

Annual Conference 2008

Session and Paper details

Royal
Geographical
Society

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Advancing geography
and geographical learning

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SESSION DETAILS				
Session title	Maps as Method			
Research Group affiliation (if applicable)				
Session abstract (c. 200 words)	<p>These sessions are jointly organised with the Maps in Society Commission of the International Cartographic Association. Their goal is to challenge the inexorable decline in map use by demonstrating the capabilities of geographers and others to work creatively through cartography. The aim is to foster a theoretically informed discussion around the different ways maps have been, are being, or could be employed in geographical research, learning and teaching. Papers address technological solutions offering innovative ways forward, in very different contexts, as well as confronting taken-for-granted notions around the status of mapping practices inside and outside the academy. They focus around the creation of a product, on pedagogic progress, on different kinds of community engagement and on the methodological and philosophical implications of mapping as method. Taken together they show how maps can make a positive difference to what we do, and that working through maps can be both creative and emancipatory.</p>			
No. of 1h 40 min slots required	3 (5 papers in the first, 4 in each of the second 2)			
Type of session e.g. papers, panel	Papers			
Number of expected attendees	50			
Audio visual requirements	Data projector Slide Projector			
Any other special requests	Sessions to be back to back on single day and not clashing with Future of the Map Plenary			
SESSION ORGANISER DETAILS				
First name	Last name	Institutional affiliation	Email address	
1) Chris	Perkins	University of Manchester	c.perkins@manchester.ac.uk	
2) Martin Dodge	Dodge	University of Manchester	m.dodge@manchester.ac.uk	
SESSION CHAIR DETAILS (if different)				
First name	Last name	Institutional affiliation	Email address	
1)				
2)				
AUTHOR DETAILS (in the order they will present)				
<i>PAPER 1 TITLE: Mashup Cartography for Data Exploration</i>				
First name	Last name	Institutional affiliation	Email address	Presenter (Y or N)
1) Jason	Dykes	City University	Jad@soi.city.ac.uk	
2) Jo	Wood	City University	jwo@soi.city.ac.uk	
3) Aiden	Slingsby	City University	sbbb717@soi.city.ac.uk	
4)				
Paper abstract (c. 200 words)				
Cartography and geography have mutually benefited from the rich tradition of visually recording and interpreting complex spatial information obtained through physical exploration. As data sets get larger and				

more complex, visual methods are being applied across the sciences for data exploration – perhaps best exemplified by ‘Illuminating the Path’ (Thomas and Cook, 2005) and the subsequent National Visual Analytics Centre funding by the US National Science Foundation. As they grow in number and increasingly contain information about space and place, dynamic maps are being used by these analysts to manage and understand their information by filtering and relating data geographically. The links between Information Visualization and Cartography are ever more tangible as the disciplines develop together in the context of data and technology. Geographers can play a key role in informing these processes and cartography can contribute to and be enhanced by the graphical work that is going on.

We use developing open technologies to participate in this process by creating flexible maps, graphics and interactions to visualize a range of geographic data sets. The approach enables us to explore our data and identify possible structure and relationships, share it between members of an analytical team and compare it with ancillary information from a range of sources.

We present examples using from various applications areas and critique the technologies and methods employed. The examples contain creative applications of interactive cartography that draw upon recent advances in Information Visualization. They include TagMaps, MapTrees and a variety of interactive techniques.

AUTHOR DETAILS

PAPER 2 TITLE: Tranquillity matters too - mapping tranquillity

First name	Last name	Institutional affiliation	Email address	Presenter (Y or N)
1) Helen	Dunsford	Northumbria University	helen.dunsford@unn.ac.uk	
2) Duncan	Fuller	Northumbria University	duncan.fuller@unn.ac.uk	
3) Claire	Haggett	Newcastle University	claire.haggett@ncl.ac.uk	
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Paper abstract (c. 200 words)

Tranquillity matters too. This presentation reports on a new approach to mapping ‘tranquillity’, a robust methodology that has been developed over the last three years by an interdisciplinary team based at Northumbria and Newcastle universities. Our approach fuses together multifarious perceptions and experiences of tranquillity and GIS mapping to produce maps of ‘relative tranquillity’. In this presentation we focus on the modelling and mapping processes used to embody responses given during an extensive consultation with countryside users and stakeholders, about their perceptions of ‘tranquillity’. We discuss how this information was categorised and used to produce maps of the effect of people and tranquillity; the effect of landscape and tranquillity; and the effect of noise and tranquillity. Finally, we highlight how these elements are combined to produce an overall map of relative tranquillity in our study areas and conclude with some remarks about the robustness, use, and implications of our approach.

