



## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FOR QUT RESEARCH PROJECT – Survey –

Assessing the effectiveness of different visualisation methods for Australian spatial data.

**QUT Ethics Approval Number** 1900000991

### Research team

Principal Researcher:	Stephanie Kobakian	Masters Student
Associate Researchers:	Kerrie Mengersen	Principal Supervisor
	Earl Duncan	Associate Supervisor
	Dianne Cook	External Supervisor

**Faculty of Science and Engineering  
Queensland University of Technology (QUT)**

### Why is the study being conducted?

The purpose of this research project is to test the effectiveness of two types of spatial displays: a choropleth map, and a hexagon map, where each geographic region is represented by a hexagon. This will examine the use of different map styles in communicating a relationship between geographic areas. The purpose of these displays is to convey the spatial distribution of the disease occurrence, or incidence. This can mean detecting hot spots corresponding to outbreaks, spatial trends, for example, indicating occurrence is related to latitude or even rural vs urban differences. Effectiveness of the display will be measured by accurate and efficient perception of these patterns.

This research project is being undertaken as part of a Masters study for Stephanie Kobakian, a student at Queensland University of Technology. You are invited to participate in this research project because you have had experience answering surveys and participating in crowdsource activities.

### What does participation involve?

Participation will involve completing a few test questions followed by a survey. Each survey item will contain a grid of maps, you will be asked the following question:

#### **Which map is most different from the others?**

Report your choice and the reason you selected it, and how difficult your decision was to make. It will take no more than 10 minutes of your time to complete the task.

Questions will include images similar to Figure 1 below:

