

**Mining user-generated geographic content:
An interactive, crowdsourced approach to validation
and supervision**

Frank O. Ostermann, Gustavo A. Garcia-Chapeton,
Raul Zurita-Milla, Menno-Jan Kraak

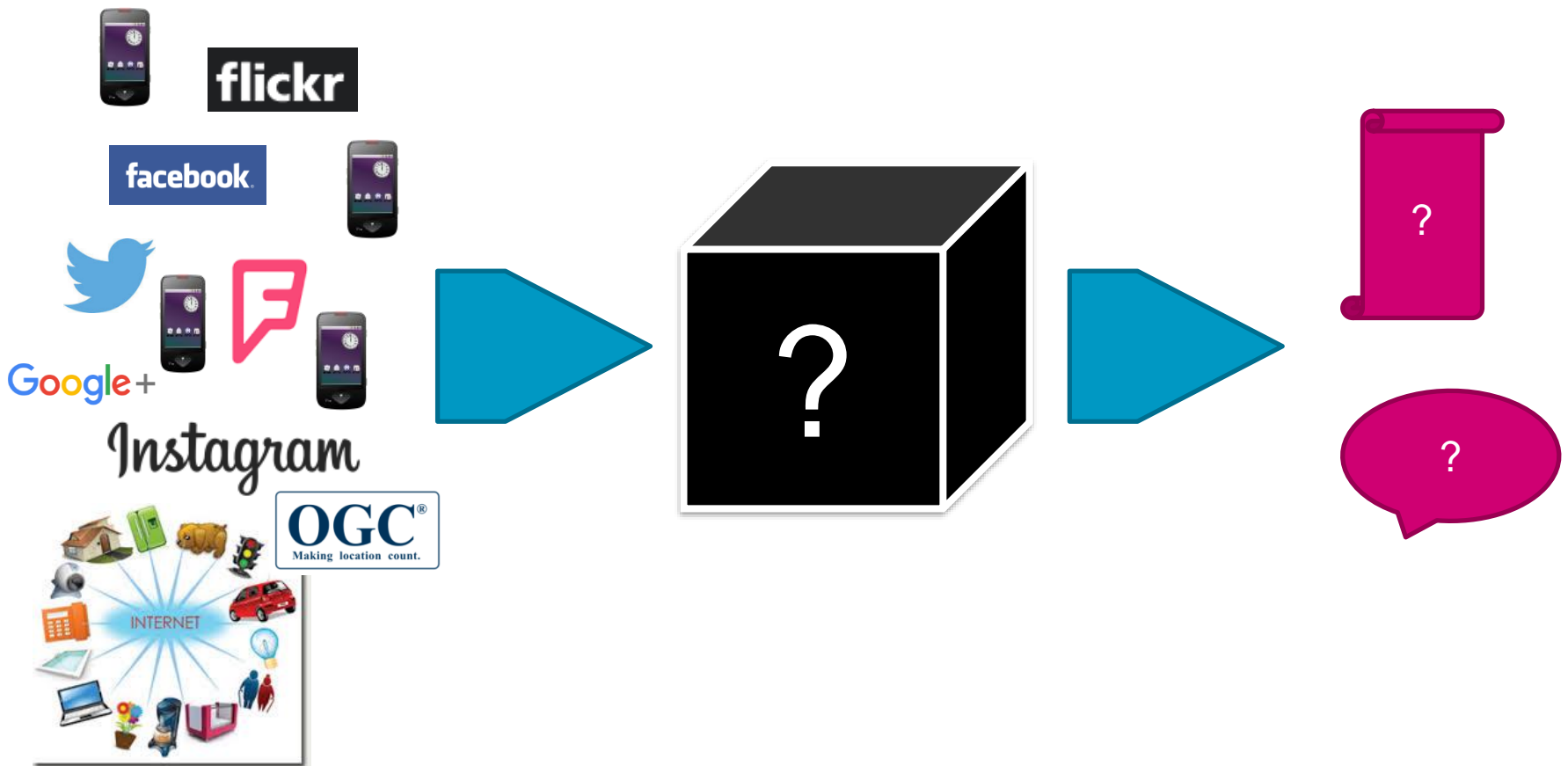
Presentation at the
20th AGILE conference on Geographic Information Science
11.05.2017, Wageningen UR

WHAT THIS TALK IS ABOUT...

