



International Cartographic Association
Association Cartographique Internationale

Commission Report to the ICA Executive Committee

Commission: Map Design
Date of report: July 12, 2023
Period of report: 01/2019 - 01/2023
Name of reporter: Ian Muehlenhaus
EC liaison:

General Remarks:

The report should focus on major events and generally not exceed 1.5 pages incl. photos and links. Activities to be reported may fall into the following categories, but should either be (co)initiated by your commission or reflect significant commission participation:

Commission/Working Group highlights (e.g. conferences, publications, products & services, awards, etc. and outcomes for the EC to take note)

The commission has produced a variety of publications and participated in numerous conferences, including:

Book:

Kenneth Field, "Thematic Cartography," Esri Press.

Ian Muehlenhaus (peer-reviewed articles):

- "Where Am I Now? Modelling Disorientation in Pan-Scalar Maps" (3rd author): <https://www.mdpi.com/2220-9964/12/2/62>

- Missing the city for buildings? A critical review of pan-scalar map generalization and design in contemporary zoomable maps (third author): <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/23729333.2022.2153467>

Other:

- Submitted: The Cartographic Journal, Opinion: "On the ethics of cartographic ethics", forthcoming (Kenneth Field and Ian Muehlenhaus)

Notable cross-disciplinary events (e.g. with other ICA Commissions/WGs, regional and international communities)

- The "Atlases in Time" Symposium with the IGN of Spain, the Commission on Atlases, and the Commission on Toponyms

- New Zealand GeoCart Presentation: <https://search.proquest.com/openview/06481f91bb75bcee4d0292f29700e603/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=2036186>

- Interactive map design workshop: Minnesota GIS & LIS Organization (MNGISLIS, 2022): a half-day workshop on how to design intuitive and engaging interactive maps, designed for practicing GIS experts and cartographers

- Interactive map design workshop: Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA, 2023): a half-day workshop on designing effective interactive visualizations for the public, given to government and private GIS experts and cartographers.

Notable public events (e.g. invited public speech, Mapathon, TED talks, hackathon, etc.)

New Zealand GeoCart Keynote (2022): Vice-Chair Kenneth Field

EuroCart Keynote (2022): Vice-Chair Kenneth Field

Educational highlights (e.g. degree programs, MOOCs, lifelong learning courses)

- YouTube tutorials on Map Design
- Our Chair, Ian Muehlenhaus, helped build one of the largest online, master's programs in the US in Cartography and GIS at UW-Madison during the first year of his tenure.
- Vice-Chair Ken Field participated and co-led/taught one of the world's largest MOOCs ever, ESRI's Cartography MOOC, First and Second Edition

Any other sharable experiences**Upcoming events and planned actions**

- We plan to create a podcast interviewing practicing and theoretical cartographers
- The podcast will discuss their thoughts on map design and the difficulty of connecting sound theory with practical results in map design

We will continue to publish journal articles, hopefully a book, and present at cartography and GIS conferences around world, always highlighting the ICA and its commissions.

Publication topics will include:

- Visualization design for exploratory geoanalytics and business intelligence cartography
- Map design for pan-scalar maps (with the Commission of Map Generalisation)
- The impact of conscious realism on what it means to 'design' a map
- Map design and ethics

Likely/planned presentations:

- GeoCart in New Zealand 2024
- EuroCart 2024
- CaGIS 2024
- NACIS (North American Cartographic Information Society) 2023
- Display well-designed maps in the Esri UC Map Gallery
- State-wide (US) cartography and GIS conferences

Workshops

State-based (US) GIS conferences teaching GIS experts how to design effective and intuitive maps