



# Maps and Society Commission 2007-2011



This poster highlights progress in relation to terms of reference and describes activities in the first four years of a new commission.

## Terms of reference 2007-2011

The Commission was established at ICC Moscow with parallel academic and practical rationales. These aimed to facilitate and encourage the use of social scientific and critical approaches to mapping and to encourage a more active engagement between cartographers and other groups in society engaged in mapping activities. Initial terms of reference are as follows, together with progress towards these goals:

- Develop a Maps and Society web site to act as a clearinghouse and one stop shop for researchers and practitioners in this area . **PARTLY ACHIEVED**

- Sponsor and organise sessions at future ICA conferences **ACHIEVED**

- Organize two specialist workshops on topics related to Maps and Society These would be *local* meetings to generate increased ICA participation from groups in different global contexts. **ACHIEVED: MEETINGS IN USA, UK, CHILE, and AUSTRALIA AND FRANCE**

- Encourage publication in this area, specifically publication of an issue of *The Cartographic Journal* in 2008/09 arising from this theme and publication of a research monograph. **CJ OUTPUT NOT PUBLISHED. TWO THEME ISSUES ON TRACK FOR RECENT MEETINGS**

- Collaborate and participate with representatives of other disciplines in meetings and seminars..**ACHIEVED**

- Hold *joint meetings* with specific mapping communities focusing upon different mapping encounters. In the first four years these might focus upon, artistic practice, participatory community mapping and graphic designer practice. **MEETINGS HELD WITH GEOGRAPHERS, DESIGN PROFESSIONALS, HISTORIANS OF CARTOGRAPHY AND ART AND PARTICIPATORY PRACTITIONERS**

## Activities

The Commission has focused in its first period in organising meetings and attracting interest..

### 2008

The first meeting of the new Commission took place at the *Association of American Geographers Meeting* in April 2008 in Boston, USA, the world's largest Geography conference, with over 7 000 delegates and up to 70 parallel sessions. At the conference Chris Perkins (University of Manchester, UK) and Jörn Seeman (Universidade Regional do Cariri, Brazil and Louisiana State University, USA) organized three sessions under the Theme *Subversive Cartographies*. 14 papers were presented in these three sessions. Around 90 of the people attending these packed sessions registered an interest in the new Commission.

The next meeting of the Commission took place in the UK at the Annual Royal Geographical Society / Institute of British Geographers conference in London in August 2008. Here the theme was a focus on the uneasy relationship between Geography as a discipline and mapping, and papers are being presented in three sessions under the Title *Maps as Method*. There was also a plenary discussion organised in conjunction with the Commission on the *Future of the Map*. For details of the conference and programme see: <http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/AC2008+online+programme.htm>

### 2009

At the ICA' 50 year anniversary celebrations in Bern Switzerland in June the Commission was one of those that presented a position paper around its activities. This is available at: [http://icaci.org/documents/newsletter/ica\\_news\\_special\\_2009\\_lq.pdf](http://icaci.org/documents/newsletter/ica_news_special_2009_lq.pdf) At the ICA Conference in Santiago Chile several sessions focused upon work by members of the Commission. In addition the Commission met to discuss future progress.

### 2010

The Maps and Society Commission organised 2 thematic sessions focusing on "Cartographic History and Histories", at the 3rd International Symposium on the History of Cartography, Arlington Texas, in October,. For further details see the conference web site: [http://www.icahistcarto.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=35&Itemid=37](http://www.icahistcarto.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=35&Itemid=37)

### 2011

In June 2011 the Commission participated in the Mapping Ecologies of Place Workshop, held in the Centre for Cultural Research in the University of Western Sydney The focus of the meeting was around the contribution mapping might make to the wider world of design practice. Chris Perkins Commission Chair is gave one of the two keynotes at this meeting. For details see <http://www.commart.uws.edu.au/mappingecologies/> Papers from this meeting are to be published as a theme issue of the journal Design Philosophy Papers (see [http://www.desphilosophy.com/dpp/dpp\\_index.html](http://www.desphilosophy.com/dpp/dpp_index.html))

And prior to the ICA Conference in Paris we have organised a full day Workshop in conjunction with the Art and Cartography Working Group, focusing on mapping practices, in the context of map art, participatory mapping and community mapping initiatives. This workshop features 15 papers, is scheduled for July 2<sup>nd</sup>, and will be held at the Institute of Geography, 191 rue Saint Jacques, Paris 6e. For details see: <http://artcarto.wordpress.com> Papers from this meeting are to be published in a theme issue of *Cartographica*.



Maps and Society Commission Meeting Santiago November 2009