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Title

Mapping and its Discontents | Fall 2013 Symposium

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https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3572z0cw

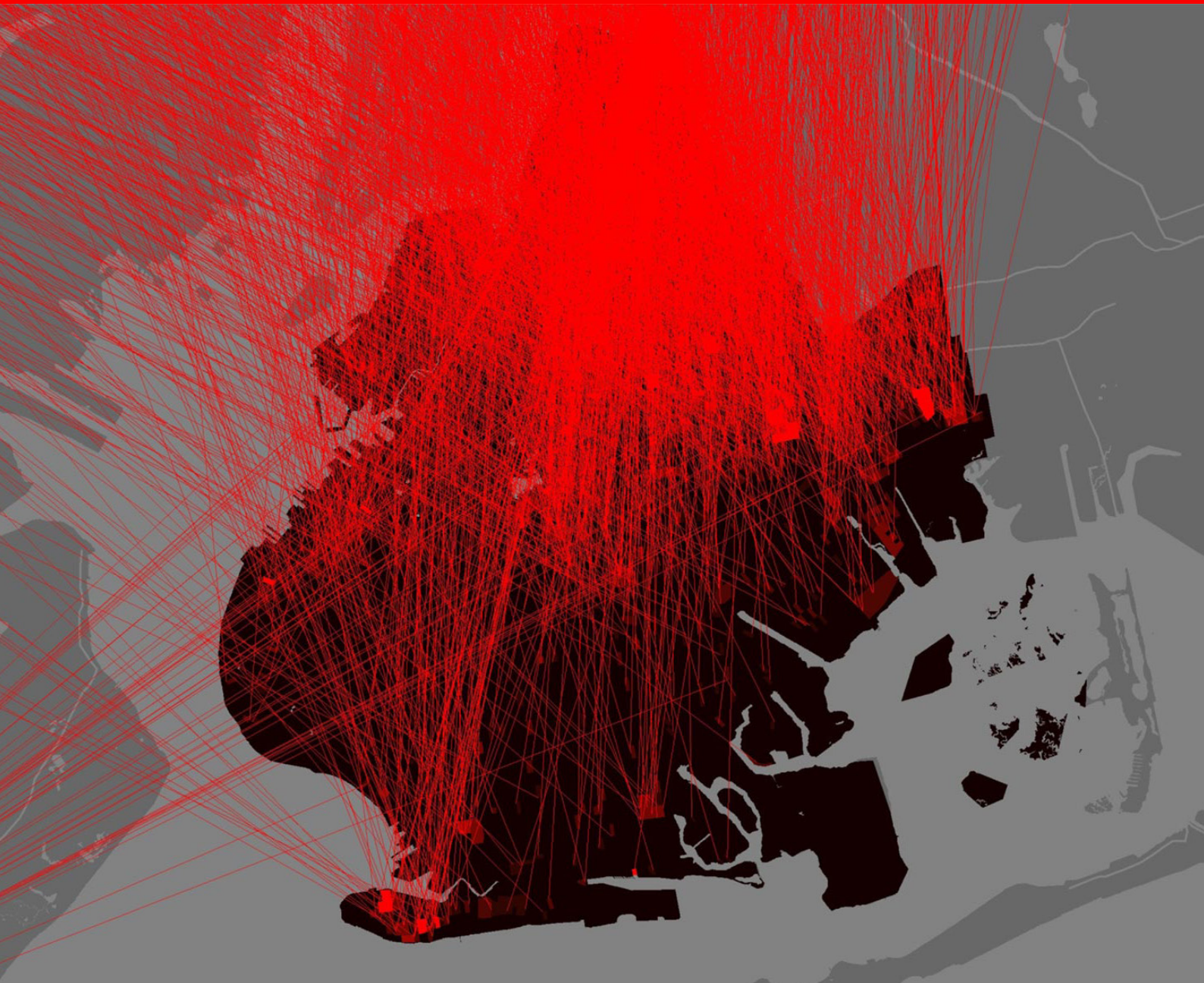**Author**

Global Urban Humanities

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2013-10-01

MAPPING
AND ITS DISCONTENTS

GLOBAL URBAN HUMANITIES
SYMPOSIUM FALL 2013

SYMPOSIUM POSTER

GLOBAL URBAN HUMANITIES INITIATIVE, UC BERKELEY
URBAN HUMANITIES INITIATIVE, UCLA

MAPPING AND ITS DISCONTENTS

NOVEMBER 1, 2013
DAVID BROWER CENTER
BERKELEY, CA

Image courtesy Spatial Information Design Lab, GSAPP, Columbia University

SPEAKERS

EVE BLAU, Harvard Graduate School of Design

JON CHRISTENSEN, UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability

ZEPHYR FRANK, Stanford University Spatial History Project

ROBIN GROSSINGER, San Francisco Estuary Institute

KATHARINE HARMON, *You Are Here, The Map as Art*

ANNETTE KIM, MIT SLAB

LAURA KURGAN, GSAPP, Columbia University

REBECCA SOLNIT, *Unfathomable City: A New Orleans Atlas*

DENIS WOOD, *The Power of Maps, Everything Sings*

ONLINE EXHIBIT | SEE-THROUGH MAPS: MAPS THAT LAY BARE THEIR POINT OF VIEW

SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

GLOBALURBANHUMANITIES.BERKELEY.EDU

CONTENTS

Cover Image: Courtesy of Spatial Information Design Lab, GSAPP, Columbia University.

SYMPOSIUM DESCRIPTION

MAPPING AND ITS DISCONTENTS

A UC BERKELEY GLOBAL URBAN HUMANITIES &
UCLA URBAN HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM

Location: David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA

Date/Time: 11/1/2013

Is a map a mirror, a window, a weapon, or a work of art?

From lines drawn in clay to geographic information systems (GIS), humans for millenia have constructed an understanding of the world through visual representations of space. At this interdisciplinary symposium, mapmakers, users, and critics from the worlds of science, urban planning, architecture, history, and new media examined the ways maps work.

