

Department of Geography

Learning the social heartbeat of an urban landscape from real-time data traces

Sharon Richardson

January 2021

@joiningdots | linkedin.com/in/sharonr | www.joiningdots.com

Can mobile data reveal social atmospheres?





Signals

Device ID Coordinates Timestamp Semantics Message content

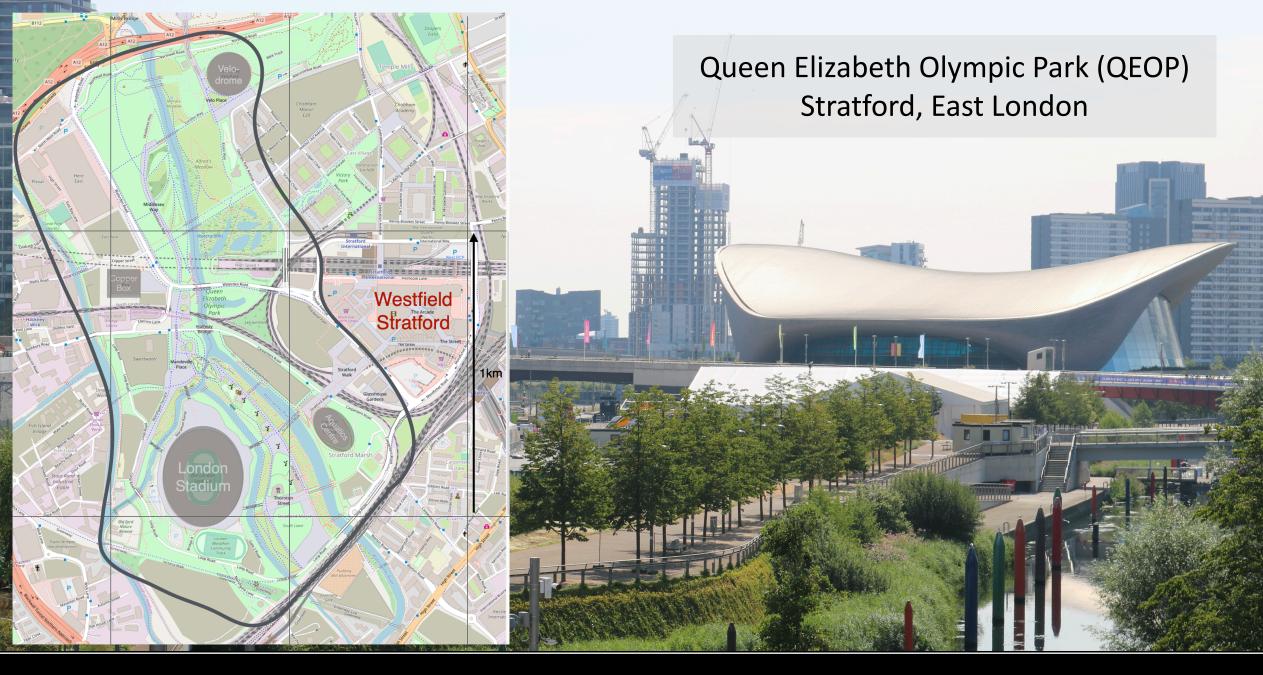
(text, image, audio...) Message tags

Presence

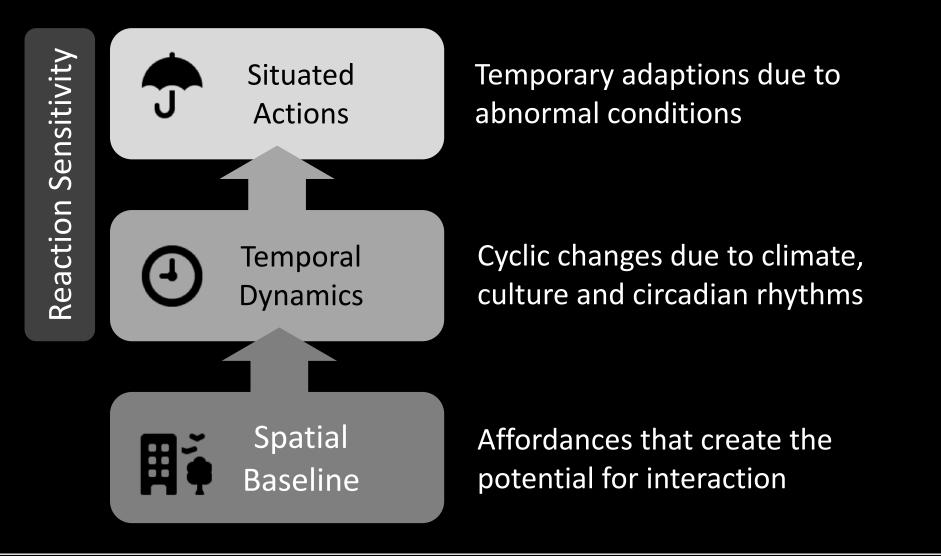
Experiences

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (QEOP) Stratford, East London

