

Integrating Ethnography with Geographic Features to Characterize Immigrants' Everyday Movement: A Systematic Comparison

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Research Gap

Understanding movement patterns and experiences of immigrant individuals in their new communities helps us understand immigrant integration within the destination society.

Multiple methods have been used to capture movement data [1, 2, 3]. However, the strengths and weaknesses of each method is not well established.

Overarching Goal

The proposed research aims to offer a systematic comparison of the effectiveness of three selected methods, i.e. **go-along interviews**, **travel diary**, **sketch mapping**, in understanding the actual travel patterns and subjective experiences of immigrants' everyday movement.

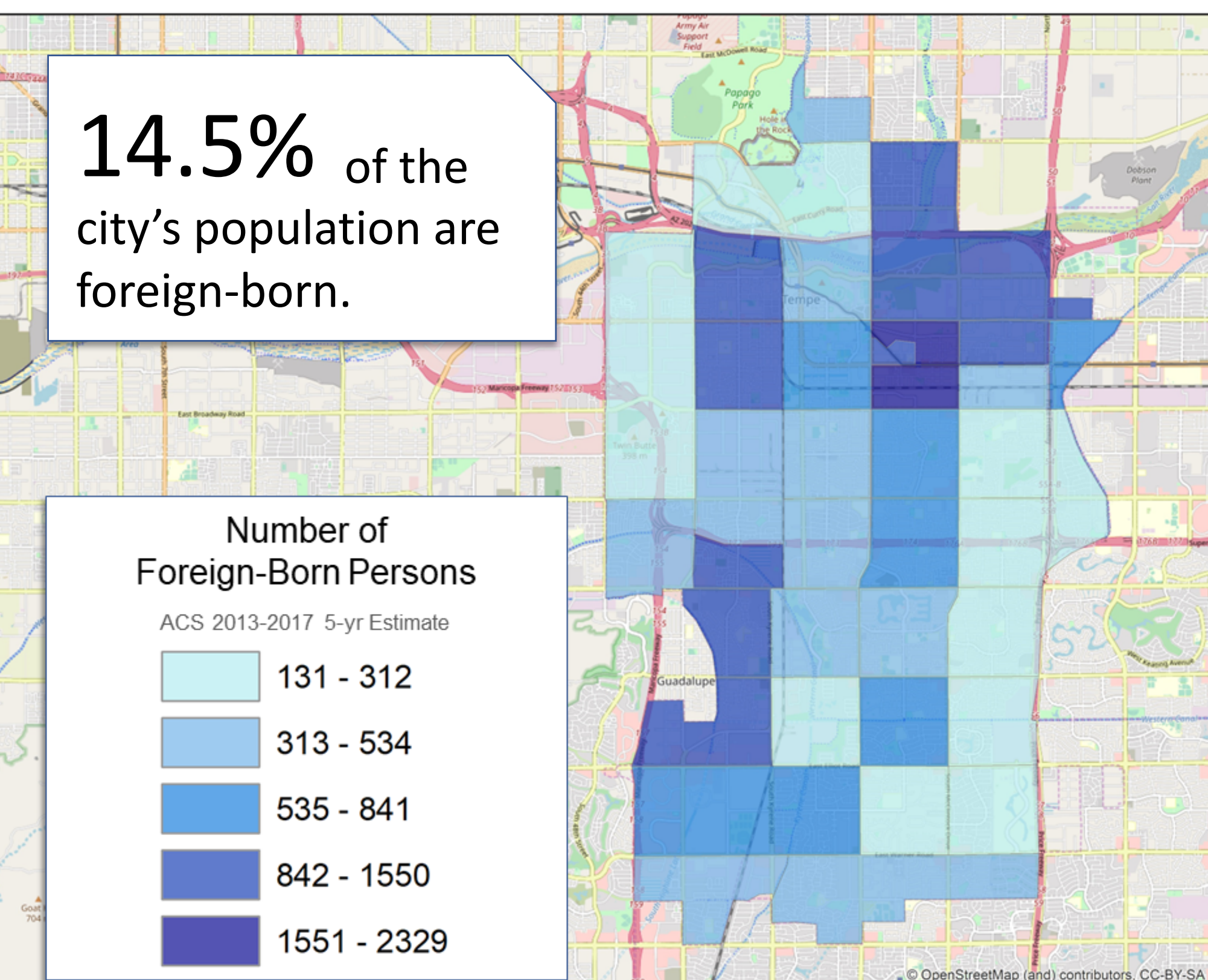
Research Questions

RQ1: How are ethnographic fieldwork and geographical information integrated in each data collection method?

RQ2: How many and how diverse are the places and mobility-related emotions or perceptions produced from each method?

RQ3: What are the burdens for researcher and participants in each method?

Study Area: Tempe, AZ



Data Collection Methods

M1: Go-along Interview

- Accompany participants in their daily routes
- Record routes taken using GPS tracker
- Record interview using mini-microphone and audio recorder
- Take field notes and photos along the route



