

GEOG 281A

# Defining & Re-defining GIScience

Geographic Information Science (GIScience) emerged as a field of research in the 1980s and 1990s alongside the rapid growth of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). However, from the beginning its identity was uncertain. Since that time the field has gone through a series of cycles examining what GIScience is, could be, and ought to be.

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## PROMPT

Deconstruct the following mission statement of the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS).

*The University Consortium for Geographic Information Science is dedicated to the development and use of theories, methods, technology, and data for understanding geographic processes, relationships, and patterns. The transformation of geographic data into useful information is central to geographic information science.”*

## PROMPT

Where would you position your own research within the 15 sub-topical areas identified by Mark (2000)? Do you think your work merits its own sub-topic? If so, what is the case to support the claim for a new sub-topic?

BREAK

# METAPHORS FOR GISCIENCE

## ACTIVITY

Purpose: To comprehend and evaluate Fisher's (1998) metaphor for the GIScience-GISystems relationship.

Task: As a class, led by a subset of students, reconstruct Fisher's metaphor

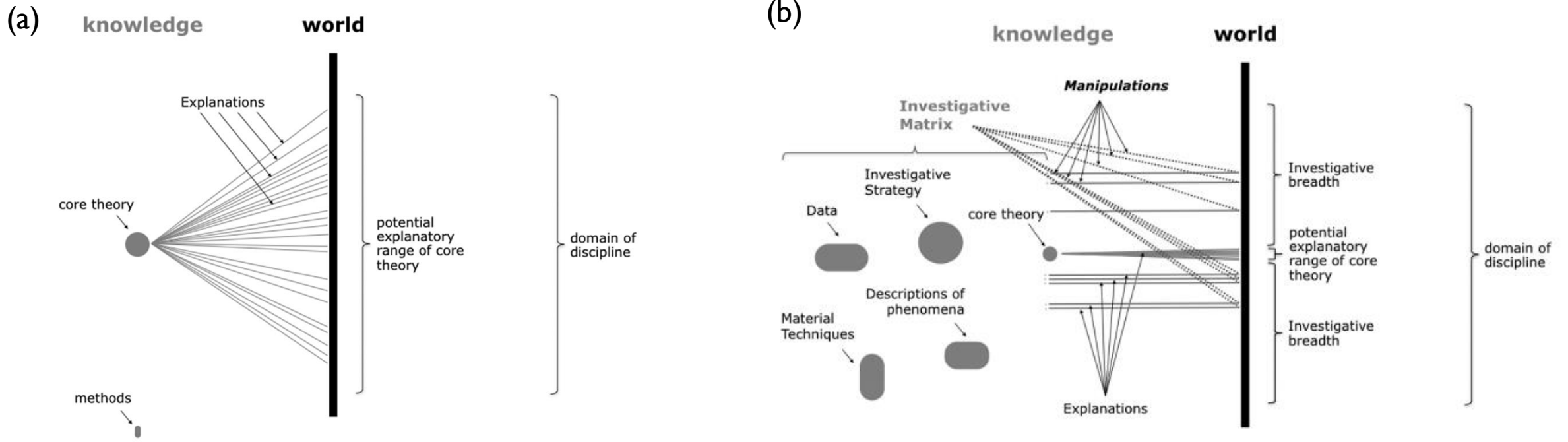


Figure 2.1 Alternative Views of the Boundaries of Scientific Knowledge

Source: Adapted from Waters (2016)

BREAK

# GEOGRAPHY & GISCIENCE

PROMPT

What are some of the alternative perspectives about the **Geographic** in GIScience?

## PROMPT

How should we as researchers study, teach, and practice GIScience in relation to Geography, and in relation to other disciplines?