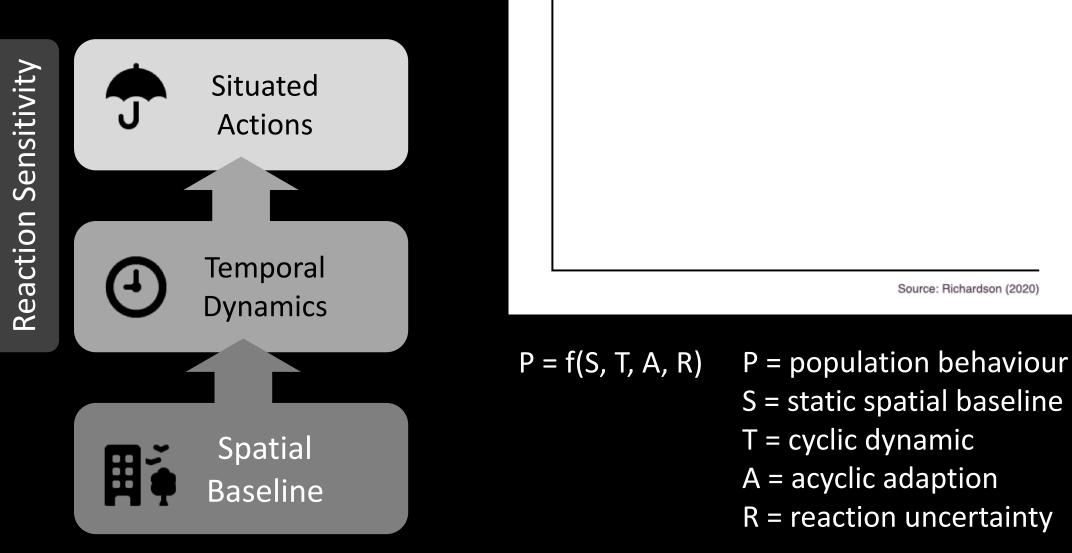
Tele:



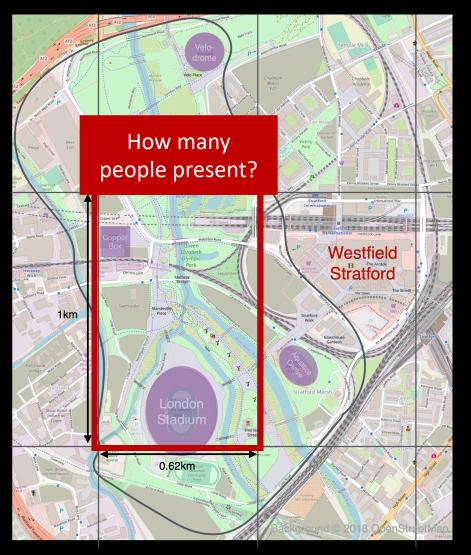
Defining location-based contexts

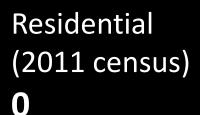


P-STAR framework



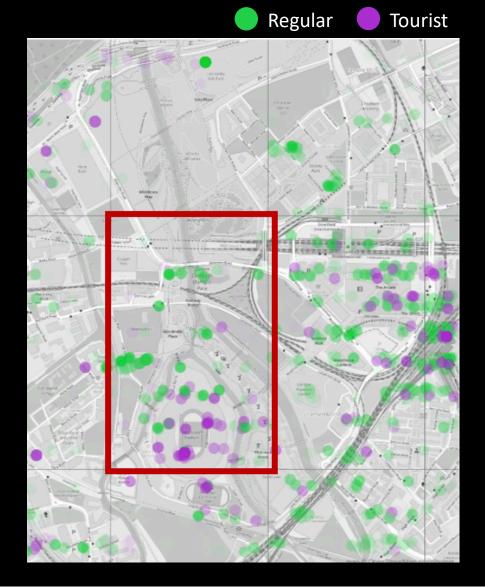
Estimating the active population...





Ambient average (2015 LandScan) Approx. 6,000

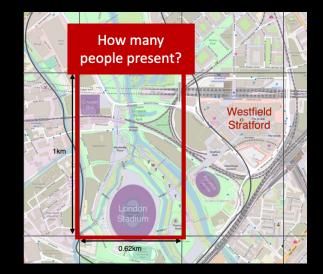
Contextual knowledge **Up to 80,000+**



Estimating the active population...