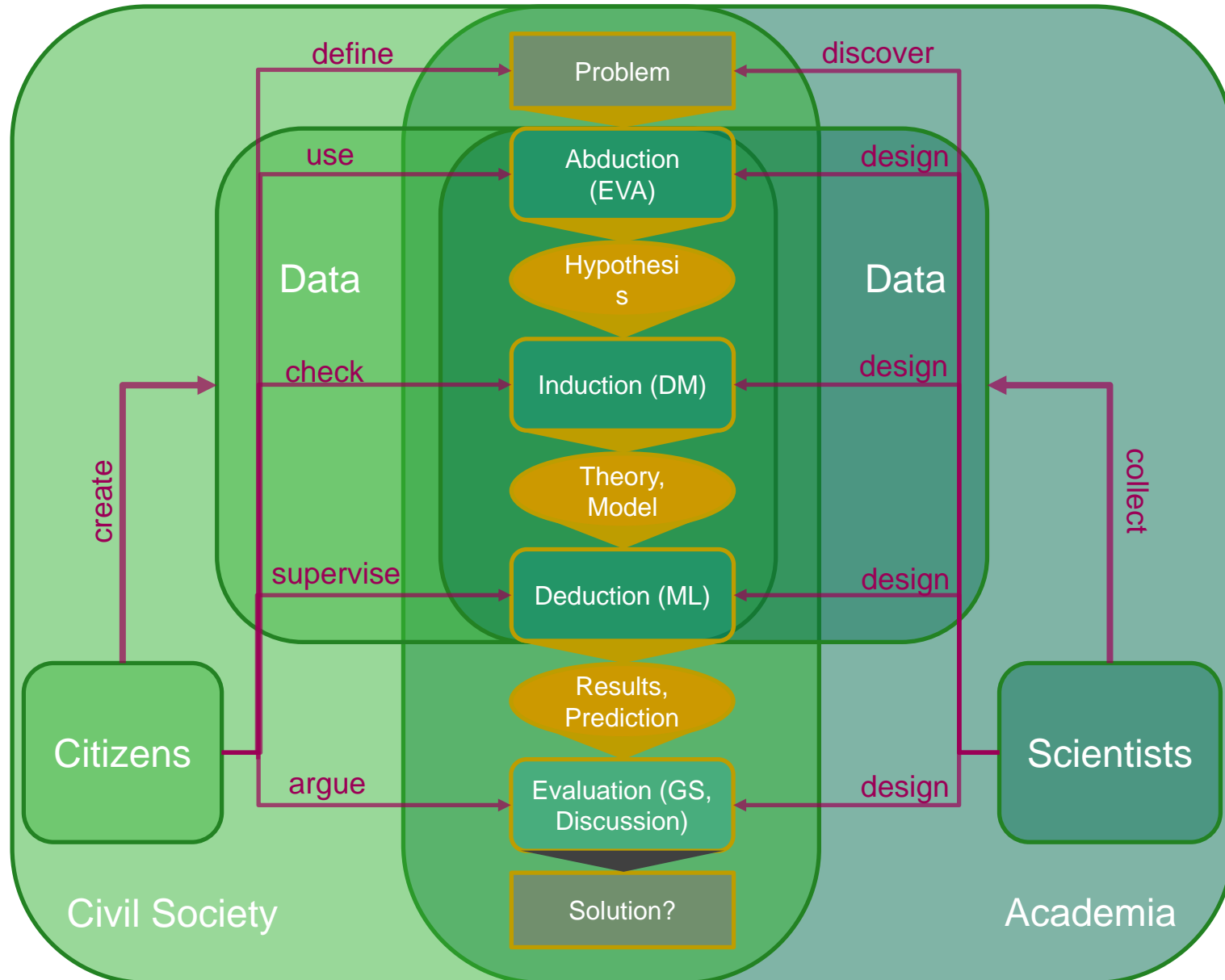
- **Smart Cities need Smart Citizens**
- Hybrid (human & machine) geoprocessing
- Mining geosocial media for place-related information
- Moving forward

OPENING UP THE BLACK BOX

SMART CITIES NEED SMART CITIZENS



SMART CITIZEN SCIENCE FRAMEWORK: CITIZEN DATA SCIENTISTS TO THE RESCUE?



PILOT STUDY: PLACE AS THE GREAT CONNECTOR

SMART CITIES NEED SMART CITIZENS

- User-generated geographic content offers rich and multi-faceted view on
 - perception of geographic places by users
 - shared semantics of geographic places
- Knowledge about place semantics
 - improves interoperability between datasets
 - information retrieval for future streams of geodata
- Place links citizen's needs and infrastructure affordances

