Krzysztof Janowicz is an Assistant Professor for Geographic Information Science at the Geography Department of the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is running the STKO Lab, which investigates the role of space and time for knowledge organization. Janowicz is a Faculty Research Affiliate of the Center for Information Technology and Society as well as the Cognitive Science Program. Before, Janowicz was an Assistant Professor at the GeoVISTA Center, Department of Geography at the Pennsylvania State University. He is also the community leader of the 52° North semantics community and one of the two Editors-in-Chief of the Semantic Web journal. Before moving to the United States, Janowicz was working as postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for Geoinformatics (ifgi), University of Münster in Germany for the Münster Semantic Interoperability Lab (MUSIL). Before starting a career in academia, Janowicz was leading a software engineering and consulting company in Germany. In this function Janowicz also authored a book on Internet Security for O'Reilly press which was later released as one of the first Open Books in Germany and is currently available in the 3rd Edition.

Janowicz has (co-)authored and (co-)edited more than 90 publications and has organized international workshops and conferences on a wide range of topics including geospatial semantics, mobile computing and location-based services, cognitive engineering, and big geodata. His key research interests include geospatial semantics, semantic interoperability, similarity and analogy reasoning, mobile computing & location-based services, GIScience, as well as the role of space and time to organize and disambiguate information.

Reasons for Wishing to Participate and Scope of Contribution

My research is focused on developing methods and tools that exploit space and time as fundamental ordering principles to organize bodies of knowledge, disambiguate information, and provide identity criteria for information integration. In my research, I show how space and time provide contextual information that serves as reference frame for the interpretation of heterogeneous data on the Web. I am also interested in the reverse direction, i.e., how thematic data can be used to infer spatial and temporal properties. While this work is mostly on the schema level, I am also doing research from a data perspective. For example, in previous work we have demonstrated how to learn type labels for Points of Interest based on the times they are visited by people as well as their spatial configuration with respect to other Points of Interest.

Thus, I believe that my research will contribute a relevant perspective to the topics and goals of the Specialist Meeting on Spatial Thinking across the College Curriculum. As an Assistant Professor in a Geography department, the development of a curriculum centered around spatial thinking is very important for me and will directly impact the courses I will teach on the graduate and undergraduate level. Summing up, I believe that I can help in setting the agenda and at the same time would directly benefit from the results of the meeting.