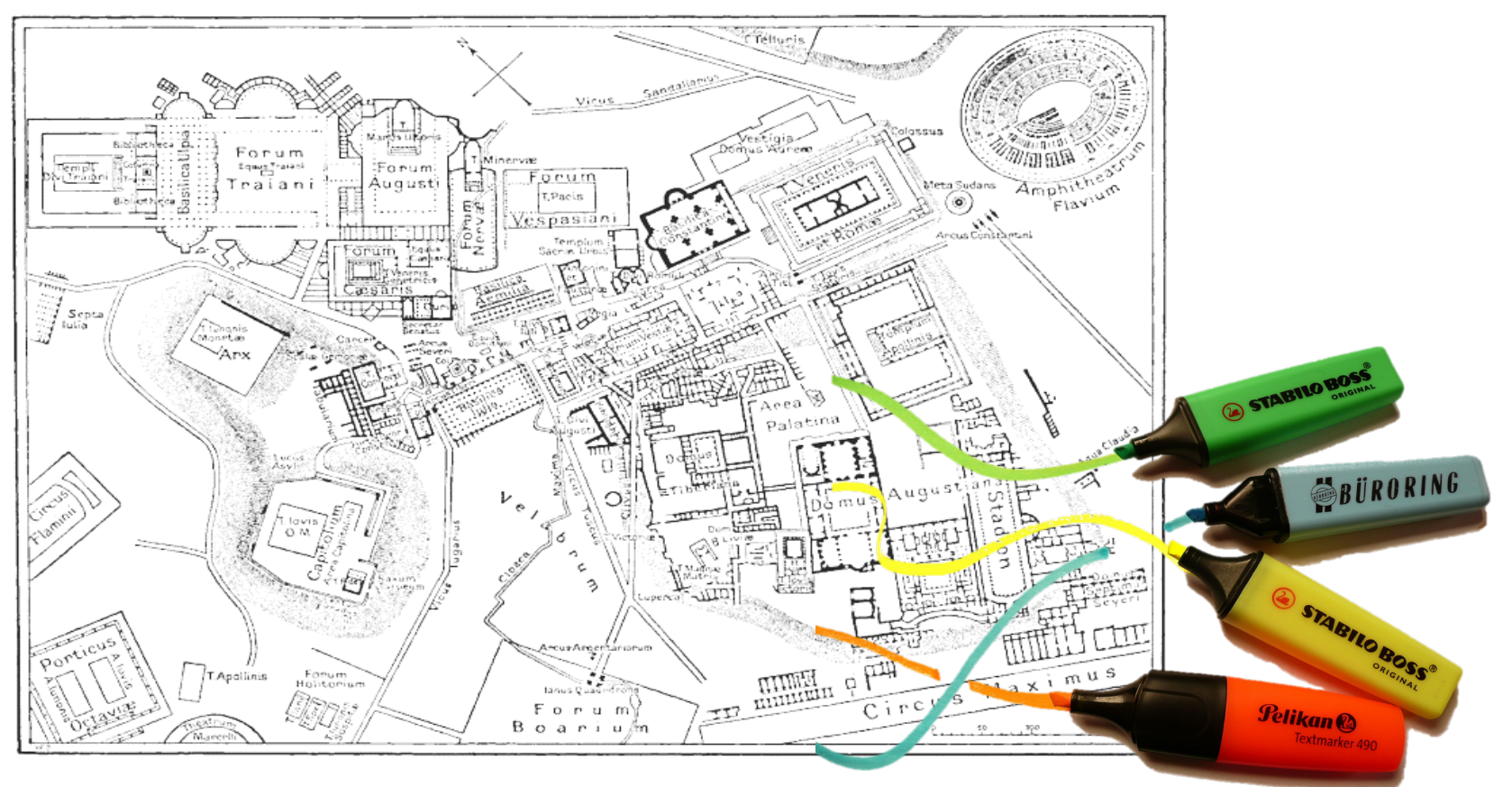
M2: Travel Diary

- Provide GPS tracker and travel diary to participants to record 5 days of travel including both weekdays and weekend
- Items include address of destinations, departure and arrival time, trip purpose, trip companions, travel modes and experiences
- Conduct follow-up interviews upon the completion of the travel diaries