"Mapping and Its Discontents" was part of the Global Urban Humanities Initiative, a major 3.5-year project supported by the Mellon Foundation. In this joint project, the UCLA Urban Humanities, the College of Environmental Design, and the Division of Arts & Humanities collaborated to bring together scholars and practitioners across disciplines to investigate humans and the environments they inhabit and shape.

Mapping and Its Discontents was co-sponsored by the UCLA Urban Humanities Initiative and presented in partnership with the David Brower Center.

Panelist discussion at the Symposium.

SYMPOSIUM SUMMARY

SCHEDULE- NOVEMBER 1, 2013

8:30 Registration

9:00 Welcome

- Welcoming Remarks

9:15 - 10:10 Framing Lecture: A History Of Mapping

- 9:15 Denis Wood, geographer- "Mapping and Its Discontents"
- 9:50 Response by Michael Dear, UC Berkeley Department of City and Regional Planning
- 9:55 Q&A

10:10 - 10:25 Break

10:25 - 11:30 Maps And Landscapes

- Moderator: Julia Bryan-Wilson, Art History, UC Berkeley
- 10:25 Robin Grossinger, San Francisco Estuary Institute, "Visualizing past landscapes, Imagining future ecosystems"
- 10:45 Laura Kurgan, Department of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Spatial Information Design Lab, Columbia University, "Data Mapping and Its Contents"
- 11:05 Response by Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, Department of Urban Planning, UCLA
- 11:10 Q&A

11:30 Presentation Of See-Through Map Competition Finalists

- Greg Niemeyer, Director, Berkeley Center for New Media and Professor, Art Practice, UC Berkeley

11:45 - 1:00 Lunch Break

1:00 Announcement of First Prize, See-Through Map Competition

1:05 - 1:45 Maps And Humans

- Moderator: Whitney Davis, Art History, UC Berkeley
- 1:05 Annette Kim, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, SLAB, MIT, "Mapping our way out of Blindness"
- 1:25 Response by Todd Presner, Germanic Languages, Comparative Literature, Jewish Studies, and HyperCities, UCLA
- 1:30 Q&A