AUTHOR DETAILS

PAPER 3 TITLE: Geography made by outsiders? Maps and the Google generation

First name	Last name	Institutional affiliation	Email address	Presenter (Y or N)
1) Pablo	Mateos	UCL	plongley@geog.ucl.ac.uk	
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3)				
4)				

Paper abstract (c. 200 words)

The innovation of digital globes, such as Google Earth or Microsoft Virtual Earth, and their 2-D representations such as Google Maps, Microsoft Local Live, or Yahoo Maps, combined with user generated content and services, also known as Geoweb 2.0, has brought an explosion of interest by the general public in geographic information (GI) and its visualisation over the last three years, a phenomena termed as the democratisation of GI (Nature, 2006). However, Geographers have arrived late to this renaissance of geographic visualisation (GVIs), as a result of a long term decline in the use of maps as a core method in the discipline. This paper, reviews how recent innovations in geographic visualisation are re-shaping the role of maps and cartography in research, teaching, public service delivery and policy making. It presents a series of examples of GVIs applications developed at University College London (UCL) using ‘mapping mash-ups’, to visualise datasets

about London's diverse population, for use by public service planners in health, policing, education, and local government, as well as in teaching in higher education and secondary schools. These examples are drawn from a variety of recent UCL projects: *GeoVUE*, a National Centre for e-Social Science (NCeSS) node; *SPLINT*, a Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), and an ESRC Census development project (*Censusgiv*). Through these examples, conclusions will be drawn about the potential of geographic visualisation in the 'Google generation' for the Geography community and the dangers of being left out of the future in map making.

Nature (2006) Virtual globes: The web-wide world, *Nature*, 439, 776-778

AUTHOR DETAILS

PAPER 4 TITLE: *Teaching and Learning the City through Participatory Mapping*

First name	Last name	Institutional affiliation	Email address	Presenter (Y or N)
1) Libman	Kimberly	City University of New York	KLibman@gc.cuny.edu	
2)				
3)				
4)				

Paper abstract (c. 200 words)

This paper reflects on the use of participatory mapping as a tool for teaching and learning the city through a feminist pedagogy in two undergraduate, interdisciplinary, urban studies courses at Hunter College, City University of New York. In *Urban Life*, an introductory course, mapping is used to create a participatory learning environment, to connect personal experience with census data, and to move students thinking from the scale of the local to that of the wider city. In the second course, *Environmental Justice and Urban Food*, advanced students collaborate with their instructor to develop a participatory methodology incorporating mapping, food dairies, and interviews as a way of accessing information that bridges the personal/psychological and the structural/economic dimensions of urban food environments, and our navigations of them. Here, mapping also serves to support discussions of praxis in social science research. Vignettes, and examples of the maps produced in these contexts, are included to illustrate and help examine the dilemmas, and successes, of using participatory mapping as a feminist pedagogical tool for working with university students to develop critical spatial knowledges of the city.

AUTHOR DETAILS

PAPER 5 TITLE: *Mental Mapping as a Methodology: Its Evolution, Its Usefulness, and the Ways in which We May Analyze Them*

First name	Last name	Institutional affiliation	Email address	Presenter (Y or N)
1) Giesecking	Jen	City University of New York	jgieseking@gmail.com	
2)				
3)				
4)				

Paper abstract (c. 200 words)

Mental mapping describes the methodology of participants artistically representing their own cognitive maps through hand-drawn and labeled sketch maps, composite maps of individual sketch maps, and/or survey data made into composite maps of both real and/or imagined spaces and places (Gould 1978; Giesecking forthcoming). Mental mapping is often used with other qualitative methodologies such as interviews or focus groups. This paper briefly reviews the emergence of the methodology and its use in research today-- psychological, sociological, geographical, and often in participatory work. I then draw upon my own research with students and alumnae of an elite women's college who graduated between 1937 and 2007 drew maps of the college as it was during their attendance throughout our interviews. These maps provide a detailed example of the use of individual hand-drawn mental maps in research with interviews. Individual hand-drawn maps, this paper argues, are more likely to reveal another side of participants' voices, visions, and imaginations that may go unrecorded if an interview relies only upon verbal interchange. Finally, this article provides items for an analytic schema to use upon the findings from this mental maps as a summary report of these types of analysis has been heretofore unrecorded.