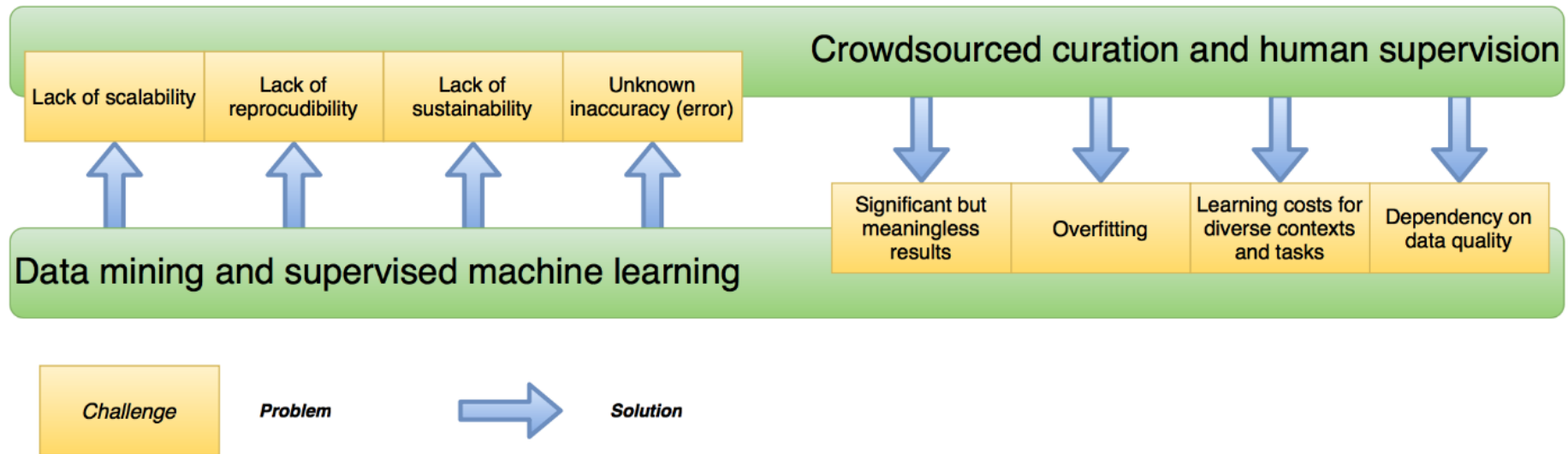
Mind the (semantic) gap!

WHAT THIS TALK IS ABOUT...

- Smart Cities need Smart Citizens
- **Hybrid (human & machine) geoprocessing**
- Mining geosocial media for place-related information
- Moving forward

