

# PhD research: Community-based and process-oriented mapping practice

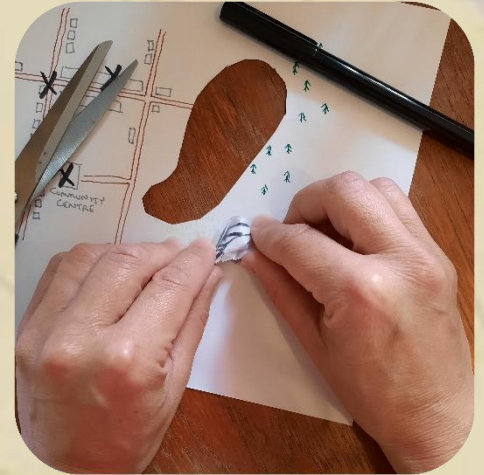
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Mapping: Culture and Geographical Information Science (MCGIS) Research Group



## Community-based and process-oriented mapping as an interdisciplinary research method

- Community-based and participatory mapmaking is deployed across a range of interdisciplinary areas including environmental impact assessment, land rights processes, cultural heritage preservation and community resource planning.
- Mapping has been utilised for the purpose of eliciting and recording discussion or story-telling as a qualitative research approach, in addition to more quantitative processes that collect local feature/location data.
- ***But there are also other ways in which the mapping process itself can be deployed as an approach to research, collaboration, problem-solving or bridging disciplines and epistemologies.***



A mapping roleplay activity

## Developing mapping as an embodied performative research approach

*The way in which mappers use cartographic processes and techniques also help us understand and learn about place and space in innovative ways*

The *corporeal, multisensory performance of mapping* offers an approach to Crang's body as research instrument concept:

- both what is sensed in places and what is sensed at the surface of the map (Rossetto, 2019)
- haptic experience - ***both tactile and kinaesthetic***

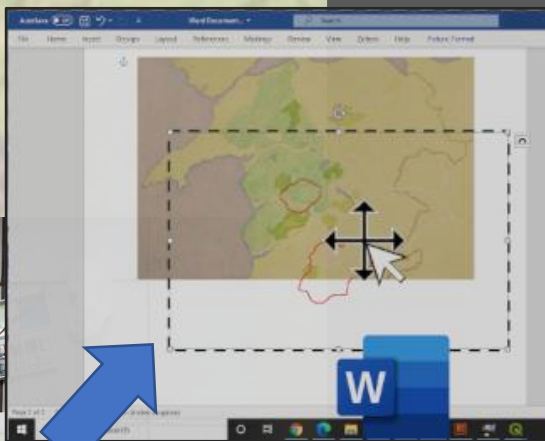
"Thinking hand" (Pallasmaa)

"Maps can be addressed as human (even academic) performances of seeing, sensing, touching and acting in/through/with space" Lo Presti (2018: p115)



"muscular experience" of painting a meandering river - Molly O'Halloran (Miles, 2021)

Map process mashup - painting and digital (Word)



## My PhD

- Developing this approach to mapping is the focus of my PhD
- Workflows will be developed through the iterative piloting and evaluation of Participatory Action Research (PAR) in order to explore alternative and evolving mapping techniques/workflows. The participatory aspect of piloting and evaluation important for user-oriented findings on good practice
- ***Not only separate digital and non-digital methods but flexibly combined workflows - in addition to data mashups: process and materials mashups***
- ***How can mapping be used as an approach to university - community collaborations?***
- Fieldwork communities in BC, Canada (but may review this in light of the COVID-19 pandemic)

## References and sources

- Crang, M. (2003). Qualitative methods: touchy, feely, look-see? *Progress in Human Geography*, 27, 494-504.
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- Pallasmaa, J. (2009). *The Thinking Hand*. London: Wiley.
- Presti Lo, L. (2018). Maps In/Out Of Place. Charting alternative ways of looking and experimenting with cartography and GIS. *J-Reading - Journal of Research and Didactics in Geography*, 1(0).
- Rossetto, T. (2019). The skin of the map: Viewing cartography through tactile empathy. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 37(1), 83-103.