

## **Public Participation GIS research and its current issues: In terms of discussions in human geography**

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Since 1990, social and political geographers have criticized GIS research from various aspects, like lacks in epistemological thoughts or digital divides between advantaged and less advantaged groups. To partly overwhelm such criticisms, public participation GIS (PPGIS) was developed in the mid-1990s. However, most GIS studies, which were conducted in Japan, seem to emphasise solitarily utilisation of WebGIS to collect data from citizens, but not to intend to attain social inclusions of marginalised persons in collective spatial decision-making processes. In terms of such circumstances around the PPGIS studies in Japan, the present study aims at reviewing the present situations of PPGIS research chiefly conducted in USA. This study first mentions a short history of PPGIS, and then it reviews public participation, upon which PPGIS research theoretically depends, in the third part. The fourth part is dedicated to characterise PPGIS studies in comparison with ordinal GIS. Finally, this study reveals differences in PPGIS research between Japan and the Western countries, and then shows some research agenda in further PPGIS studies in Japan.