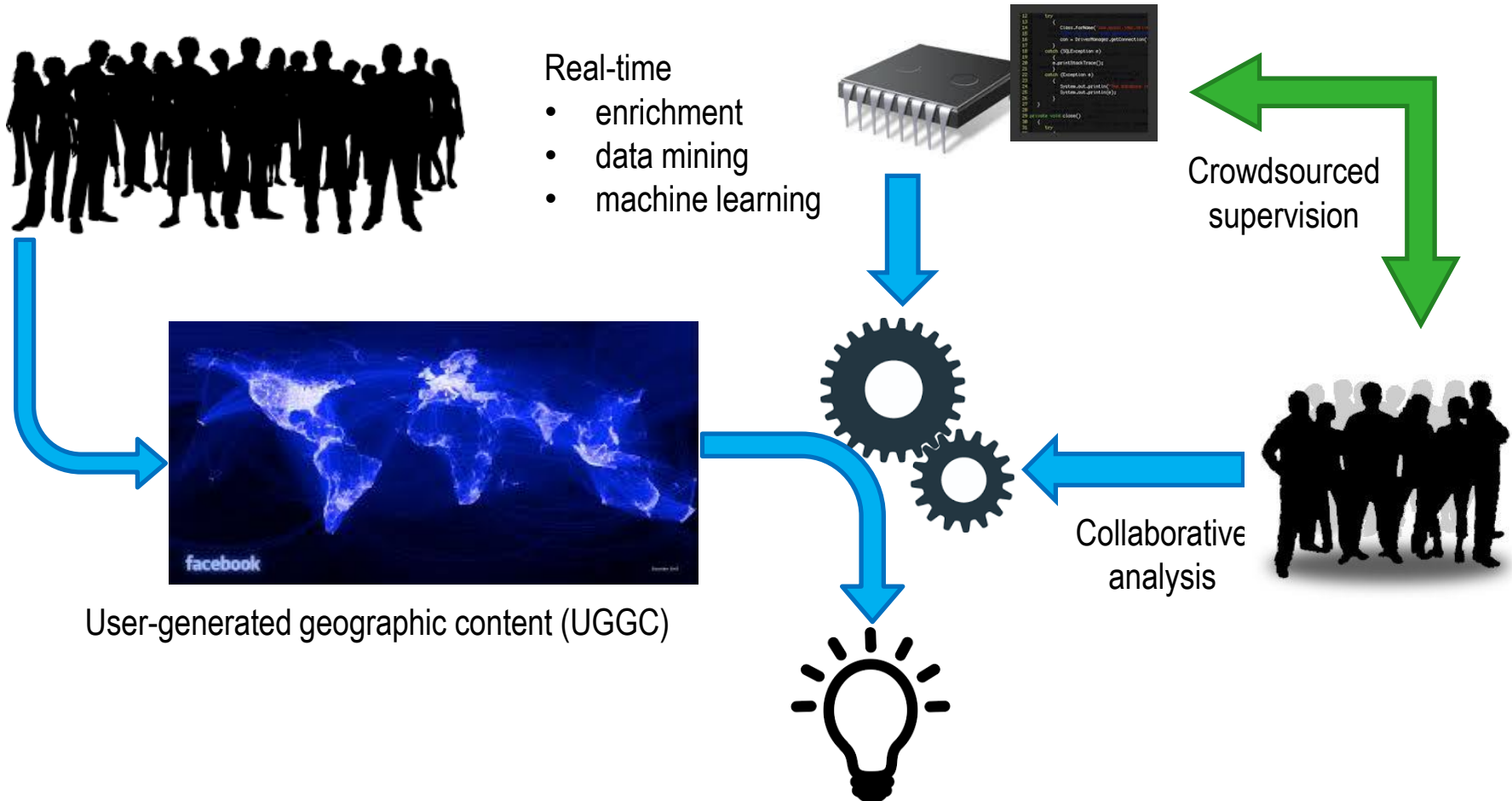
COMPLEMENTARY STRENGTHS

HYBRID (HUMAN & MACHINE) GEOPROCESSING



AN EXAMPLE HYBRID WORKFLOW

HYBRID (HUMAN & MACHINE) GEOPROCESSING



WHAT THIS TALK IS ABOUT...

- Smart Cities need Smart Citizens
- Hybrid (human & machine) geoprocessing
- **Mining geosocial media for place-related information**
- Moving forward

CONCEPTUALIZING & OPERATIONALIZING PLACES

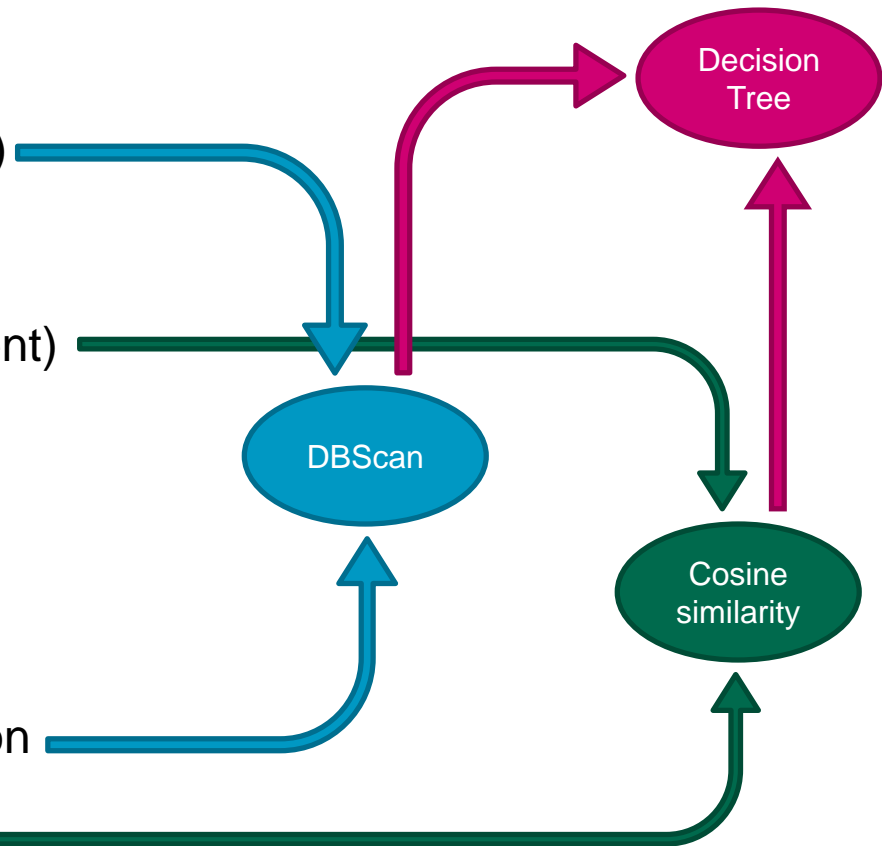
MINING GEOSOCIAL MEDIA FOR PLACE-RELATED INFORMATION

- Agnew (1987):

- Specific location (where?)
- Locale (properties)
- Sense of place (attachment)

- Winter and Freksa (2012):

