"Remembrance and Geomedia: remembering, teaching and researching the Holocaust through GIS"

In this lecture, I outline some of the learning of a decade-long international collaboration between historians, architectural historians, geographers, cartographers and GIScientists. The focus of the group’s interdisciplinary research has been to examine the potential of GIS tools and geo-visualization methods to generate new understanding of the Holocaust. As well as discussing some of those research findings that uncover spatial patterns in the implementation and experiences of genocide, I examine the limits of GIS that our project encountered, and the ways that we have sought to work with and beyond those limits. One thing that we have begun exploring is what a GIS of place and not simply of space might entail, that would allow us to map victim experience and not simply the more abstract geography of the perpetrators.

Short bio

Tim Cole holds an MA in History and a PhD in Geography, both from the University of Cambridge. He teaches history at the University of Bristol and is the Director of one of the University’s five University Research Institutes – the Brigstow Institute. This brings academics from different disciplines together with those from beyond the academy to co-produce new knowledge on what it means to be human in the 21st century. Tim is particularly interested in collaborations with creative technologists and communities and has undertaken collaborative research projects with both. He has been the co-lead of the Holocaust Geographies Collaborative for more than a decade. His most recent book is Holocaust Landscapes (Bloomsbury, 2016).

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