SESSION 2

AUTHOR DETAILS				
PAPER 1 TITLE: <i>Noise to Signal Ratio - Mapping the boundaries of science as art and art as science</i>				
First name	Last name	Institutional affiliation	Email address	Presenter (Y or N)
1) Muki	Haklay	UCL	m.haklay@ucl.ac.uk	
2) Christian	Nold	UCL	christian@softhook.com	
3)				
4)				
Paper abstract (c. 200 words) In the evolving literature on critical Geographical Information Science (GIScience), there is a growing interest in exploring the ability to use GIScience and GISystems within new theoretical frameworks which are dealing with Affect and Emotion (Kwan, 2007). Within this discussion, the visual representation of GISystems and the use of maps is central to their abilities to serve this dual, seemingly contradicting purposes: on the one hand as a number crunching, objective and scientific tool while at the same time a framework for the expression of perceptions and subjective experiences. In this paper we describe a case study that straddle the boundaries of science and art. This is a case of a community based noise data collection by two communities in the Thames Gateway area. This participatory GIS process was designed in such way so it collects scientific noise level using noise level meters and relying on European and UK regulations for noise exposure, while also collecting affective information through textual and images. The information is then combined in a GIS and in other computer-based tools to create a composite view of the noise and its impact on these marginalised communities. The paper will include demonstrations of the output from this work. Kwan, M. (2007). "Affecting Geospatial Technologies: towards a Feminist Politics of Emotion." <i>The Professional Geographer</i> , 59(1): 22-34				
AUTHOR DETAILS				
PAPER 2 TITLE: <i>Getting the words onto the map: walking interviews, rescue geography and the joys of KML</i>				
First name	Last name	Institutional affiliation	Email address	Presenter (Y or N)
1) Phil	Jones	University of Birmingham	p.i.jones@bham.ac.uk	
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3) Jane	Ricketts	University of Birmingham	j.l.rickettshein@bham.ac.uk	
4)				
Paper abstract (c. 200 words) Once upon a time there was a great conference presentation about how walking while talking helped stimulate interviewee responses. Being <i>in</i> a space seemed to help people talk about those spaces. But the map of the route walked was a scrabbly photocopy of an A-to-Z with some yellow highlighter dragged over it – no one could tell what was said where. This just seemed wrong. Then, thanks to a bag of magic beans supplied by the ESRC, the rescue geography project (www.rescuegeography.org.uk), was born. People involved with an area about to be radically transformed in the name of regeneration were asked to walk around it and tell us about their understandings of those spaces. Like archaeologists, we were trying to 'rescue' those lay knowledges before the spaces are destroyed. But we didn't just record their words. GPS technology has allowed us to attach the traditional interview transcript to the location in which the words were spoken. This gives us the chance to think about ways that the space and the words might go together. More than this, however, we have sought to validate the lay knowledges recorded by not leaving the research data in a dead GIS archive, but to distribute it freely over the web using open source technologies based on KML (although this has caused much experimentation and swearing). The maps may not be beautiful, but they allow us to locate knowledge in space before those spaces are reduced solely to memory.				