1:45 - 2:00 Break

2:00 - 3:00 Maps and Urban Form

- Moderator: Alan Tansman, East Asian Languages and Literatures, UC Berkeley
- 2:00 Zephyr Frank, History Department, Spatial History Project, Stanford, "Mapping Heterogeneity and Change in Urban Space: Rio de Janeiro, 1840s-1880s"
- 2:20 Eve Blau, Harvard Graduate School of Design, "Mapping Hybrid Urban Conditions in Postsocialist Europe"
- 2:40 Response: Diane Favro, Department of Architecture and Urban Design, UCLA
- 2:45 Q&A

3:00 - 3:15 Break

3:15 - 4:15 Maps As Narratives And As Art

- Moderator: Shannon Jackson, Theater, Dance & Performance Studies, Rhetoric, UC Berkeley
- 3:15 Katharine Harmon, Author and publisher, "Mapping the Invisible"
- 3:35 Rebecca Solnit, Author, "The Appetite for Maps: Cartographic Hungers and Feasts"
- 3:55 Response by Dana Cuff, UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, director cityLAB
- 4:00 Q&A

4:15 - 4:30 Break

4:30 - 5:30 Concluding Panel

- Moderator: Jon Christensen, Department of History, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, UCLA
- 4:30 Jon Christensen, Department of History, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, UCLA
- 4:40 Panel Discussion: Eve Blau, Zephyr Frank, Robin Grossinger, Katharine Harmon, Annette Kim, Laura Kurgan, Rebecca Solnit & Denis Wood
- 5:10 Q&A

5:30 Concluding Remarks

- Jennifer Wolch, Dean, College of Environmental Design, Co-Principal Investigator, UC Berkeley Global Urban Humanities Initiative
- Dana Cuff, Principal Investigator, UCLA Urban Humanities Initiative

5:30 Reception

Symposium attendees admiring the see-through map competition
submissions.

SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

SPEAKER BIOS

Eve Blau

Eve Blau is Adjunct Professor of the History of Urban Form and former Director of the Degree Programs in Architecture at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. Her books include *The Architecture of Red Vienna, 1919-1934* (1999), *Project Zagreb: Transition as Condition, Strategy, Practice* (2007), *Urban Form: Städtebau in der postfordistischen Gesellschaft* (2003), *Shaping the Great City: Modern Architecture in Central Europe, 1890-1937* (1999), *Architecture and Cubism* (1997), *Architecture and Its Image* (1989), and *Ruskinian Gothic* (1982). Before coming to Harvard she was Curator of Exhibitions and Publications at the Canadian Centre for Architecture, and Editor of the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians.* Her books have received numerous awards, including the SAH Alice Davis Hitchcock, Spiro Kostof, Architectural Exhibition Catalogue Awards, the Austrian Cultural Institute Prize, and AIA Citation for Excellence in International Architectural Book Publishing. Her current research is concerned with urbanism after socialism in Europe. She is currently directing a research project on *Baku: Oil and Urbanism*.

Jon Christensen

Jon Christensen is an adjunct assistant professor, journalist-in-residence and senior researcher in the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, the California Center for Sustainable Communities, the Department of History, and the Center for Digital Humanities at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is also part of the team at Stanford's Spatial History Project. He is editor of *Boom: A Journal of California*, a quarterly magazine published by the University of California Press that brings scholars, researchers, journalists, writers, artists, photographers, policymakers, advocates, and the public into common conversations about California in the world. Jon has been an environmental journalist and science writer for more than 30 years. His work has appeared in The New York Times, Nature, High Country News, and many other newspapers, magazines, journals, and radio and television shows. He is currently finishing a book entitled *Critical Habitat: A History of Thinking with Things in Nature*, leading a digital humanities project on nature in cities, and directing a large collaborative project to crowdsource a new, public environmental history of the San Francisco Bay Area with libraries, museums, archives, nonprofit organizations, scholars, researchers, the media, and the public during the Year of Bay in 2013. Jon was a Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford in 2002-2003 and a Steinbeck Fellow at San Jose State University in 2003-2004, before returning to Stanford to work on a Ph.D. in History.

