakeholders. From mapping extreme heat in urban Arizona to expanding electricity access in rural Sierra Leone, Dr. Solís will discuss how her scholarship engages students and local residents to use open geospatial tools in ways that make the invisible visible and build sustainability in vulnerable places. By liberating nontraditional data and leveraging crowdsourcing methods, her projects create digital public goods that empower governments, community organizations, and youth as effective changemakers. She will share how her scholarly aims balance traditional academic contributions to intellectual disciplinary thought with explicit attention to impacting people and institutions. By integrating cutting-edge research on sustainability, community engaged scholarship, and the potential of youth as adaptive agents, we can address global issues from the ground up, leaving behind knowledge systems capable of generating a more sustainable future.

About the speaker:

Patricia Solís, PhD, is co-founder and director of YouthMappers, a consortium of student-led mapping chapters on more than 400 university campuses in 78 countries who create and use open, volunteered spatial data in collaboration with USAID. Solís is Executive Director of the Knowledge Exchange for Resilience at Arizona State University, an interdisciplinary effort to link multi-sector community needs with research innovations around threats to economic, social, and environmental sustainability. She is an Associate Research Professor in the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning. She serves on the university-wide SDGs and Beyond Taskforce at ASU, a university recognized with the rank of No. 1 in the US for Impact, top ten worldwide, based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Solís serves a diplomatic appointment as the first woman President of the PanAmerican Institute of Geography and History for the Organization of American States and on the Fulbright Roster of Experts.

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