



**International Society for the History of the Map.** *ISHMap Virtual Symposium 2020, June 12-13, 2020.*

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### **ISHMap Virtual Symposium 2020, June 12-13, 2020**

Since its inaugural meeting in 2012, the biennial International Society for the History of the Map (ISHMap) Symposium has brought together scholars, collectors, and map librarians from across the globe to share their research and forge new pathways in cartographic scholarship. The Society's fifth, and first online, symposium, held on June 12-13, 2020, was no exception. Comprising eight parallel sessions, four book chats, two plenary sessions, and an opening keynote, ISHMap 2020 registered over three hundred participants who ventured between virtual panels and a designated "hallway" for informal conversation.

As Symposium Committee members Jordana Dym (Skidmore College) and Denise Moura (Universidade Estadual Paulista) remarked in their opening words, this was a "new ISHMap experience" but one that they hoped would still maintain a strong Brazilian feel in the online environment, reflective of the symposium's previously intended location of São Paulo. Notably, this new format allowed many scholars previously unable to travel to Brazil to attend virtually, as was reflected in the high number of registrations. Both early-career and established map historians were well represented in the schedule, which began with Beatriz Jaguaribe's (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro) insightful opening keynote, "Mapping and

Erasures: Cartography and the Imaginaries of the Modern Nation in Brazil." Jaguaribe invited us to reflect upon the continuities and ruptures that figure in the nation-building process, foregrounding both maps and photographs from the first few decades of twentieth-century Brazil. Her paper considered the erasures and creations that take place in the construction of national memory, how the map reflects different aspects of nation-building, and, finally, how the personal lives of cartographers were shaped by their efforts. Analyzing the work of the Cândido Mariano da Silva Rondon and her own grandfather, Francisco Jaguaribe, including their notable 1952 map of the Mato Grosso region, Jaguaribe set the stage for the sessions to come by posing crucial questions drawn from the Brazilian context that resonate across cartographic scholarship. In the vein of Harley, she reminded us all of the importance of "erasures" and silences on the map, particularly in locales of indigenous knowledge and habitation. Jaguaribe also drew attention to the materiality of the map-object, framing it as debris: a material relic yet also a "wish-image of past generations." Her keynote was a testament to the innovative nature of cartographic scholarship in Brazil.

The ensuing panel sessions across the two days tackled the themes of "Map Fixations", "Map-

ping Brazil”, “Maps and Materiality”, “Maps and the Teaching of Geography”, “Disputes, War and Surveillance”, “Mapping across Cultures”, and “Mapping Movement.” Encompassing two sessions, “Map Fixations” on day one considered the cartography of borderlands in both the nineteenth-century Chinese (Eric Vanden Bussche, University of Tokyo) and eighteenth-century Brazilian (Mariana Pereira Gama, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul) settings, before exploring the role of both toponymies and allegories in cartography of the Americas. Carolina Martínez (CONICET/Universidad Nacional de San Martín) considered how the toponym “Thule” migrated from the Northern to the Southern Hemisphere in the early modern period, while Manuel Detoni Flores (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul) revealed fascinating changes in the language of toponyms used on successive maps created by the Treaty of Madrid Demarcation Committee in the mid-eighteenth century. Brenda Degger (Universidade Federal do Paraná) concluded the session by identifying similarities between two sixteenth-century paintings of the Greek goddess Artemis and contemporaneous cartographic allegories of America. “Mapping Brazil” explored the country’s representations in colonial cartography, with Iris Kantor (Universidade de São Paulo) and Beatriz Piccolotto Siqueira Bueno (Universidade de São Paulo) considering the spatial dynamics of the 1797 New Lusitana Geographical Map, and Carmem Rodrigues (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais) analyzing the potential Brazilian sources consulted in the construction of William Faden’s 1807 map of South America. “Maps and Materiality” prompted reflections upon the position of maps as both objets d’art and practical items. René Lommez Gomes (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais) elucidated the personal and political nature of displaying maps of Brazil in four Amsterdam residences in the sixteenth century, before Jim Akerman (Newberry Library) drew upon the Library’s rich holdings of twentieth-century US travel brochures to illuminate the role of maps in these often over-

looked promotional materials. Finally, Lucía Pereira Pardo (The National Archives, UK) presented a chemical analysis of Richard Bartlett’s maps of Ulster, Ireland, offering valuable insights into the Elizabethan mapmaker’s color palette and the use of AI technologies in map history. Day one concluded with the first plenary, “Maps of the Invisible,” coordinated by Luana Carla Martins Campos Akinruli and Samuel Ayobami Akinruli (both of the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais/Institute for Social Innovation and Cultural Diversity), which gathered perspectives from archaeology (Carlos Magno Guimarães, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais), geoscience (Plínio Temba da Costa, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais), anthropology (Martins Campos Akinruli; Jorge Eremites de Oliveira, Universidade Federal de Pelotas), and information sciences (Ayobami Akinruli) to consider how geospatial data can be used to foreground historically marginalized narratives and indigenous epistemologies in Brazil.