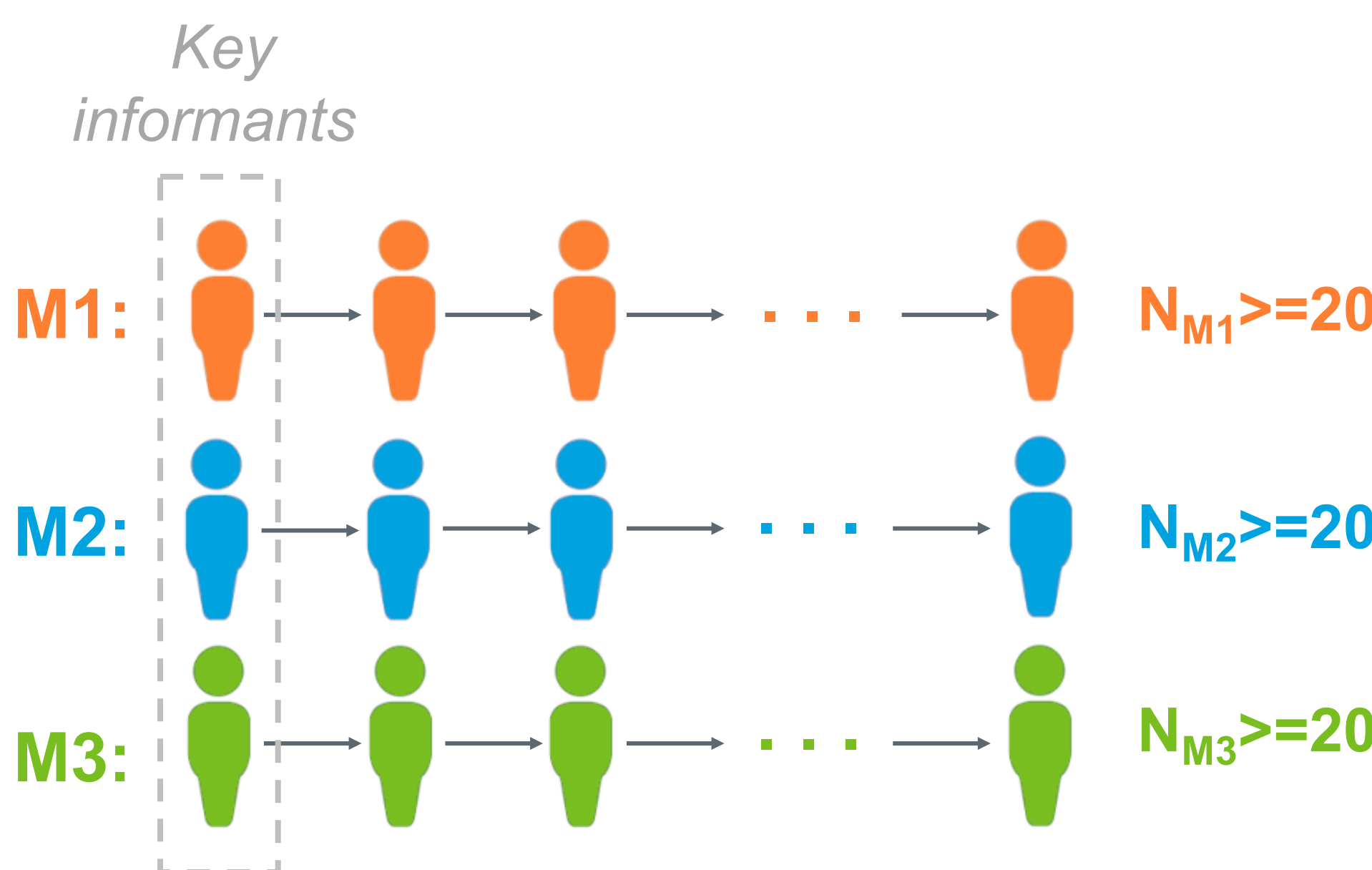
M3: Sketch Mapping

- Provide local city base map and color markers to participants with a consistent color coding scheme
- Participant to mark the following on the map using different colors: workday routes, weekend routes, key places of interests, including job location, home location, grocery, school, leisure and entertainment



Snowball Sampling

To minimize the self-selection bias, the informants' pool is divided into three separate groups for each method to keep them independent from each other.



Contribution

Intellectual Merits

- Understand the heterogeneous mobility experienced by individuals across gender, race, and citizenship
- Facilitate methodological innovation in studying mobility at individualized and local level
- Bridge the ethnographic methods with geographic methods to provide both objective and subjective data

Broader Impacts

- Help local governments to integrate migrants and balance their relationships with locals
- Disseminate findings in publications, presentations, forum to reach a wide audience
- Provide training opportunities for undergraduate students to conduct research

Expected Outcome

Data collected using three methods will be analyzed for the comparison based on four following aspects:

		Go-along Interview	Travel Diary	Sketch Mapping
Compatibility (RQ1)	Integration with GIS	✓ (GPS tracker)	✓ (GPS tracker + diary)	✓ (digitalized map)
	Integration with interview	✓ (concurrent)	✓ (follow-up interviews)	✓ (concurrent)
Data Quantity (RQ2)	Number of Routes	★	★★★★	★★
	Number of places	★★	★	★★★★
	Number of emotions/perceptions	★★★★	★	★★
	Variety of routes	★	★★★★	★★
	Variety of places	★	★★★★	★★
	Variety of emotions/perceptions	★★★★	★	★★
Data Richness (RQ2)	Spatial information	✓	✓	✓
	Textual information	✓	✓	✓
	Photo	✓	×	×
Practical Limits (RQ3)	Fieldworker's time investment	★★★★	★★★★	★
	Respondent burden	★★	★★★★	★
	Cost	★★	★★★★	★

★ = least effective → ★ ★ ★ = most effective

Acknowledgements and References

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- [1]: Boschmann, E. E., & Cubbon, E. (2014). Sketch Maps and Qualitative GIS: Using Cartographies of Individual Spatial Narratives in Geographic Research. *Professional Geographer*, 66(2), 236–248.
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- [3]: Rogalsky, J. (2010). Bartering for Basics: Using Ethnography and Travel Diaries to Understand Transportation Constraints and Social Networks Among Working-Poor Women. *Urban Geography*, 31(8), 1018–1038.