- place through contrast
 - Spatio-temporal location
- Semantics



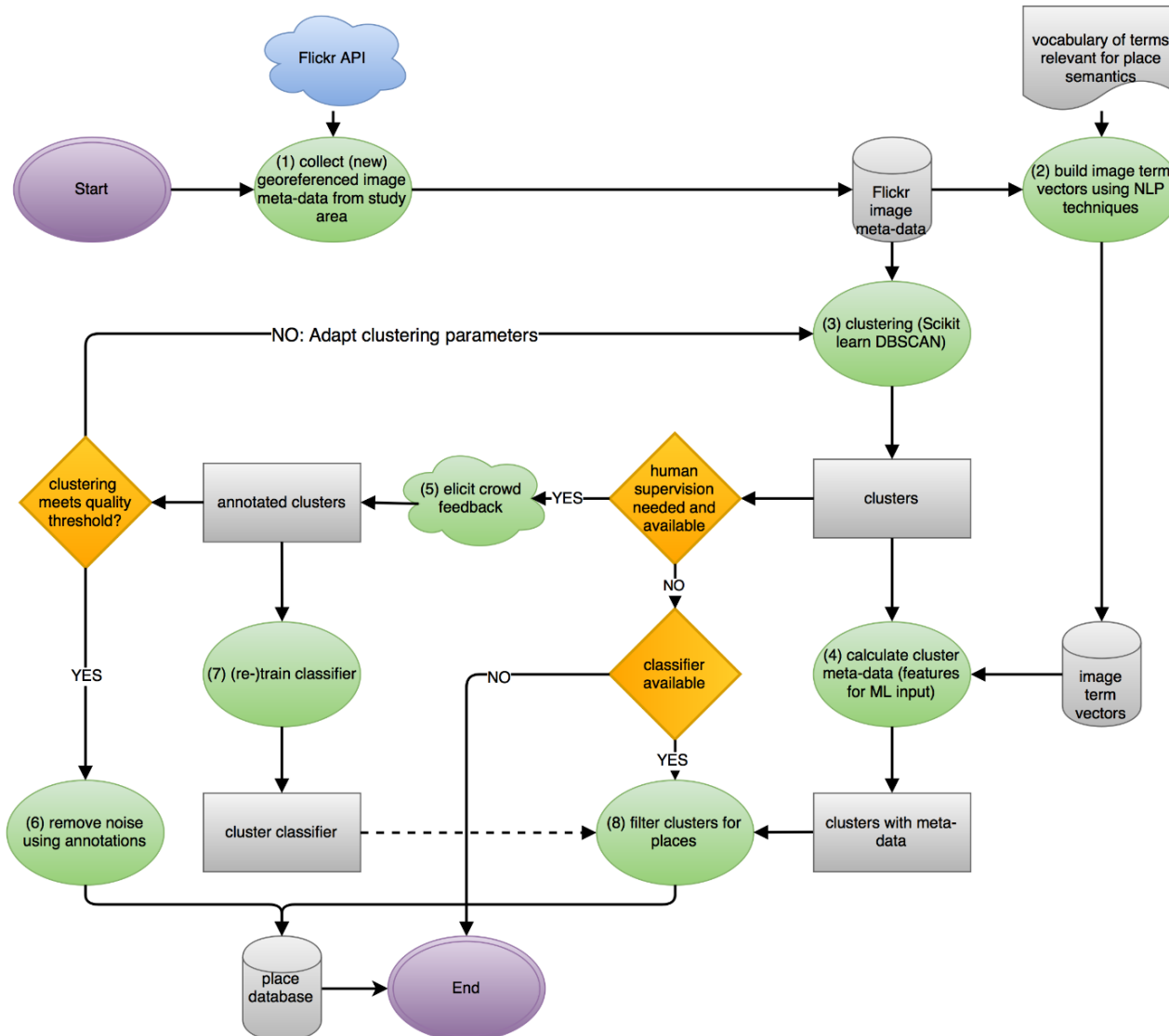
FLICKR PHOTO METADATA AS INPUT

MINING GEOSOCIAL MEDIA FOR PLACE-RELATED INFORMATION

- Flickr Search API:
 - Rich metadata (tags, description, title)
 - Relatively stable
 - Flexible API
 - Many (~20%) geolocated
- What: All geo-referenced Flickr images
- Where: Greater London Area bounding box
- When: until November 2014
- More than five million images.

IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKFLOW

MINING GEOSOCIAL MEDIA FOR PLACE-RELATED INFORMATION



DEMO OF INTERFACE

MINING GEOSOCIAL MEDIA FOR PLACE-RELATED INFORMATION

Instructions

1 Look at the spatial layout of the image group. Do you think the image group represents a building block, single building, or other type of geographic space?

2 Look at the actual images. Do you think the image group represents a "place" (e.g. a building, a park, a street, etc.)? If yes, what type of geographic space is it? (e.g. building, park, street, etc.) If no, what type of noise (off-topic image) is it?

3 After analysing the image group, you will see two options for specifying the type of geographic space. If you are not sure, you can select "Other". If you select "Other", you will see a list of options that had the biggest impact on the results.

Note: the images are automatically selected from the geosocial media, therefore, some of the images may be blurry or of low quality.