Day two opened with the second plenary, “Cartographies in Community,” where Kate Connell, Oscar Melara, and Sofia Vivanco Airaghi (independent scholars) and Carolina La Terza (Rede Nossa São Paulo) reflected upon the social uses of cartography in San Francisco and São Paulo, respectively. “Maps and the Teaching of Geography” took us into the classroom, where Kory Olson began the panel with an analysis of Jaques Parlier’s cartographic methods and maps in the teaching of geography in early twentieth-century France. Carla Lois (CONICET/Universidad de Buenos Aires) considered the use of cartographic drawing exercises in the development of spatial thinking in elementary school geography, utilizing late nineteenth-century examples from across the Americas and Europe, before Vera Dorofeeva-Lichtmann (École des hautes études en sciences sociales) proposed that a manuscript copy of Yamada Yukimoto’s printed world map (1879-83) held at the Universidade de São Paulo may have been created for the geographical education of Japanese immigrants to Latin America. “Disputes, Wars and Surveillance”

revisited many of the themes of the first “Mapping Fixations” panel, with Junia Furtado (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais) comparing two distinct cartographical views of the War of Salvador City (1624-5) between the Dutch and the Portuguese. Lucía Rodríguez Arrillaga (Universidad de la República, Uruguay) reflected further on borderland cartographies by framing the maps of the River Plate boundary demarcation commissions in the late eighteenth century as instruments of territorial desire that have a notably temporal dimension. Sebastián Díaz Angel (Cornell University) showed how real-time mapping was used by US counterinsurgency operations in the 1960s, linking this surveillance technology to imperialist policy and the development of a US cartographic ideology in relation to Airborne Photo-Reconnaissance Intelligence Platforms. “Mapping across Cultures,” the final panel dedicated to Brazilian cartographies, saw Roberto Chauca (FLACSO, sede Quito) clarify the significant role of indigenous knowledge in the development of both missionary and military cartographies of Amazonia in the early modern period, before Denise Moura (Universidade Estadual Paulista) presented an ethnocartographic analysis of eighteenth-century journal accounts and mapmakers that revealed the role of Macro-jê peoples’ landscape knowledge in the production of state cartographies of southern Brazil. Finally, in “Mapping Movement,” Anthony Mullan (Library of Congress) compared maps of two Spanish colonial frontier cities: Galveztown, Louisiana (1779), and Nueva Orán, Argentina (1794), noting their projected roles in future border expansion, and Patricia Gomes da Silveira (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro) used GIS data obtained from eighteenth-century maps of Minas Gerais to show that this “backland” was actually a lively space with a dynamic economy.

Particular highlights from this fascinating program included Junia Furtado’s paper, “The War of Salvador City (1624-25) in a New Cartographical Perspective: The Dutch and Luso-Spanish Disputes in Maps.” Her detailed analysis of two manuscript

maps depicting the city created by the warring powers highlighted how the representation of artillery, warehouse storage, and the width of the bay in which the city sits were utilized to construct distinct narratives about the Salvador War. Furtado reflected on the political weaponization of cartography in this context, prompting a broader consideration of cartographic “truth” that echoes far beyond her chosen examples. Carolina Martínez’s presentation, “A Case of Dislocated Toponymy? Thule Island from Pytheas to Cook’s Second Voyage of Circumnavigation (1772-1775),” detailed promising new research on the history of the toponym “Thule Island” and how it came to be transposed from the Northern to the Southern Hemisphere when it was chosen as a name for an island in the South Sandwich Archipelago during James Cook’s second voyage. Tracing the appearance of northern Thule across classical and early modern travel accounts, Martínez ventured that its “dislocation” to the South Atlantic may have actually been an attempt to affirm a British presence in the area. Brenda Degger’s paper, “The Frontier of the Known World: The Allegory of America and the Images of Artemis, XVI and Early XVII centuries,” noted striking similarities between sixteenth-century paintings of Artemis and cartographic allegories of America. Degger highlighted how Artemis symbolizes chastity but is also a huntress; just like the figure of America famously depicted on the frontispiece of Ortelius’s *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (1570), she represents the boundary between civilization and barbarism. Her work is proof of the original lens that art history can bring to cartographic scholarship, demonstrating notable confluences between the painting and map formats.

Book chats were featured between each session on both days, dedicating space for the authors of significant new works in map history to discuss their publications. Some of the exciting recent texts discussed included Ricardo Padrón’s (University of Virginia) *The Indies of the Setting Sun: How Early Modern Spain Mapped the Far East as the*

*Transpacific West* (forthcoming July 2020), which promises to be a transformative work for scholars of early modern Spain/Latin America as well as the Atlantic and Pacific worlds. It challenges Eduardo O’Gorman’s iteration of the “invention of America” and reveals novel links between the colonial Americas and Asia. Matthew Edney’s (University of Southern Maine) *Cartography: The Ideal and Its History* (2019) is sure to become a definitive work in the history of cartography, being both an unparalleled reference text for the historical development of mapmaking as well as disputing the existence of the category of “cartography” itself in an indispensable follow-up to Harley’s early deconstructive analyses. Katharina Piechocki’s (Harvard University) *Cartographic Humanism: The Making of Early Modern Europe* (2020) links the production of maps in Renaissance Europe to the imagining of the region as an increasingly hegemonic power, addressing the pressing need to consider space in this context given the notable spatial dimension of humanist thought.

Overall, ISHMap 2020 has set an incredibly high standard for virtual conferences, and the Symposium Committee’s work to readjust the event to the online setting is laudable. The work of Jordana Dym, Denise Moura, Andrea Doré, Junia Furtado, and Carla Lois, as well as the moderators and secretaries, to prepare a seamless symposium that was easy to navigate must be commended. ISHMap 2020 revisited the themes of materiality, production, circulation, and interpretation that are at the core of map scholarship and took them in new and exciting directions, showcasing some of the very best of Latin America’s (and the world’s) cartographic scholarship. The symposium affirmed that, at this challenging time, shared scholarship and interdisciplinary exchange can be an important source of stimulation and solace. Many attendees took the opportunity after the closing remarks to thank Jordana and Denise for transporting us, albeit momentarily, out of our homes; this reviewer would like to echo this sentiment, and to note that the future of ISHMap

events yet to come, be they virtual or physical, is extremely bright.

If there is additional discussion of this review, you may access it through the network, at <https://networks.h-net.org/h-maps>

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