Abstract:
The web is often being accessed by users with an accurate geo-location, and massive geo-tagged content is available on the web, including web pages, points of interest, and microblog posts. Studies suggest that each week, billions of keyword-based queries are issued that have local intent and that target such content. This situation gives prominence to spatial web data management, and it opens to an area full of exciting opportunities and challenges. A prototypical query takes a user location and user-supplied keywords as arguments, and it returns content that is spatially and textually relevant to these arguments. Due perhaps to the rich semantics of geographical space and its importance to our daily lives, many kinds of relevant spatial web query functionality exist.

Rooted in work by the speaker and his colleagues, the presentation reviews selected functionality and concepts related to spatial web object ranking and querying; it presents functionality targeting different kinds of user intent; and it outlines directions for future research.