Population estimate = Spatial baseline x Time weight

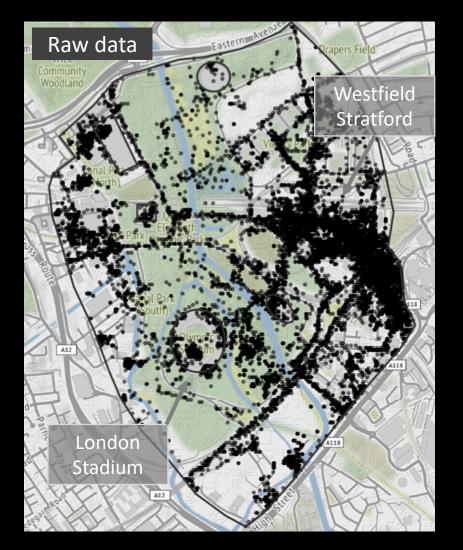
- Spatial baseline: LandScan ambient average
- Time weight created from mobile app data



Context		Estimate ¹	(weight)	Regulars vs Tourists
S	Ambient average	5,907	(1.00)	
T ₁	Friday normal at 10am	1,700	(0.28)	33% 67%
T ₂	Friday normal at 6pm	9,900	(1.67)	40% 60%
Α	Friday event at 6pm	55,100	(9.33)	4% <mark>96%</mark>

¹ Excluding LandScan ambient average, estimates have been rounded to nearest 100

Learning dwell and movement patterns



Cluster analysis to segment landscape into active spaces

Behaviour classified based on duration in active space

- Travelling (< 5 mins)
- Brief (5 to 20 mins)
- Dwell (20 to 90 mins)
- Visit half (90 to 4hrs)
 - Visit long (4 to 6 hrs)
 - All day (6+ hrs)



Limitations of mobile data analytics

- How to respect privacy and gain insights into behaviour?
- Is the data representative of the local/visiting population?
- Are all areas accessible for mobile data collection?
- Sensor-based sources:
 - Is the placement of sensors biased?
- What behaviours and experiences cannot be captured?

Summary

- Spatial analysis produces generalised insights
- Space-Time analysis can produce contextual insights
- A framework enables focus on questions rather than data
- Administrative and land-use methods provide static baselines
- Sensed/Mobile data reveal dynamic presence and experiences
- Consideration is needed for bias, privacy and ethics
- Always think about what data is missing...



Department of Geography

Thanks for listening!

Sharon Richardson

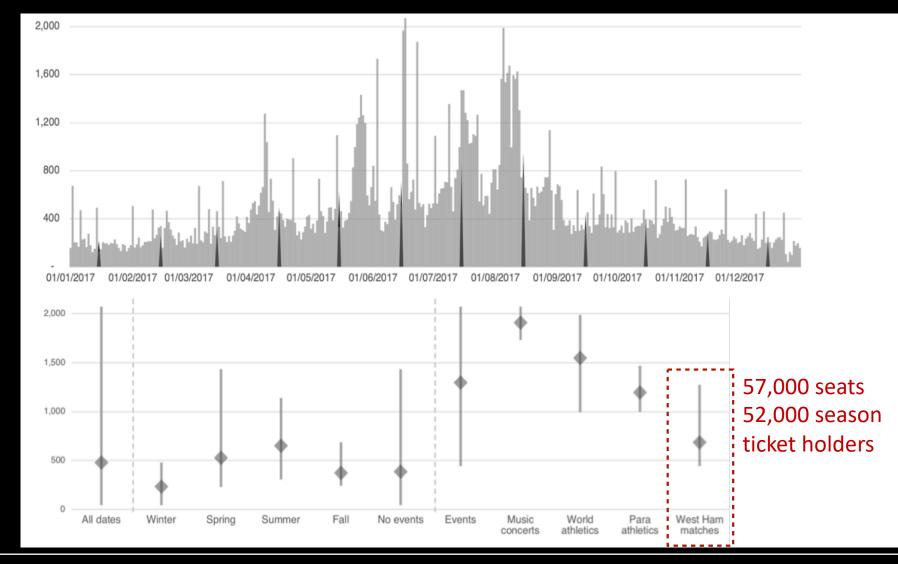
January 2021

@joiningdots | linkedin.com/in/sharonr | www.joiningdots.com

Learning seasonal and situational influences

Devices connecting to park WiFi daily during 2017 (and month average)

Categorising daily visits by context (min – mean – max)



Richardson, S. (2019). *Predicting Presence in Urban Outdoor Spaces*, IEEE Pervasive Computing, vol 8(3), pp21-30 13