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GeoHB2025 Conference Report for the Israel Smart Transportation Research Center

The GeoHB2025 2nd International Workshop on Geo-spatial Computing for Understanding Human Behavior covered a number of topics in the use of geospatial data for analyzing key aspects of human behavior such as mobility. The two-day workshop featured six keynote presentations and twenty presentations from scholars at institutions including The National University of Singapore, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Tongji University, Keio University, Toronto Metropolitan University, University of New South Wales and the Hebrew University.

I presented my research titled "Navigating Digital Cities: How Mobility and Spatial Context Mediate the Relationship Between Smartphone Fragmentation and Wellbeing" on the first day of the conference during the afternoon talk session, for which I was honored to receive an award for Best Oral Presentation in the student category. The presentation was chaired by Professor Yair Grinberger from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and took place from 16:00 to 16:15. The presentation covered our novel methods for analyzing fragmentation and our finding that digital fragmentation during mobility episodes showed protective associations with mental health outcomes rather than the harmful associations we had hypothesized. The presentation included a slide acknowledging the support of the ISTRC for this project.

The presentation was very well received, generating substantial interest and productive discussion with other attendees. I discussed the possibility of starting a research collaboration with Professor Xintao Liu who leads a team at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University that is also examining fragmentation in hybrid digital-physical environments. The networking opportunities I had at the GeoHB conference were very critical for my academic career. The opportunities to interact with fellow doctoral students working on complementary topics proved especially valuable. A team of doctoral students from the National University of Singapore that are interested in the question of digital technologies impact on health asked me about the potential for extending the analysis to examine app-specific fragmentation patterns during mobility, which would allow us to distinguish between effects for different types of digital engagement. This is an important topic which we are considering for further research projects in the Urban Vitality Lab that would benefit greatly from an international collaboration that can allow us to collect a larger data sample.

For future doctoral students from Israel considering attendance at GeoHB workshops, I strongly recommend this venue for presenting both work-in-progress research and completed works. I made several valuable connections during the conference and identified several potential research partners. Further, the visibility I gained through presenting and receiving an award at this international venue will doubtless facilitate my future publications and conference participation. I am grateful to the Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center for providing financial support that made this participation possible.

Supervisor Approval:



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