

(Counter)Mapping Realities

Instructor(s): Areti Kotsoni, MDes '23

Zoom Link: TBA

Max Enrollment: 14

Maps can both showcase and synthesize reality; they are political tools with influence over socio-spatial decisions. Mapmaking can produce a distorted worldview, juxtaposing disparate knowledge and claims. The process of mapping can be explorative and even propositional.

On the one hand, maps should convey knowledge based on specific data, measurements, representations, and symbols. On the other hand, maps should also include more intuitive and personal understanding accessed through qualitative research such as interviews, bodily experience, psychogeographic experience of a space, and memories. Given this view, maps lack qualities of materiality, the body, whose perspective is included, and whose voice is heard. Finally, maps can illustrate social relations or networks beyond spatial proximity.

In the context above, this workshop presents the first principles of mapping and visualization. In this workshop, we will experiment with the creation of mapping as a way to open the imagination to other possible futures; to offer both criticality and agency in thinking in novel ways. We will approach maps and the mapmaking activity as a situated, experiential, and social practice. Over the workshop, students will learn to embed several (counter)mapping techniques, including their positionality and personal narratives.

Date:	Jan. 11, Wed	Jan. 12, Thurs	Jan. 13, Fri
Time:	12 pm – 2 pm	12 pm – 2 pm	12 pm – 2 pm

Prerequisites: Suggested but not required knowledge of Adobe Suite and ArcGIS pro. All readings will be uploaded to a shared folder.

Cost/Materials: N/A

Deliverables: 1 map (physical or digital). Worked and reworked.

Learning Objectives: Students will be able to engage theoretically and practically with mapping as a practice and artifact. After the workshop, students will be able to approach mapping through critical theoretical frameworks and work with maps as pragmatic grounds for developing propositions and projects.

Schedule:

Session 1: January 11

- 12-1 pm Lecture 1- Learning from maps

- 1-2 pm Workshop-Representation: Learning from maps. Teaching different conventional mapping techniques. In this session, I will showcase several conventional mapping workflows. I will also analyze several mapping techniques using conventional famous maps as examples.
- Deliverables: Create a draft map using the conventional techniques you taught.

Session 2: January 12

- 12-1 pm Lecture 2– Positionality- Challenge of the conventional mapping techniques.
- 1-2 pm: Cognitive maps, Psychogeographic map, Memory maps. In this session, we will create maps based on our individual experiences. What is a map, really?
- Deliverables: Edit/Change the draft map using the critical lenses.

Session 3: January 12

- 12-1 pm Lecture 3: -Countermapping and Speculation. How do you create visions with a map?
- 1- 2 pm: In this last session, I will assist students to personalize and finalize their maps. I will provide individual assistance based on the student's preferred workflow and help them achieve their desired mapping result.
- Deliverables: Finalize map and present. Guest critics TBD

Bibliography (suggested but not required):

- Haraway, Donna J. 1988. "Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective." *Feminist Studies* 14 (3): 575–99. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3178066>.
- Rob Kitchin, Chris Perkins, and Martin Dodge. 2009. "Thinking About Maps." In *Rethinking Maps: New Frontiers in Cartographic Theory*, edited by
- Robin Evans. 1986. "Translations to Drawing to Building." *AA FILES* 12: 3-18
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/29543512>

- Catherine D'Ignazio and Lauren F. Klein. 2020. "On Rational, Scientific, Objective Viewpoints from Mythical, Imaginary, Impossible Standpoints." In *Data Feminism*, 73–96. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
- Catherine D'Ignazio and Lauren F. Klein. 2020. "What Gets Counted Counts' ". In *Data Feminism*, 97-124. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
- Matthew W. Wilson. 2017. "A Single Point Does Not Form a Line." In *New Lines: Critical GIS and the Trouble of the Map*, 135-41. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press.
- Doreen Massey. 2005. "Opening Propositions." In *For Space*, 9-15. Los Angeles, CA: SAGE.
- Matthew W. Wilson. 2017. "Criticality: The Urgency of Drawing and Tracing." In *New Lines: Critical GIS and the Trouble of the Map*, 25-46. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press.

MORE BIBLIOGRAPHY TBD