Zephyr Frank

Zephyr Frank is associate professor of Latin American History at Stanford University, and Director of the Spatial History Project, Director of the Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis, and the principal investigator for theTerrain of History project. This project is an international collaborative project that seeks to reconstruct and analyze the social, cultural, and economic spaces of nineteenth-century Rio de Janeiro. Professor Frank has been conducting this research for the last eight years.His recent publications include co-editing a book titled *From Silver to Cocaine: Latin American Commodity Chains and the Building of the World Economy, 1500-2000* (2006). Frank received the Dean's Distinguished Teaching Award at Stanford in 2008.

Robin Grossinger

Robin Grossinger is a Senior Scientist at the San Francisco Estuary Institute, where he directs SFEI's Resilient Landscapes program. For over twenty years, Robin has analyzed how San Francisco Bay and other California landscapes have changed since European contact, using these data to highlight opportunities and guide landscape-scale restoration strategies. The innovative work of Robin and his colleagues to synthesize history and science has been acclaimed for helping scientists, managers, and the public appreciate both the dramatic transformation and the impressive resilience of the state's ecosystems. In 2012, Robin's Napa Valley Historical Ecology Atlas was published by the University of California Press and

he received a Local Hero award from Bay Nature magazine. Grossinger received "Most Communicative Map" Award for Ecological Change in the San Francisco Estuary, at the International ESRI GIS Conference in 1997. He received his M.S. in Marine Sciences from University of California, Santa Cruz.

Katharine Harmon

Katharine Harmon is the author of two books on creative mapping: *You Are Here: Personal Geographies and Other Maps of the Imagination, and The Map as Art: Contemporary Artists Explore Cartography*. She has curated several gallery exhibitions of artists' maps, including two in New York and two in London, and co-curated "The Map as Art" at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City. Harmon graduated with honors from Duke University, studied publishing procedures at Radcliffe College, and was a recipient of the Oscar Dystel Fellowship in Book Publishing, resulting in a master's degree from New York University. She manages Tributary Books, a book development company in Seattle, and has authored, edited, and/or produced over a dozen titles.

Annette Kim

Annette M. Kim is associate professor at MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning. She researches the spatial processes of major institutional change, particularly the reconstruction of property rights and planning paradigms in rapidly urbanizing regions. Her publications include studies of the first generation of private real estate developers in Vietnam, the political struggle for land and compensation on the urban periphery, and the contest for sidewalk space in the midst of migrant street vending and populist urbanism. Currently, she directs the MIT research group SLAB, which is developing methods of spatial ethnography and critical cartography in order to re-conceptualize urban space and find more inclusive and humane ways to design and govern the 21st century city. Kim is author of the forthcoming book, *Sidewalk City: Re-mapping Public Space in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam* (2014) from the University of Chicago Press. Professionally, she has been an architect of affordable housing, a construction project manager, and jury member of international urban design competitions. She has also served as a consultant to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the World Bank, African and Asian governments, as well as community-based NGOs. Kim received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in City and Regional Planning as well as a concurrent M.A. in Visual Studies; a Master in Public Policy from Harvard University; and a B.A. in Architecture and Studio Art from Wellesley College.

Laura Kurgan

Laura Kurgan is an Associate Professor of Architecture at the Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation at Columbia University, where she directs the Visual Studies curriculum, the Spatial Information Design Lab and is Co-Director of the Advanced Data Visualization Project. She is the author of *Close Up at a Distance: Mapping, Technology, and Politics* (Zone Books, 2013). Her work explores things ranging from digital mapping technologies to the ethics and politics of mapping, building intelligence, and the art, science and visualization of big and small data. Her work has appeared at the Cartier Foundation in Paris, the Venice Architecture Biennale, the Whitney Altria, MACBa Barcelona, the ZKM in Karlsruhe, and the Museum of Modern Art. She was the winner of the United States Artists Rockefeller Fellowship in 2009.

Rebecca Solnit

Rebecca Solnit is a prolific writer, with thirteen books and numerous essays in publication, including *A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities that Arise in Disaster*, and most recently, *Unfathomable City: A New Orleans Atlas*. Solnit's awards include two NEA fellowships for Literature, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Lannan literary fellowship. In 2004, Solnit was given a Rave Award by *Wired Magazine* for writing on the effects of technology on the arts and humanities, and in 2010, the Utne Reader named Solnit one of the "25 Visionaries Who Are Changing Your World." Solnit received a master's degree in journalism from UC Berkeley.

