Ethics & Professionalism
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A side effect of COVID-19 has been the global increase in attention to geography, geospatial technology, and geospatial intelligence. The tracking, revising, and presenting of spatial information related to the spread of COVID has greatly increased the traffic to county, state, national, and global websites. As some of these groups and organizations use geospatial intelligence to make decisions or take actions, a number of their decisions and actions have been criticized. Organizations have been accused of holding back data or changing the data to deceive the public. When geospatial information is not welcome, it presents ethical challenges for the analysts and the organizations that create and manage the data. As Geospatial Intelligence is currently a profession without a formal code of ethics, this panel will look at the ethical responsibilities of geospatial analysts, how they are taught in academia, how they are trained in government and business organizations, and how they are reviewed in government and industry.