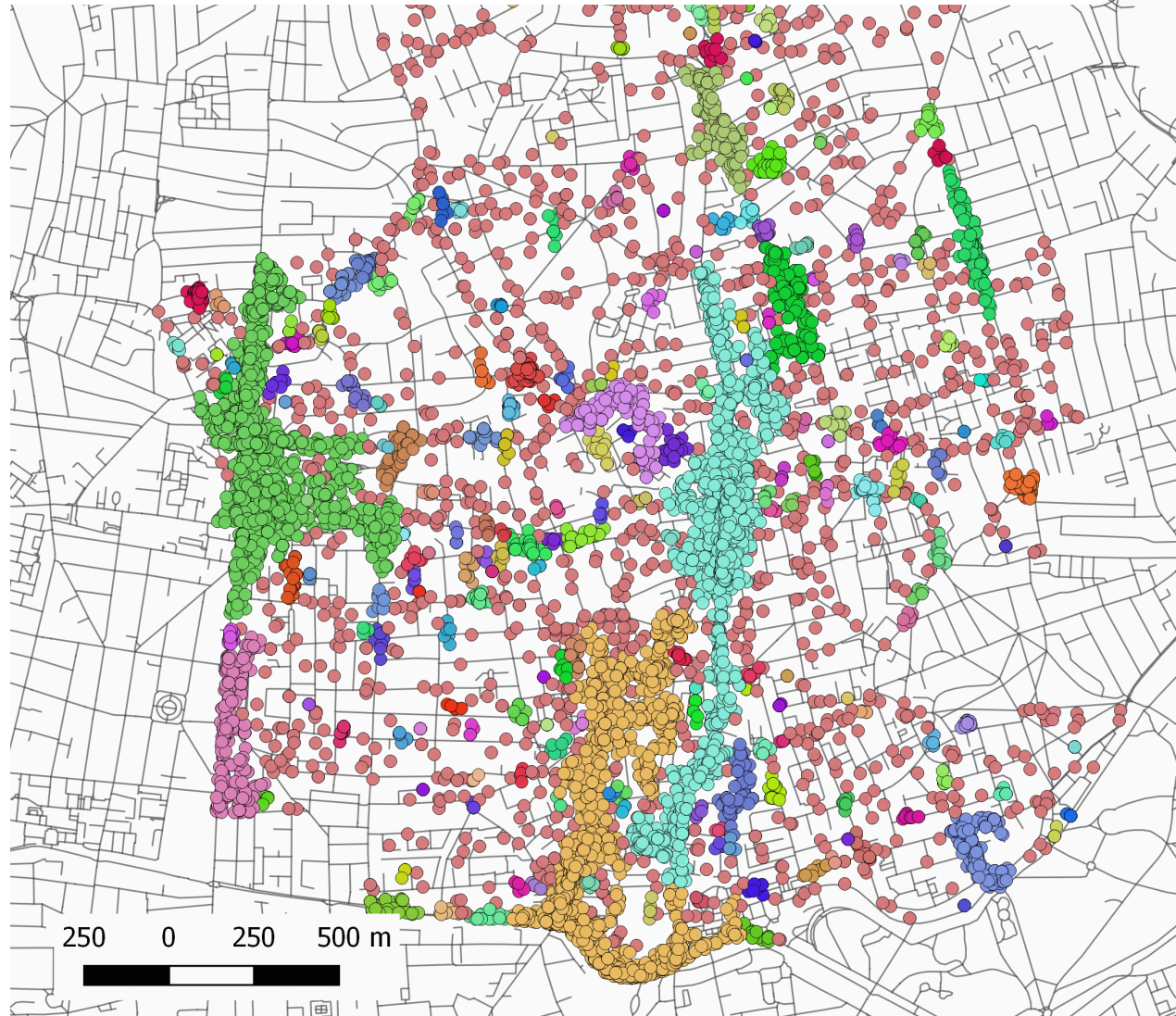
The screenshot displays the Cluster Validator interface. On the left, a map shows a green area with several blue location pins. To the right of the map is a grid of 12 images. Above the images, it says "Cluster 10" and "Image 1 of 29". Below the images is a "Feedback for Cluster 10" form. The form contains two questions:

- 1 Could the spatial layout of the image group represent a place?
- 2 Does the majority of images show the same place?

At the bottom of the form, there are three buttons: "Submit", "Skip and show next", and "Close".