Denis Wood

Denis Wood is an artist, writer, cartographer, and author of *Everything Sings*, a book of poetic maps. From 1974 to 1996, Wood taught environmental psychology and design at the College of Design at North Carolina State University, where he was Professor of Design and Landscape Architecture. During these years he wrote extensively about film and maps. Author of *The Power of Maps* (Guilford Press, 1992), Wood also curated the award-winning Cooper-Hewitt National Museum of Design exhibition of the same name (1992), which he subsequently mounted at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington (1994).

Shannon Jackson introduces Guest Speaker Katharine Harmon, presenting "Mapping the Invisible."

SYMPOSIUM EXHIBIT

In association with our November 1, Mapping and Its Discontents symposium, the Global Urban Humanities Initiative presented an on-line competition and exhibit of notable maps. Zoomable and interactive versions of these and of a number of other intriguing maps, along with essays by their authors, can be viewed and commented on here.

See-Through Maps was co-sponsored by the Berkeley Center for New Media.

PRESENTED by the
GLOBAL URBAN HUMANITIES INITIATIVE, UC BERKELEY
and the BERKELEY CENTER FOR NEW MEDIA

SEE-THROUGH MAPS
MAPS THAT LAY BARE THEIR POINT OF VIEW
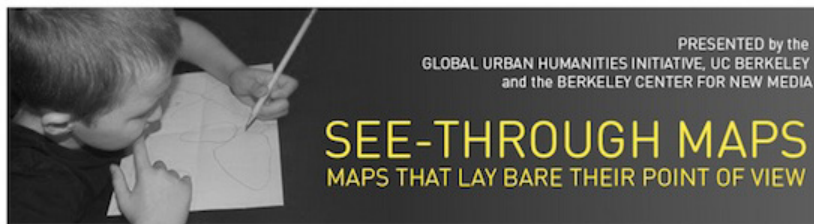
First Place Winner: OpenStreetMap: Every Line Ever, Every Point Ever | Alan McConchie

2 Replies

Click on image above to view the web-based map in full size [external link]

Author Essay: My submission consists of two interactive maps (accessible at http://graphspace.com/every-line-every-point) generated from OpenStreetMap (OSM) data. OSM is a crowdsourced map of the world, edited collaboratively by hundreds of thousands of volunteers since its founding in 2004. Because the data for OSM is completely open source, it is possible to download the entire database of raw geospatial data, including every previous version of every feature on the map.

My maps use the OSM history data to visualize how OSM's data has grown and filled-in over time. The maps are completely computer-generated and derived solely from data in the OSM history extracts, but using a style that is consciously impressionistic, evoking the sense of a drawing being worked and re-worked over time. Due to the volume of the data involved, these maps only show a limited area around San Francisco, although in principle they could be produced on a global scale.

SYMPOSIUM ATTENDEE MAPS

In addition to our group of speakers and the exhibitors in our See-Through Maps exhibit, many of our attendees at Mapping and Its Discontents also made and mashed-up maps. We asked our attendees at the symposium to contribute some of their own work, which you can see below.
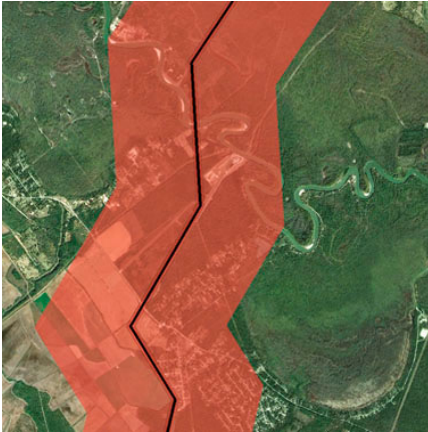
Thomas Bachand

Author, photographer, and web developer Thomas Bachand has created the [Keystone Mapping Project](#) (KMP), an internationally recognized multimedia and photography project examining land use and climate change in America through an exploration of the Keystone XL – the proposed 2,000 mile diluted bitumen pipeline that bisects the North American Continent. The controversial pipeline has become emblematic of our inability to reconcile world demand for fossil fuels and the environmental imperatives imposed upon modern civilization. The KMP has established itself as the most comprehensive publicly-available mapping resource for the pipeline. The project's website and interactive mapping application form the foundation of the project, allowing communities, stakeholders, journalists and non-profits to more easily evaluate the pipeline and its impacts and identify and cooperatively address common issues.

