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Vance is a geographer with fieldwork experience in the North Pacific, Bering Sea and the Tropical Pacific. Her research addresses the application of multidimensional GIS to both scientific and historical research with an emphasis is on the use and diffusion of techniques for representing three- and four-dimensional data. Ongoing projects include developing techniques to define and describe essential pelagic habitat, developing histories of environmental variables affecting larval pollock recruitment and survival in Shelikof Strait, Alaska, and the use of GIS and visualizations in the history of recent arctic science. her most recent work is on the history and development of the Stommel Diagram - a representation of the spatial and temporal aspects of oceanic phenomena - and how similar techniques might be applied to current uses of GIS in fisheries.