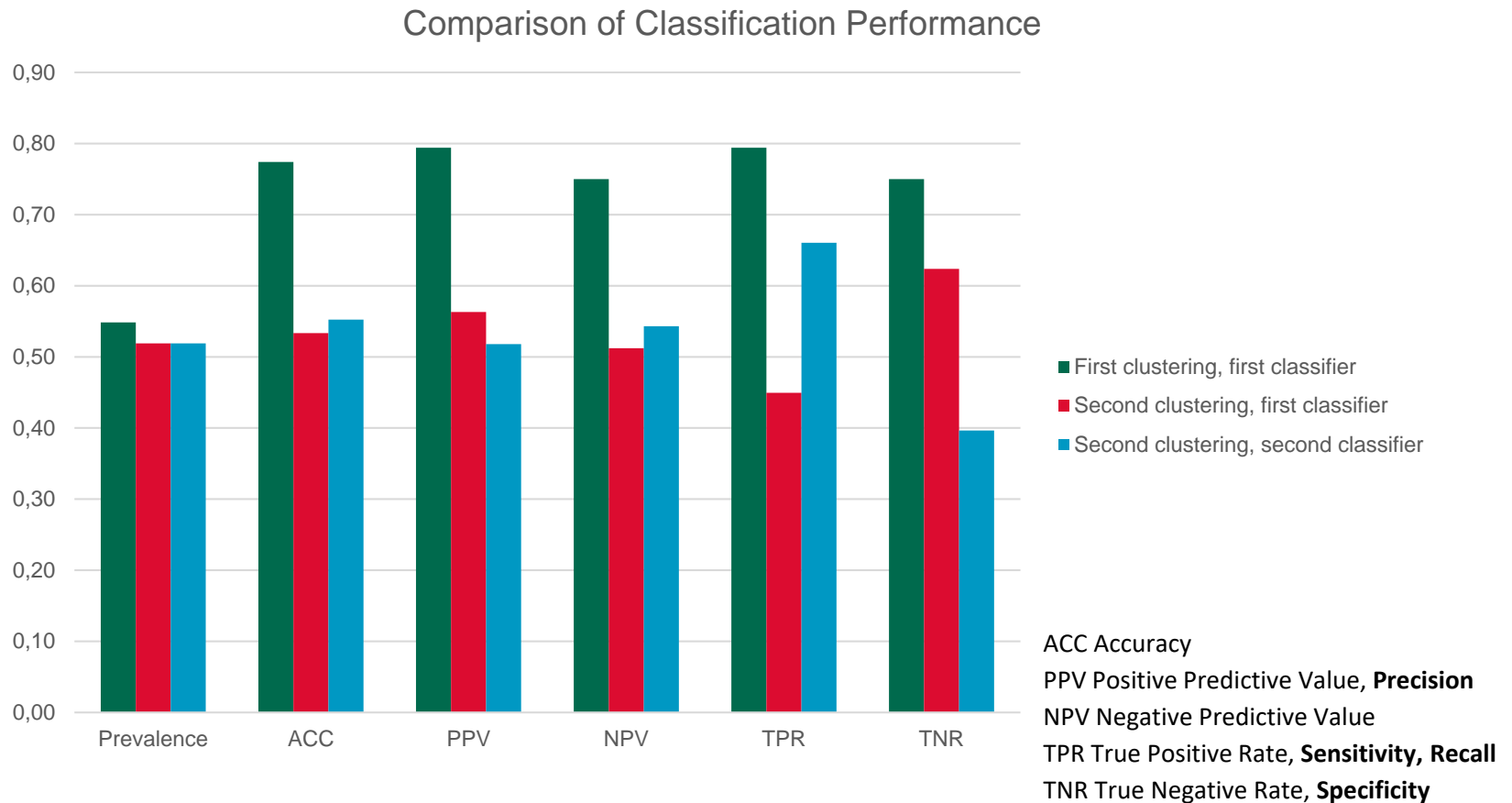
RESULTS: MAPPING THE CLUSTERS

MINING GEOSOCIAL MEDIA FOR PLACE-RELATED INFORMATION



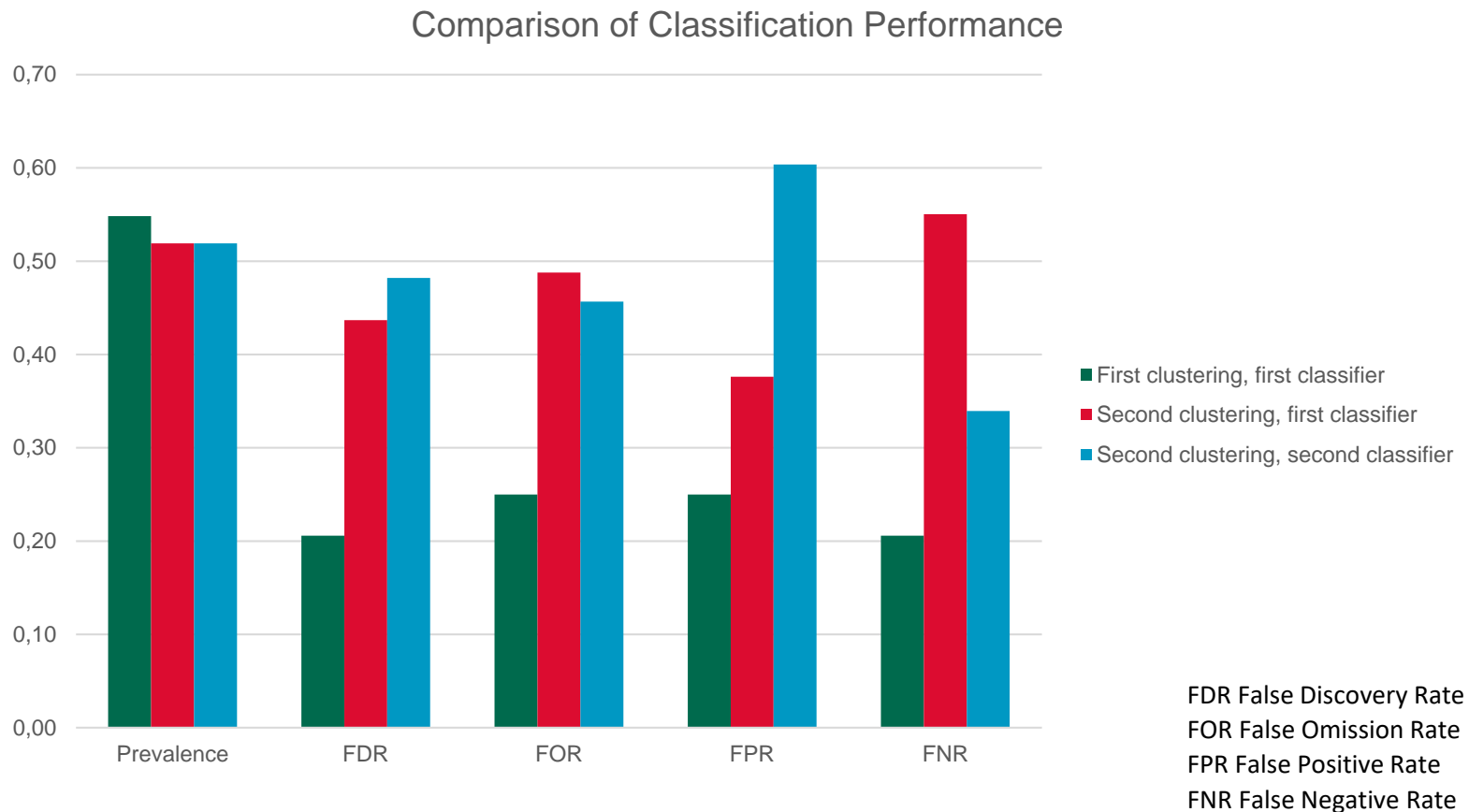
RESULTS: CLASSIFYING THE CLUSTERS

MINING GEOSOCIAL MEDIA FOR PLACE-RELATED INFORMATION



RESULTS: CLASSIFYING THE CLUSTERS

MINING GEOSOCIAL MEDIA FOR PLACE-RELATED INFORMATION



LESSONS LEARNED

MINING GEOSOCIAL MEDIA FOR PLACE-RELATED INFORMATION

- A single source of user-generated geographic content might not be rich enough to capture places.
- Inter-rater agreement surprisingly high considering lack of local knowledge.
- Difficult to recruit people with local knowledge.
- Iterative workflow requires good coordination and orchestration with crowdsourced efforts.
- Adjustment of clustering hyper-parameters requires retraining of classifier.

WHAT THIS TALK IS ABOUT...

- Smart Cities need Smart Citizens
- Hybrid (human & machine) geoprocessing
- Mining geosocial media for place-related information
- **Moving forward**

MORE DATA?

MOVING FORWARD

- More geosocial data sources
 - Paint richer picture
 - Have more legal constraints and terms of service
 - Stream of data, not batches or packages
- More authoritative data sources
 - Add value
