Opportunities through the use of Open-Street-Map data in social sciences

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A high portion of information can be related to place. But the processment of this relating information has long been difficult due to lacking data sources and processing power. Numerous *R*-packages have been developed recently, which provide tools to read, visualize, and analyze spatial data.

In social sciences it is increasingly common to deal with observational data in their spatial context. The analysis of geographic locations and their attributes is of growing importance for research in social sciences and humanities.

In the presentation these two areas are combined. The *R*-packages **sp**, **ggmap** and **rgeos** are employed to process spatial informations. Examples are applied to highlight the additional benefit of geographic associations. The *R*-package **osmar** enables the Use*R* to benefit from the high level informations of the Open-Street-Map project. The derived data is for example used to describe geographic disparities in the selection of pre-school establishments. The underlying hypothesis is that the neighborhood social context plays a big role in this coherence.

The aim of this work is to highlight possibilities of using relevant information on the surroundings to provide a more accurate picture of social phenomena.

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