MICHAEL GOULD
Director of Ecucation
ESRI
Email: mgould@esri.com
Web: http://vespucci.org/leaders/gould

Michael Gould joined ESRI, at the home office in Redlands, California, in December 2008, as director of education. His team has global responsibility for helping define the future of GIS in education, and serving the needs of GIS users in universities, schools, museums and libraries, and informal education. Michael works mostly with higher education and as liaison with organizations such as AGILE, UCGIS, AAG, OGC, etc., and he also organizes seminars and conferences bringing GI scientists together.

Michael Gould studied Geography/GIS at the University of Massachusetts and NCGIA—State University of New York at Buffalo (PhD 1994). Between Masters and Ph.D. studies he was research programmer at the Harvard Laboratory for Computer Graphics and Spatial Analysis, and then GIS specialist (ARC/INFO user, 1987–1988) at an environmental consulting firm in South Carolina, where he helped create oil spill response applications for NOAA.

His doctoral work at Buffalo was centered on the use of geographic information, from both human factors (user interface) and cross-cultural perspectives, and he conducted field work comparing map-based problem solving in Spanish-speaking (Spain, Ecuador) and English-speaking cultures.

In September 1991 he moved to Spain to take a position as director of technology transfer at ESRI-Spain, where he worked closely with university users and organized and taught several short courses and seminars. In 1993 he moved to academia and was visiting professor (GIS) at the universities Complutense (Madrid), Extremadura, and Valencia, before taking in 1998 a tenured position in Information Systems at the University Jaume I in Castellon (region of Valencia).

He spent the 2000–2001 school year on sabbatical at the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), Wayland Massachusetts, working on international activities and managing the documentation subcommittee. During the past decade he has directed several research projects funded by regional, national and European Union agencies, primarily in the areas of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) and interoperability. Recently he co-founded the Master of Science in Geospatial Technologies degree program, run jointly with the universities of Muenster (Germany) and Nova de Lisboa (Portugal) which includes students from around the world. He has served on multiple committees including the management committees of the Spain SDI, the Association of Geographic Information Laboratories in Europe (AGILE) including two years as chair, GSDI technical committee, INSPIRE European Union directive committee for metadata implementation rules, more than 30 conference program committees, has been active in the UN Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI), etc.

Over the years he has published a GIS textbook (in Spanish) and edited books on ARC/INFO applications and on advances in the Spain SDI, as well as more than 150 journal articles and international conference papers.