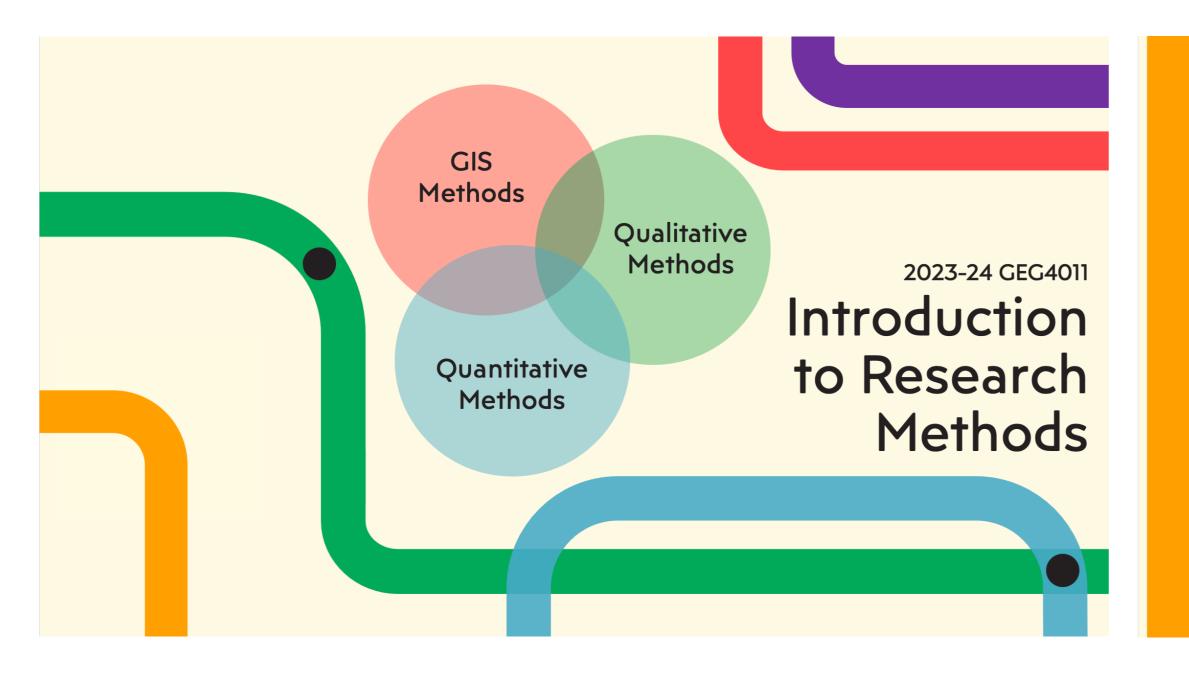


## East London Atlas

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## The East London Atlas is a pedagogical project to develop an active-learning and place-based model of teaching research methods.





Through a year-long research methods module, we are cultivating a research community amongst first year undergraduate students in the School of Geography by providing them with an opportunity to identify and engage with critical geospatial questions in East London.





Through weekly practical sessions – in labs, in London and in QM library archives – students have opportunities to practice the geospatial, qualitative and quantitative methods they are learning in the classroom.



Mobile mapping
of greenspace
habitat quality
and bird
diversity, and
using StoryMaps
to present





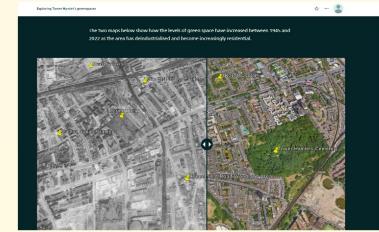


Assessment: StoryMaps

Over the course of the module, each student is developing a **StoryMap**, a digital map that incorporates text, interactive maps, diagrams and images to tell a research story.

For their StoryMaps, students are applying the methods they are learning in the classroom to develop and answer research questions related to set themes (e.g. housing, health, greening space, etc.) in Tower Hamlets.







The project is also fostering community partnerships, including with Tower Hamlets Council, whereby members of the planning department worked with students in the classroom, sharing research data and their experiences of using research skills and StoryMaps in local planning processes. In subsequent years of the module, students will develop StoryMaps related to different themes and areas of East London.

Example of student coding of interview transcripts from Tower Hamlets Council's study: "This is for the Majority: Gender Inclusive Design, Creating a Safe, Inclusive and Restorative Borough" by Public Realm Project Officer Jennie Savage, who visited the class. Students were also able to work with a Planning Officer and the Principal Spatial Data Officer.

"I love the architecture around here, I love the gothic gloomy stuff with bits coming off it. The old buildings, I love all of that. I can't stand all the new glass stuff, But I feel safer up by Liverpool Street, than I do around Whitechapell. Maybe its Jack The Ripper haunting this area!"

"I live the East India DLR I don't think it seems very nice! There is a lot of construction happening. If the roads are well it and cleaner them maybe it is better! Also maybe glans and better signage because it is a confusing area. I did hear some phone snatching stories so I would want to avoid taking out my phone."

"Recently I have noticed that the businesses down by the canal are doing really well. Because they are away from traffic there is a sense of a place that is completely free, where you don't need to worry about where your child is running and there is a playground area there, so it is multi-use space which is really important."

"You see a just of acopic gathered herein the summer. Its really chilled, everyone has their lunch on the grass. There is plenty of benches and seating for people to sit down together and there is a little grass space for people to sit on, when there is hardly any grass space around here. There are so many food and drink place's around here to get their lunch and everyone sits here to have their lunch. It's a relaxed atmosphere. You do start to recognise people. There is a community light and there are sunflowers in the summer. You don't feel threatened here because you can see everything that is happening. But in the alleys and streets you can't see who is there."

"I live in Mile End Park just down the bottom end. The streetlights stop before my house. I don't like walking at hight because of safety. I can around Nictoria Park and the canal. I do it for my mental health to go outside and be around nature. Use the access to green space and patture if don't know how to improve it and make it more woman friendly. I guess if there was more lighting at night because of safety. I can around



Together student StoryMaps are forming the basis of a public online **East London Atlas**, which will include an interactive map of the student StoryMaps and a curated set of research resources.

Module assessment thus becomes not only a means of assessing the work of students, but also a public resource and a piece of work students can use when applying for jobs to demonstrate their graduate attributes.

