



# Commission on Theoretical Cartography

## Introduction to the ICA Commission

The development of Cartography, especially digital Cartography and GIS, as well as map as public media makes us face to new challenge of theoretical and methodological re-construction for our discipline. To conduct research and relevant activities for this purpose is an urgent need for so many unanswered questions are arising continuously.

Extending our sight to more comprehensive sister disciplines, especially Philosophy and Methodology is extremely important. A cross-cultural and historical investigation of theoretical interests is also beneficial to our goal. In order to best serve the discipline, the ICA Commission of Theoretical Cartography establishes the following objectives:

- comparing and studying selected topics of theoretical interest in a multi-disciplinary, cross-cultural and historical, methodological perspective.
- promoting the research topics from carto-semiotics to more general philosophical concerns for Cartography theory construction including Ontology, Epistemology and Linguistics etc.
- promoting the application of theoretical research fruits and relevant adaption and improvement in cartographic and GIS practice.
- establishing an efficient information system to facilitate collaboration among the researchers in the field by maintaining an up-to-date Commission website with news important for the membership, reports on the activities of the commission, information on recent publications of interest, on the past and future meetings in the field, etc.
- promoting the existing glossary in multi-language in the circle of researcher and extending the glossary with the further research interest.
- conducting workshops or symposia about selected aspects of theoretical cartography in different nations.
- compiling and publishing reports and collected papers about the work of the commission.

The commission has been chaired by Prof Dr Du Qingyun from Wuhan University, China and Dr. Florian Hruby from University of Guadalajara, Mexico since 2011

## Terms:

- ICA commission on Theoretical Cartography (2011-2015)

## Activities:

- Two business meetings during ICC 2011, Paris and ICC 2013, Dresden, more than 30 scholars attended the meeting and several topics on theoretical cartography were discussed.
- Two workshops held in 2014, Beijing and 2015, Tokyo respectively jointly with ICA Commission on Atlases, Commission on Ubiquitous Mapping and Commission on Map and the Internet. 30 scholars from Austria, Czech, India, Columbia and China attended the workshop in 17-19 October, 2014 in Beijing and 13 presentations were given regarding ethnic group mapping, national atlas, map linguistics, smart spatial computing, cognitive and emergency mapping etc.. 60 scholars from Australia, United States, Kuwait, Japan and China attended the workshop in 17-19 March, 2015 in Tokyo and more than 20 presentations were given on the topics of social media and mass data mapping, 3D and real-time surveying, internet mapping, theoretical cartography and map visualization etc..
- Another pre-conference workshop held on 21st August, 2015 in Rio.
- Manage an open access journal <http://meta-carto-semiotics.org/> by members of the commission, more than 30 papers in 4 volumes are published.

