David O’Sullivan (B.A. Engineering, University of Cambridge, Ph.D. Architecture and Planning, University College London) is an Associate Professor of Geography at University of Auckland, New Zealand. His research focuses on dynamic spatial simulation models and their applications, with a particular emphasis on urban social settings. His work has ranged widely from the appropriate use of such models with a recent interest in narrative as an analysis method for understanding models; to the potential of dynamic spatial models for resolving the longstanding difficulty of handling spatiotemporal data in GIS. Among the more significant strands in O’Sullivan’s work have been articulating the relationship between complexity science and geography, the development of a novel class of dynamic simulation models, graph-based (or irregular) cellular automata, new methods for the measurement of ethnic spatial segregation, and early work on visibility graph analysis in geography and planning.

Geographic Information Analysis (co-authored with David Unwin) is an important advanced undergraduate/graduate text providing an approachable introduction to spatial analysis. The forthcoming Spatial Simulation: Exploring Pattern and Process (co-authored with George Perry) aims to do the same for dynamic spatial models!

O’Sullivan is a co-editor of Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design and of Transactions in GIS, and serves on the editorial board of three other journals. He is a subsection editor of the Association of American Geographers’ International Encyclopedia of Geography.