

DR. MAY YUAN

*Director, Center for Spatial Analysis; Edith Kinney Gaylord
Presidential Professor; Associate Professor of Geography*

**B.S., Geography, National Taiwan University; M.A., Geography, State University of
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Dr. Yuan's research interest is in geographic representation, information modeling, and applications of geographic information technologies to dynamic systems. Through grants from NSF, NASA, DoD-NIMA, DoD-Air Force, and DoE, she has been investigating representation models for dynamic geographic phenomena, such as wildfires, convective storms, air-pollution plumes, and landcover change. She also has been developing methods for spatiotemporal query and analysis on these phenomena. Her work on wildfire representation won the first prize in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) student paper competition of American Association of Geographers 1994. Later, she was named one of the 20 international young scholars in GI Science by the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis with sponsorships from the National Science Foundation and European Science Foundation. Recently, she received a presidential professorship from the University of Oklahoma in recognition of her teaching and research achievements.

Her key contribution so far in GIScience attributes to both fundamental and applied research. Her work in geographic representation of dynamic phenomena and spatiotemporal information queries has advocated for direct representations of geographic processes and the use of geographic processes to integrate spatial and temporal information in geographic information systems. On the applied side, she has collaborated with meteorologist, zoologists, biologists, anthropologists, and epidemiologists on projects that extend the conventional use of GI technologies to model spatial distributions and changes. Per the recognition of her work, she was invited to various NSF-sponsored specialist meetings in GIScience and National Research Council meetings in related fields. Currently, she advises three doctoral students and four master's students. In addition, she serves on 12 doctoral committees at seven departments cross four colleges.

Under Yuan's supervision, one Ph.D. student and seven Master's students completed their degrees in 1997-2003. Currently, she is the major advisor of two Ph.D. students and three Master's students. In addition, she has been serving on 25+ doctoral and Master's thesis committees across campus at the University of Oklahoma and in Australia and China. She teaches courses in GIS and conducts GIS training workshops broadly to students, government agencies, and college faculty across the U.S.