AUTHOR DETAILS				
PAPER 3 TITLE: <i>Using maps creatively to more critically understand the creative city</i>				
First name	Last name	Institutional affiliation	Email address	Presenter (Y or N)
1) Chris	Brennan-Horley	University of Wollongong, Australia	chrisbh@uow.edu.au	
2) Chris	Gibson	University of Wollongong, Australia	cgibson@uow.edu.au	
3)				
4)				
<p>Paper abstract (c. 200 words)</p> <p>Maps and cartographic techniques are seldom used when analysing creative industries in the context of city planning. At best they are deployed in a rudimentary fashion, displaying basic statistics such as firm locations or employment counts. This paper diverges from this direction, instead exploring how maps can be used creatively within a research process both to gather new information, and to 'anchor' an ethnographic research process. This paper draws on preliminary results from a research project that examines creative industries such as music, art, design and architecture in Darwin, a remote city in Australia's tropical north. The project examines the extent and change over time of Darwin's creative industries, and relies heavily on the use of GIS to spatially analyse and reveal patterns of creative employment. However, orthodox methods for mapping the extent of creative industry involvement have significant shortcomings, mainly to do with under enumeration in the national census. Instead, we have undertaken a different approach to try and better 'capture' diverse stories of Darwin as a 'creative city'. This involves maps as a key interview tool, using them to prompt discussions but also simultaneously being a canvas on which respondents draw as they describe their creative lives. Maps have the ability to reveal the many and varied sites of employment, work, leisure and inspiration from interview subjects, as well as producing geographically rich maps for policy and lobbying purposes.</p>				
AUTHOR DETAILS				
PAPER 4 TITLE: <i>Interactive Community Mapping in London</i>				
First name	Last name	Institutional affiliation	Email address	Presenter (Y or N)
1) Coleen	Whitaker	London 21 Sustainability Network	colleen.whitaker@london21.org	
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<p>Paper abstract (c. 200 words)</p> <p>Many communities are currently facing significant changes in their areas due to development and regeneration pressures. At the same time these communities have limited means to assess and influence decision-making that affects their everyday quality of life. Local people are generally the experts on local environmental quality, yet this knowledge is often omitted from official environmental assessments and leads to development that doesn't meet local needs.</p> <p>Here we report on a collaborative programme between a London-based NGO and UCL, using participatory mapping to create interactive web-based community maps with six pilot groups across London. The programme promotes mapping as a tool to empower local communities, and raise their social capital by helping them monitor change in their areas, communicate various local issues and access vital planning information. The maps draw together a variety of information gathered by local people, and highlight priorities identified by the community.</p>				

This project builds on the wider literature on participatory GIS, and advances the field by using new techniques. The maps are enhanced by both an area specific wiki and a local mobile text messaging service. The intention is that the map and website will be a lasting resource owned and moderated by the communities, supporting them to express their concerns and usefully participate in decision-making. We discuss the process of bottom-up participatory mapping, and the issues that emerge from these activities with the different communities, demonstrating how local topics are integrated into the maps.

Session 3

AUTHOR DETAILS				
PAPER 1 TITLE: <i>Cartography - a discipline of two halves</i>				
First name	Last name	Institutional affiliation	Email address	Presenter (Y or N)
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3)				
4)				
<p>Paper abstract (c. 200 words)</p> <p>The International Cartographic Association defines cartography as “the art, science and technology of making and using maps.” In this paper, we argue that, prior to the pervasive use of computers (and GIS), cartography existed at two levels: <i>making</i> maps and <i>using</i> maps. The first of these is typified by the production of the ‘traditional’ printed map. This remains the <i>icon</i> of cartography as a subject and is the repository of the intellectual, professional and technical knowledge, developed by the community that grew around it.</p> <p>The second level of cartography can be perceived as <i>using</i> maps. We contend that this has never been fully recognised as ‘cartography’, partly because the graphical nature of maps has placed them in a category where ‘design’ often relates to artistic, rather than functional, effectiveness. However this second level presents a significant body of informal knowledge, techniques and applications and is therefore an important element of cartography. MacEachren <i>et al</i> (2004) use the term <i>geovisualisation</i> rather than cartography, where spatial “activities” include exploration, analysis, synthesis and presentation. The exploration and analysis region we generically consider to be <i>analytical cartography</i> where maps are used to solve spatial problems. This may involve the creation of ephemeral map “doodles”, map tracings and the hand-plotting of survey data.</p> <p>GIS has <i>enabled</i> “using maps”, allowing the analysis of spatial data and creation of bespoke maps designed for a specific purpose, without the time and cost barriers inherent to traditional map making. The challenges facing cartography are how “making maps” and “using maps” can be more closely integrated.</p>				
AUTHOR DETAILS				
PAPER 2 TITLE: <i>Comics & Table Saws: Experimental Cartography Methods for Recovering Ontology</i>				
First name	Last name	Institutional affiliation	Email address	Presenter (Y or N)
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2) John	Krygier	Ohio Wesleyan University	jbkrygier@owu.edu	
3)				
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<p>Paper abstract (c. 200 words)</p> <p>There is a resurgence of work investigating the question of ontology in mapping and GIS. Much of this work has been informed by computer science rather than philosophy. We argue that this has given rise to an understanding of ontology in mapping and GIS that is divorced from the philosophical. As such, this has produced an extremely constrained understanding of what it means to map. Mapping and GIS are cast as computational formalizations of digital objects, effectively reintroducing the discredited maps as models approach of the 1960s. In this presentation we explore a philosophical understanding of ontology and epistemology underpinning the meaning and usage of maps. Cartography has a history of experimentation dating from the 1950s, but with earlier roots. Much of this research is based on</p>				