Val Britton

Val Britton is a San Francisco-based artist working with large scale, mixed media collage and site-specific installation. Much of Val's work engages with the language of mapping, initially inspired by her father's travels as a cross-country truck driver. Her pieces map imaginary landscapes, physical and psychological spaces. Val's work can be seen on her [website](#) as well as through her gallery, [Gallery Wendi Norris](#).

Alexander Craghead

Alexander Craghead is a graduate student in the Masters of Science in Architecture program at UC Berkeley, where he is studying architectural and urban history. He previously taught at Marylhurst University, a private liberal arts school in Oregon, from which he also received his BA in communications. Alex is interested in how maps can clarify, through selective inclusion, the relationships of places over time, especially in connection to transportation and land use. More of his maps can be seen on his [Flickr page](#) and his [personal website](#).

Chris Henrick

Chris Henrick studied fine art and geography, then began a career in cartography by interning with the mapping and GIS non-profit firm GreenInfo Network in San Francisco, CA. Following GreenInfo, Chris worked for several years for travel guide publisher Avalon Travel in Berkeley, CA producing maps for their print and e-books, and consultanted for others such as the Oakland Museum of California. Chris is currecntly pursuing an MFA in Design and Technology at Parsons, the New School For Design in New York City, focusing on exploring web-development, open-source GIS and cartography software, and open-data, with the intention of using cartography as a tool for social justice. More of Chris' work can be seen on his personal website as well as on his Behance page.

Darin Jensen

Darin Jensen is a continuing lecturer and department cartographer at the UC Berkeley Department of Geography. Darin's work includes co-editing Food: An Atlas (2013), a collection of maps about food and geography. He also edited and parciticipated in the creation of Mission Possible: A Neighborhood Atlas (2011), which explores the many ways that maps can be used to express San Francisco's Mission District. Darin's complete CV can be found here.
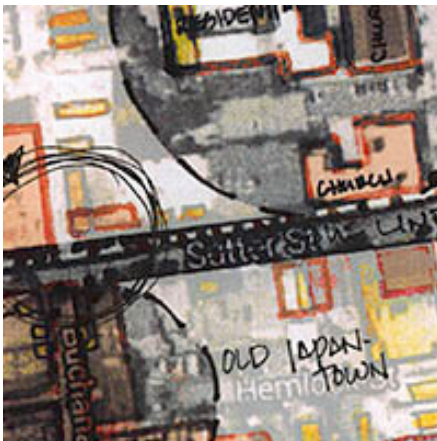

Lauren Mcquistion

Lauren McQuistion is an artist and designer with a background in architecture. Her personal practice includes both analytical and conceptual mapping, using drawing, collage, and mixed media paintings to investigate her interest in design agency, public space, and experiential landscapes. More of her work can be seen on her website.

Lize Mogel

Artist Lize Mogel straddles the fields of art and cultural geography, creating "counter cartography," mapping that challenges the mainstream narrative of a site or history and offers new understandings of social and political issues. She connects the real history of and our collective imaginary about specific places to larger narratives of global economies. Mogel uses conventional maps as readymades, appropriating them in order to examine the power relations they contain and to reconfigure them into new geographies. She inserts her counter-cartographies into public spaces and distributes them via publications. Her work can be on her website, and in An Atlas of Radical Cartography.
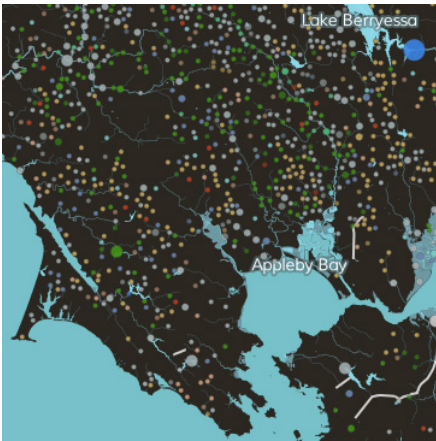
Laci Videmsky

Laci Videmsky explores innovative ways to activate citizens to participate in changing government using technology and new forms of community engagement. Currently, Laci is working on a platform for the state of California that makes water understandable, data accessible, and underrepresented communities included in the ongoing water debate. Recent coverage of Laci's work can be seen on Wired and in the Fairfield-Suisin Daily Republic, and his work can be seen on the California Water Atlas.