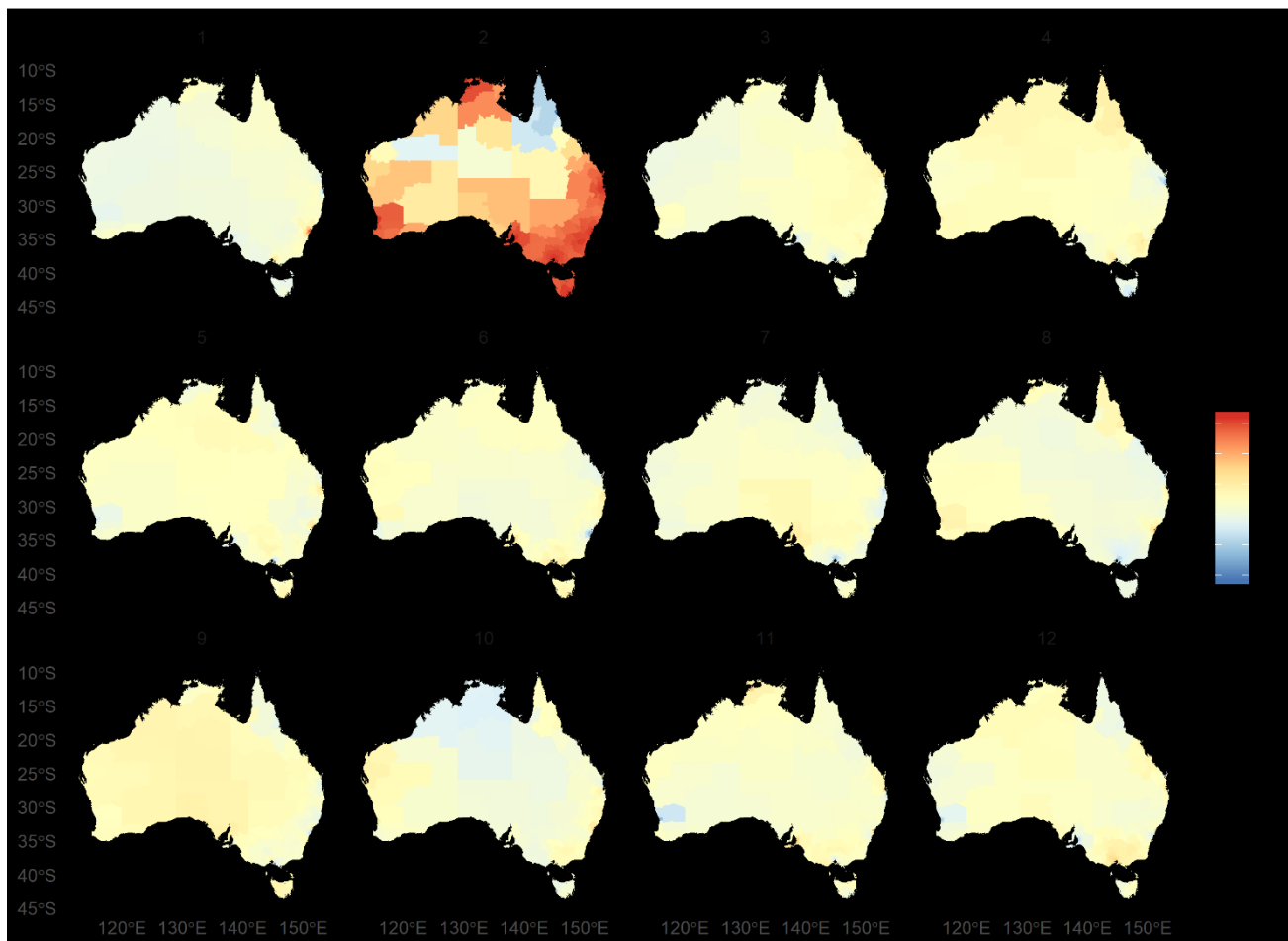


Figure 1. A lineup of geographic maps of Australia. Each sa3 has been coloured according to a simulated data set. Only one of these maps displays a spatial relationship, the rest are null plots, with colours shuffled between the areas.

Your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. If you agree to participate you do not have to complete any question(s) you are uncomfortable answering. Your decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT (for example your grades) or associated external organisation. If you do agree to participate you can withdraw from the research project during your participation without comment or penalty. However, as the survey does not request any personal identifying information, once it has been submitted it will not be possible to withdraw.

### **What are the possible benefits for me if I take part?**

It is expected that this research project will directly benefit you as a paid member of the Figure-Eight platform. The outcomes of the research may also benefit researchers who have the options to consider the maps they use to communicate spatial information to the general public.

To recognise your contribution should you choose to participate the research team is offering you \$5.00 paid into your Figure-Eight account at the completion of the survey.

### **What are the possible risks for me if I take part?**

Risks:

Monetary risk: if participants do not accurately provide their Contributor ID in our external survey we will not be able to confirm they participated, and provide the payment to their account. As the figure Eight platform encourages paying participants after the survey collection period has finished.

Privacy risk: data on contributors, such as location, channel, time, and IP address will be provided to researchers by the platform. This information will be held on the researcher's personal laptops.

Psychological risks of taking part in this survey involves a possible negative affective state such as anxiety as participants will be asked to evaluate maps that are very unfamiliar. There is also the potential risk of anxiety resulting from the colouring of red areas, this colour scheme is best for all colour blindness types except greyscale.

### **What about privacy and confidentiality?**

All comments and responses are anonymous. It will only be possible to identify due to your contributor ID provided in the research, personal identifying information is not sought in any of the responses. It will not be possible to re-identify you using your contributor ID, but it will be removed and not stored in a public space after is received by the researchers. This data may be used by other researchers in the future.

Any data collected as part of this research project will be stored securely as per QUT's Management of research data policy. All answers you provide during the survey will be available online, this will not contain any personally identifiable information. Data will be stored for a minimum of 5 years. It will be available publicly at the web address: <https://github.com/srkobakian/experiment>.

The research project is funded by ACEMS and they will have access to the data obtained during the project as it will be publicly available.

### **How do I give my consent to participate?**

The survey will ask if each participant gives their consent for their responses to be used.

The selection of the "yes" checkbox will allow continuation to the survey questions.

Submission of the completed survey is accepted as an indication of your consent to participate in this research project, you may withdraw by completing less than 50% of the questions, after checking the "yes" checkbox.

### **What if I have questions about the research project?**

If you have any questions or require further information please contact one of the listed researchers:

Stephanie Kobakian	<a href="mailto:stephanie.kobakian@hdr.qut.edu.au">stephanie.kobakian@hdr.qut.edu.au</a>	+61 433699797
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### **What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?**

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. If you wish to

discuss the study with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on +61 7 3138 5123 or email [humanethics@qut.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@qut.edu.au).

**Thank you for helping with this research project.  
Please print this sheet for your information.**