 - Hide/wrap queries of portals to lower entrance barrier

IMPROVED ANALYSIS?

MOVING FORWARD

- Improved data mining techniques (ST-DBSCAN, spectral clustering)
- Improved machine learning techniques (SVM, random forests, online and active learning, more features)
- Improved semantics (other vocabularies, ontologies)
- Geographic transferability (see yesterday's talk): Overfitting vs. specific models for specific (local) data
- Balance with accessibility
- Ensure reproducibility and avoid Black Box

MORE LOCAL KNOWLEDGE?

MOVING FORWARD

- Bigger case study?
- Different case study?
- Managing the crowd
 - Recruit locals for supervision and validation
 - Retaining contributors
 - Cater for dabblers and dropouts
- To gamify or not?

MORE USER NEEDS?

MOVING FORWARD

- Asks locals (not tourists) about interests
- What makes a citizen smarter?
 - Finding a shop?
 - Participate in evidence-based policy-making?

LAST STOP: ADVERTISEMENT

MOVING FORWARD

Thank you for your attention!

Questions & Comments:

f.o.ostermann@utwente.nl

Workshop on

Semantic Information of Geosocial Data for the Mobile Age

September 21 – 22, Zürich

Call for Papers open now

More info: <http://www.geo.uzh.ch/~rsp/semGeoSoc/index.html>