San Francisco Emotional Map by Christine Nold.

SYMPOSIUM PRESS

HARVARD GSD NEWS | NOVEMBER 25, 2013

Eve Blau presents "Mapping Hybrid Urban Conditions in Postsocialist Europe"

URBAN VELO | NOVEMBER 20, 2013

Mat Kladney's Simplified San Francisco Bike Map

KQED NEWS | NOVEMBER 14, 2013

A Simplified, User-Friendly Bike Map for S.F. Riders

MUSINGS ON MAPS | NOVEMBER 8, 2013

Encoding Narratives in Maps

BRIGHTWORKS BLOG | NOVEMBER 8, 2013

Pastries and Pigeons: A Map for all the World to See

SFIST | NOVEMBER 8, 2013

Where In S.F. You're Most Likely To Be Shot By a Cop

STAMEN DESIGN | NOVEMBER 6, 2013

OpenStreetMap: Every Line Ever, Every Point Ever

HARVARD GSD NEWS | NOVEMBER 4, 2013

Héctor Tarrido-Picart (MLA & MAUD '15) wins notable distinction in Global Urban Human Initiatives competition

USC SPATIAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE BLOG | NOVEMBER 1, 2013

GIST Student Nancy Milholland Finalist in Mapping Competition

NOTES.HUSK.ORG | NOVEMBER 1, 2013

Dymaxion Inside

BERKELEY NEWS CENTER | OCTOBER 30, 2013

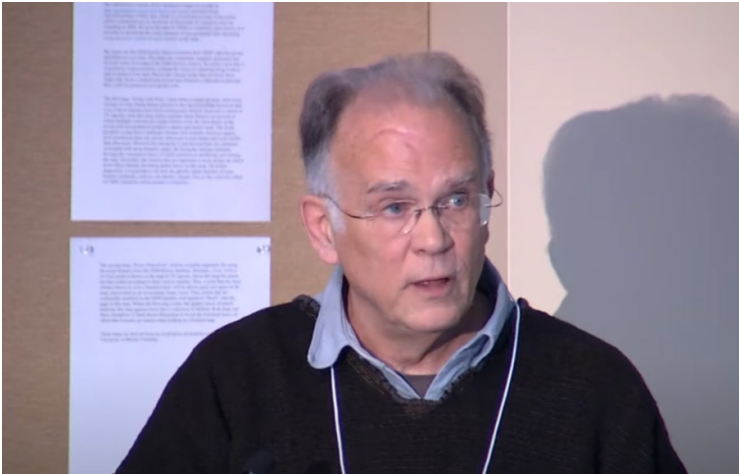Symposium on the Art, Science and Storytelling of City Maps

Audience at the Mapping and Discontents Symposium.

SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS- VIDEOS

SESSION 1: FRAMING LECTURE: A HISTORY OF MAPPING

Video 1: (Presentation by Dennis Wood and response by Michael Dear)

- Denis Wood, geographer, "Mapping and Its Discontents"
- Michael Dear, UC Berkeley Department of City and Regional Planning

SESSION 2: MAPS AND LANDSCAPES

Video 2: (Moderated by Julia Bryan-Wilson, presentations by Robin Grossinger and Laura Kurgan, and response by Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris)

- Julia Bryan-Wilson, Art History, UC Berkeley
- Robin Grossinger, San Francisco Estuary Institute, "Visualizing past landscapes, Imagining future ecosystems"
- Laura Kurgan, Department of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Spatial Information Design Lab, Columbia University, "Data Mapping and Its Contents"
- Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, Department of Urban Planning, UCLA

