

RAZON CARTOGRAFICA, THE COLOMBIAN NETWORK FOR HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY OF CARTOGRAPHY

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The purpose of this poster presentation is to share Razón Cartográfica's experience in building an emerging network and an research community in Colombia actively involved in the history of cartography, the history of cartography, the promotion of critical cartography and the dialogue between persons and institutions interested on cartographic rationality, geographical thinking, spatial analysis, and geo-visualization for social sciences. The poster will review our main objectives, projects, research results and activities.

Razón Cartográfica started in August 2007 from enthusiastic young students and researchers, who articulate themselves to generate a blog (www.razoncartografica.wordpress.com) with a local up-to-date database of researchers, a bibliography, and an on-line article archive. The idea was to make a web portal with relevant information, news and links to resources and digital map collections. The network now articulates dozens of teachers, investigators, students, archival centers, collectors and others related entities interested with the understanding of past geographies, the protection of cartographic heritage and the promotion and diffusion of research on history of cartography and on history of geography in Colombia.

In association with local institutions, Razón Cartográfica organizes and supports different workshops and seminars to stimulate local academic discussion on thematic cartography and spatial thinking for research on history, social sciences and humanities. Many of these activities pretend specifically to link Colombian researchers with international scholarship on history of cartography, historical geography, critical cartography, and different related areas.

One of the main objectives of Razón Cartográfica is to participate and to support the strengthening and diffusion of iberoamerican scholarship on history of cartography, critical cartography, and thematic mapping of the past. We expect then to support academic events like the Third Iberoamerican Conference on History of Cartography to be held in Sao Paulo Brazil in 2010, to develop more interaction with English speaking networks, and to stimulate increasing number of latinamericans or latinamericanist researchers to participate and exchange research results with the vibrant international community engaged in the protection and digital diffusion of Cartographic Heritage, the understanding of the history of cartography, the mapping of the past, and all related areas

As coordinator of Razón Cartografica I am sure that the 2009ICC experience will give me an incredible opportunity to receive invaluable feedback for the development and strengthen of the project.