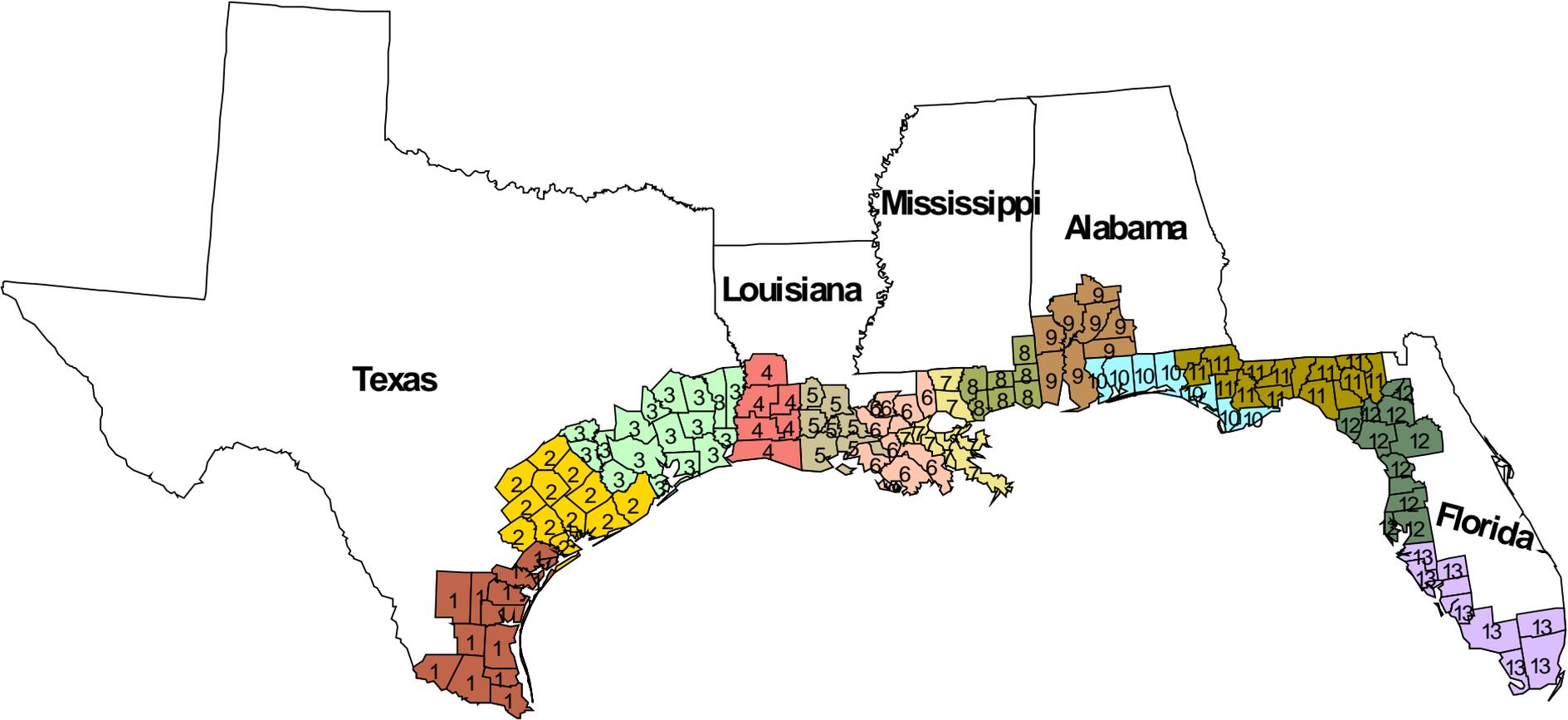




Where Is the Place in Space? Understanding the Role of Geography on Social Science Research

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Geography

- Impact of outer continental shelf oil and gas activities are not independent of on- shore geographic areas
- These places that support the offshore industry are also not homogeneous
- Their social and economic heterogeneity creates challenges for understanding the impacts of expansions and contractions of the industry as well as responding to natural and technological disasters

Objective

- Identify the heterogeneity of “places” by breaking down their characteristics
- Identify the new and unique data sources being used to understand their differences
- Identify ways the heterogeneity can be organized to help BOEMRE model and explain these coastal places to their constituents
- Identify gaps that create challenges for more precise modeling and understanding of these places

Structure

- Organizing structure
 - First half of session focuses on identifying heterogeneity in geography from states to regions
 - Second half of session focuses on understanding this heterogeneity from larger regions to individual places
- An underlying theme is how new data sources have enabled a better understanding of these places and what data constraints still exist to increase our understanding of these places