

My doctoral research concerns the effects of museum gallery layouts on visitors' space use and content presentation. As part of the preparation for my dissertation research, I ran pilot studies of analyzing visibility relations in space and visitors' movement in the Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum and University of Michigan Museum of Art. The visibility analysis of these museums demonstrated how visibility structure is engendered by layout characteristics, such as open plan arrangement of the Hands-On museum versus room to room organization of the art museum. The visibility analysis results are compared with the visitors' movement in the Hands-On Museum. This comparison showed that: (1) Fragmented visual information in the galleries motivate visitors spend longer time at the exhibitions; possibly due to distraction from the displays; (2) Visitors do not move towards wide open visible areas, but more drawn to visually obstructed areas.

Thesis  
**PILOT STUDIES ON VISIBILITY PROPERTIES & VISITORS' SPACE USE IN VARIOUS MUSEUM LAYOUTS**

Role: Principal Investigator

