Discovering stories using Visual GISting

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MAIN QUESTION

Since space and narrative are intrinsically linked, is it possible to effectively use visual geographic information systems (GIS) to extract data that are not directly deductible from the literary text?

DATA SELECTION & VISUAL GIS

Selection of 60 articles (10 per topic) from *The Guardian*. Every place mentioned in the newspaper is geolocalized in a UK map using **QGIS.**

Different color to each topic: **politics**, **business**, **current news**, **health & nature**, **sport**, **culture**. Places are geo-visualized per theme according to their frequency of appearance.

ANALYSIS

The frequency of appearance of a place is related not only to its population density, but also to its socio-cultural features (e.g., sport infrastructures, cultural centres, natural parks …).

CONCLUSION

The adoption of GIS's tools can be extremely useful for digital journalism, allowing to extract interesting embedded data (e.g., using convex hulls it is possible to visualize the spread of each topic).

Visual GIS allows to move from the question *"what places is the text discussing"* to *"what is the text saying about these places"*