empirical studies of map perception and cognition. However, the potential of cartographic experimentation, particularly in the realm of philosophy, remains unexamined. Inspired by experimental philosophy (X-phi) and field philosophy, we examine the potential of diverse methods of cartographic experimentation aimed at elucidating a more substantial ontology of mapping. How might an experimental approach to the philosophy of cartography theory proceed and what would it look like? How might contemporary critical trends in philosophy inform an experimental philosophy of cartography? How can the map - as a visual object and means of expression - become a laboratory of experimentation that raises and addresses philosophical questions about maps, cartographic practice, and cartography? Can philosophic understanding about maps and cartography emerge from particular kinds of experimental cartographic practice, and what would the maps in such practice look like?

AUTHOR DETAILS

PAPER 3 TITLE: A Vision of Britain through Time: Publishing an on-line historical atlas for everyone

First name	Last name	Institutional affiliation	Email address	Presenter (Y or N)
1) Humphrey	Southall	Portsmouth University	Humphrey.Southall@port.ac.uk	
2)				
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4)				

Paper abstract (c. 200 words)

"A Vision of Britain through Time" is the most ambitious map-based web site created by British academic geographers for a general audience. The original National Lottery-funded site launched in 2004 and is used monthly by c. 70,000 unique users, an order of magnitude more users than most academic sites. An enhanced site is being developed with Higher Educational Funding Council support for re-launch early in 2009.

We use maps in three ways. Firstly, they are one way users can navigate to place-specific content. Secondly, our large collection of scanned historic maps are, unlike almost all systems created by map librarians, comprehensively geo-referenced and assembled into continuous mosaics. Thirdly, they allow users to visualise the very large body of historical statistics at the system's core. Designing the system for a broad audience means our visualisations consciously follow convention but we are exploring how to extend interactivity; Google Maps, in particular, has broadened the mass audience's map reading "vocabulary". Unlike a traditional publication, a web site provides feedback on who uses the system and especially on how they use it; for example, how many users specify a location by clicking on a map, versus typing in a place name or postcode. We also explore how the system has impacted the wider internet, for example by being cited in Wikipedia and on blogs. Our support for the Open Geospatial Consortium's access protocols are enabling other web sites to include our content in mashups.

AUTHOR DETAILS

PAPER 4 TITLE: Mapping narratives

First name	Last name	Institutional affiliation	Email address	Presenter (Y or N)
1) Mei-Po	Kwan	Ohio State University	kwan.8@osu.edu	
2)				
3)				
4)				

Paper abstract (c. 200 words)

Narratives are the stories people told about their lived experiences of events and major turning points in their lives over a certain period of time. These stories can take a variety of forms: oral histories, life histories, personal experience stories, biographies, and autobiographies. Certain dimensions or elements can often be identified in narratives: action and interaction (personal and social), time (past, present, and future), and space (physical places or the storyteller's places). However, narratives are seldom rendered through any kind of visual representations in qualitative and mixed-method research

in geography. This paper describes an approach to mapping narratives with 3D GIS. The approach, called Geo-Narrative, is based on extending current GIS's capabilities for the representation and interpretation of narrative materials such as oral histories, life histories, and biographies. It is intended for dealing with various elements of narratives: chronology (epiphanies, events), the three narrative dimensions (action and interaction, time, space), as well as themes. A case example based on a study of the lives of the Muslim women in Columbus, Ohio after 11 September 2001 will be used to illustrate the approach.

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