Dr. Robin Lovelace

Robin Lovelace, PhD, University Academic Fellow in Transport and Big Data at the Leeds Institute for Transport Studies (ITS), UK. Robin Lovelace PhD publications.

Dr. Lovelace is a Geographer and Environmental Scientist by training with expertise in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), data analysis and modelling. Through his PhD on the Energy Costs of Commuting, he developed a strong interest in modelling large transport systems at high levels of geographical resolution. This interest continued to grow during his 2 post-doctorate positions as Research Fellow in Geospatial Data Analysis and Simulation (TALISMAN) and in the Leeds Institute for Data Analytics (LIDA).

Abstract

Tools for planning healthy cities and modelling health outcomes of policy scenarios have become increasingly sophisticated, large scale (with national and global models on the horizon) and detailed. With increasing model complexity there are risks, however. Tools can become perceived as ‘black boxes’ only available to a small number of experts in the field. This presentation will argue that for tools for planning should be open source. Furthermore, to have maximum policy impact, as part of a democratic decision making process in the public interest, the results should be made publicly accessible, to encourage public debate of the issues raised by research. A case study of the Propensity to Cycle Tool (PCT) illustrates these points, building on a recently published paper on the subject (Lovelace et al., 2017). The PCT is an open source and publicly accessible (try it out at http://www.pct.bike/) toolkit for planning healthier cities, funded by the UK's Department for Transport. The talk will conclude pragmatically, by outlining concrete steps that researchers can take to ensure maximum benefits arising from their work.

Reference