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It is less than three decades since behavioral geography has become a distinctive area of research. As a sub-area in geography it has been part of a general interdisciplinary movement which transgresses disciplinary boundaries. Despite numerous articles in the field, very few books have summarized the state-of-the-art of this major, new, developing area. Gold's *Introduction to Behavioural Geography* (1980), and Cox and Golledge's *Behavioural Problems in Geography Revisited* (1981), have been the primary texts used in the field. It was only a matter of time for one of the most prolific writers on the subject, Reginald George Golledge, and his southern-hemisphere colleague, Robert J. Stimson, to survey the current state of behavioral geography in all of its analytical aspects. Their book, *Analytical Behavioural Geography*, has been written with long neglected instructional needs in mind, and each chapter emphasizes concepts, theories, methods, models, and examples.

Although the book includes thirteen separate chapters, it basically deals with spatial cognition and spatial choice. After the opening section, which stresses the analytical basis for both the philosophic and reasoning modes adopted by the authors, the first chapter describes the need to go beyond publicly compiled data sets in order to uncover and understand an individual's spatial behavior. The types of data needed for behavioral research and the ways to collect it are presented in the second chapter. It is followed, however, by a conceptual, rather than empirical, chapter, portraying one of the most important behavioral processes; namely, the formation of perception and attitude. A distinction is made in this chapter between sensory perception and the general process of cognition. Chapter 4, therefore, focuses on the cognitive process. Its main value is in emphasizing the contribution of geographers to the interdisciplinary research of cognition in areas such as cognitive mapping, spatial preferences, spatial choice and decision-making.

The three following chapters deal with human behavior in the context of knowledge accumulation, time-space framework, and physical and societal constraints. Chapter 5 discusses learning theories and learning processes and even (too) briefly extends into the modern arena of artificial intelligence modelling. Chapter 6 focuses on activity and action spaces, linking their development and attributes to cognitive mapping. Chapter 7 presents the use and applications of time-space analysis in human activity studies.
Each of Chapters 8 through 11 presents the area of spatial choice in different research contexts. Chapter 8 deals with choice processes in consumer behavior, while Chapter 9 deals with it in the context of travel behavior. Similarly, Chapter 10 treats migration as a decision choice model, and Chapter 11 deals with residential location choice research. The issue of residential location processes is further elaborated in Chapter 12, where the authors discuss aspirations, achievement, preferences and the role of stress.

Finally, the last chapter is a "lip-service," as the authors call it, to other points of view in the discipline, such as epistemological bases and reasoning modes that appear in the general literature. The last chapter has, however, important value in the portrayal of promising research lines for those interested in behavioral geography.

The authors intended to focus mainly on geographic work, but for those specializing in behavioral geography, the book is much too uni-disciplinary. Because most geography students lack the basics in sociology and psychology, the inclusion of relevant theories from these fields might have broadened their perspective. The fact that the manuscripts of the book were compiled and edited by many assistants in two distant continents could perhaps explain some of the technical deficiencies in it; the most important of which, to my mind, is the disappearance of some cited items from the reference list; especially those written by Golledge himself.

The topical structure of the book, its analytical approach, and editorial organization, make it an excellent text for any undergraduate course in behavioral geography. Golledge and Stimson have succeeded in pouring light on this important part of contemporary geography for many students to come.

References


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This book consists of a collection of papers presented at a meeting held in 1986 on the island of Samos, Greece. It adds to several previous collections on similar topics, such as Storey (1985), Keeble and Wever (1986), and Goffee and Scase (1987). The book focuses on the question of whether the recently growing share of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in national economies is likely to promote economic development, particularly in currently less prosperous areas.