

# Postmodern Cartographies: epistemological and methodological issues in mapping power and social change

## Organizer

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## Description

There is no doubt that maps represent for the geographer a highly distinctive element of his professional profile. They have however recently undergone a deep epistemological rethinking, rising many questions that are still unanswered. The criticism by postmodernist currents has outlined how maps are inextricably at the center of power relations, thus undermining their presumed objectivity.

The present economical crisis and the deep social malaise call the geographer to answer for the new territorialisation processes, confirming at the same time a fundamental need, intrinsic to the geographical knowledge: to create convincing representations of the world we live in.

The challenges of our time thus require a new epistemological and methodological consideration of maps, which should be able to join the review of traditional concepts inherited by modernity with the unchanged cognitive needs of geography, also through a re-reading of the history of the way of thinking of the discipline. With this prospective, the session invites to present propositions on the following subjects:

- cartography and power
- mapping the State and its relations

- mapping borders in contemporary politics
- mapping new territorialisation processes
- counter-cartography projects and radical cartography
- participatory mapping
- cartographies of inequalities
- mapping the European Union project
- mapping the Arab Spring and democratization processes
- cartography and ethics
- cartography and identity
- cartography and history of geographical thought
- post-Harleyan developments in cartography
- epistemological and methodological issues in mapping and mapmaking

### [Read the abstracts](#)

#### Slot 1

Sub-title: CARTOGRAPHY AND POWER

Chair and discussant: CLAUDIO CERRETI

#### Presentation n. 1

Title: Chinese Boxes: Mapping Oecumene, from Martino Martini to Today.

Author(s): MICHELE CASTELNOVI

#### Presentation n. 2

Title: Ave Imperator: cartographic sovereignty and the continental currency

Author(s): RUSSELL FOSTER

#### Presentation n. 3

Title: Walking the line between mapping and mapmaking: the political implications of map ontology

Author(s): BIANCA MARIA MENNINI

#### Presentation n. 4

Title: Cartography of Dutch power in XVIIth Century: the Leo Belgicus symbolism for the construction of national identity

Author(s): ALESSANDRO RICCI

#### Slot 2

Sub-title: THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL VALUE OF ALTERNATIVE MAPPINGS

Chair and discussant: EDOARDO BORIA

#### Presentation n. 5

Title: Collaborative mapping for open cities: the case of Bergamo Open Mapping

Author(s): FEDERICA BURINI

Presentation n. 6

Title: Mapping in common: defining roles in the construction of participatory cartographical knowledge

Author(s): MARIA LUISA GIORDANO

Presentation n. 7

Title: Maps of emotion: the production of a spatial sensitive approach through cartography, an epistemological turn?

Author(s): ELISE OLMEDO

Presentation n. 8

Title: Developments in media communication: can cartography become an instrument of power when transmitting messages?

Author(s): ISABELLA TAMPONI

Presentation n. 9

Title: Beauty is in the eye of the beholder: the visiting students' perception of Zagreb

Author(s): IVES VODANOVIC, PETAR RASTIJA, FILIP JAKOPOVIC

Session code: S25