

What is Geomatics?: Providing Clarity in the Academic and Professional Context

Angel Collado (Spain) and Kwame Tenadu (Ghana)

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SUMMARY

We live in times where many still do not have a clear understanding of where we come from, where we are, and where we are heading in our academic and professional discipline. With the emergence of the neologism 'Geomatics' in the late 70s and its consolidation in the following decades, the concept, foundations, and millennia-old disciplines that compose it changed: some of us have understood it, others have not. That is why, after more than 40 years of technological, scientific, and social advances, as well as evidence of a lack of understanding of such a change or evolution, it is necessary to shed light on 'What is Geomatics?' in both the academic and professional realms.

It is necessary to emphasize the true meaning of Geomatics and how it encompasses other disciplines such as Surveying, Geodesy, Cartography and SDI, Photogrammetry and LIDAR, Geoinformatics and also Geography or Geoinformation, and Territory Administration and Management. Likewise, it is necessary to understand that it is possible that there may no longer be just one profession of a Surveyor, but we can be Surveyors, Cartographers, Geodesists or Geometers, Hydrographers, Geoinformaticians, Geographers, among others, but all under the same academic training of Geomatic Engineering. Also, it may be necessary to clarify that all Geomatic Engineers, regardless of the profession they subsequently practice, are included in the geospatial industry in the professional world, shared by many other Engineers such as Agronomists, Foresters, Civil Engineers (in Construction), Geological-Mining Engineers, Industrial Engineers, Aerospace Engineers, and other professionals dedicated to territorial matters.

This presentation aims to take a journey through the philosophy or epistemology of Geomatics, bringing the reader or listener closer to the deep and thoughtful perspective of our discipline by the young Spanish Professor Angel Collado.

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