PRESENTATION OF SEE-THROUGH MAP FINALISTS
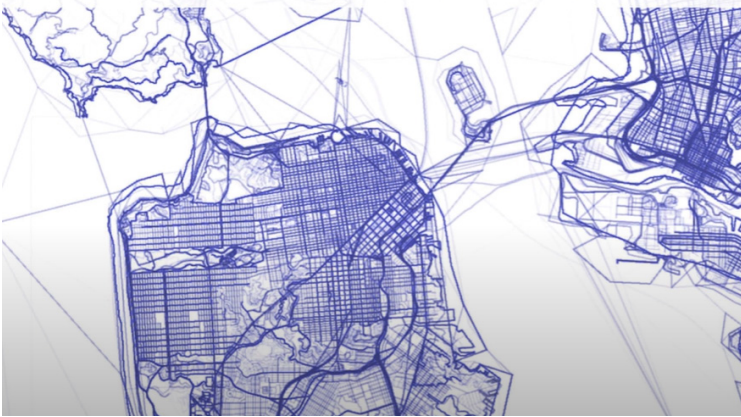
Video 3: (Presenter: Greg Niemeyer)

- Greg Niemeyer, Director, Berkeley Center for New Media and Professor, Art Practice, UC Berkeley
- Awardee, Alan McConchie, "OpenStreet Map: Every Line Ever, Every Point Ever."

SESSION 4: MAPS AND URBAN FORM
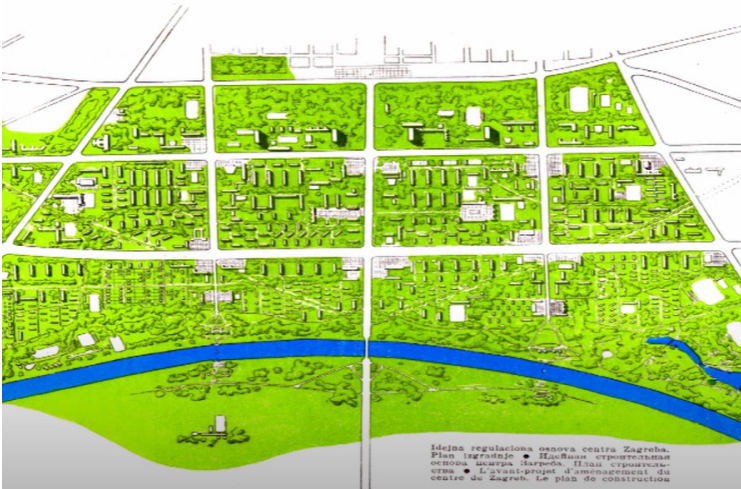
Video 4: (Moderated by Alan Tansman, presentations by Zephyr Frank and Eve Blau, and response by Diane Favro)

- Alan Tansman, East Asian Languages and Literatures, UC Berkeley
- Annette Kim, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, SLAB, MIT, "Mapping our way out of Blindness"
- Todd Presner, Germanic Languages, Comparative Literature, Jewish Studies, and HyperCities, UCLA

SESSION 5: MAPS AS NARRATIVE AND AS ART

Video 3: (Moderated by Shannon Jackson, presentations by Katharine Harmon and Rebecca Solnit, and response by Dana Cuff

- Shannon Jackson, Theater, Dance & Performance Studies, Rhetoric, UC Berkeley
- Katharine Harmon, Author and publisher, "Mapping the Invisible"
- Rebecca Solnit, Author, "The Appetite for Maps: Cartographic Hungers and Feasts"
- Dana Cuff, UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, director cityLAB

SESSION 6: CONCLUDING PANEL

Video 4: (Moderated by Jon Christensen, panel discussion with Eve Blau, Zephyr Frank, Robin Grossinger, Katharine Harmon, Annette Kim, Laura Kurgan, Rebecca Solnit & Denis Wood, and concluding remarks by Jennifer Wolch)

- Jon Christensen, Department of History, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, UCLA
- Jennifer Wolch, Dean, College of Environmental Design, Co-Principal Investigator, UC Berkeley Global Urban Humanities Initiative and Dana Cuff, Principal Investigator, UCLA Urban Humanities Initiative

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