

## 21st International Conference of The Coastal Society

### Beyond Politics of Place

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From feminist theory to globalization of economics, place-based politics has been a premise of effective planning for a long time. Classic challenges of decision-making (e.g., not-in-my-backyard, identifying stakeholders' needs, what is effective public participation) are all un-resolvable because our system is rooted in "place." In an era of shrinking resources and environmental issues such as climate change and ocean health, place-based politics is a principle that is no longer sustainable. The interesting question is: Will open information virtual societies replace the existing politics of place? When school children in Ellensburg, Washington, have the same information access and virtual experience to the Puget Sound marine ecosystem as residents of the Seattle metropolitan area, will the Puget Sound become part of their political "landscape"? As a thought experiment, consider the issue of professional sports. How is it that fans for a team like the "DALLAS" cowboys will be spread over the whole of the U.S., transcending place? Clearly something that is identified with a place has an impact (image and market) well outside and removed from place. Information theory provides both a mean of explaining this, and offering insight into this new political reality. We will contrast the experience base of the incoming class of college freshmen and their perspective that what they have virtually experienced is as real to them (and shapes their political agenda) as the experiences of our current decision makers.

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