

LIVINGMAPS

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2022

The story so far

Livingmaps Network was started in 2015 by a small group of enthusiasts, none of whom were professional cartographers, but who were interested in challenging the dominant way maps were made, used or thought about and in developing alternative, more democratic and participatory approaches to doing all three. Over these past seven years Living Maps has established itself as a major international network for the theory and practice of participatory counter-mapping, with its own twice yearly online journal, an annual counter mapping festival, a diverse events programme, including workshops, webinars and lectures and a series of innovative community based projects. Although the lockdown put a number of our community projects on hold, it also served to open up our webinars to a much wider and more diverse audience. The focus of our work has inevitably been shaped by the changing conjuncture, with a growing emphasis on the environmental crisis, and on the spatial inequalities linked to class, race, gender and generation which this has exacerbated at both a micro and geo-political level. We are committed to continuing to challenge the dominant culture of professional cartography, which remains stubbornly masculinist, Eurocentric and Post/Colonial in many of its underlying operational assumptions. We are always interested in hearing from other individuals, groups and organisations who share these aims and values, and in discussing forms of possible collaboration.

News from LivingMappers

We are delighted to welcome Peter Vukovic, Professor Emeritus in Geography at Christ Church Canterbury, who has joined our advisory group. Peter has just completed a pilot project funded by Research England to work with teachers to develop teaching resources relating to use of cartography in schools. The project focuses on history and heritage as a means to engage children with their locality and through this to value their place and engage in sustainable practices.

We would also like to welcome Akrem el-Athram to the group. Akrem is a social architect and radical urbanist who recently completed a visual ethnographic project on gay space in Soho. Akrem will be working with us on the Young Citizens Atlas.

We would like to congratulate two of our directors, Barbara Brayshay and Toby Butler, for their successful bid to the AHRC for a major grant to conduct a three year oral history project about the environmental movement in the UK. The project is based at the Geography Department at Royal Holloway. Barbara will be presenting a paper at the

Community Informatics Research Network Conference in Prato, Italy on the 10th November reporting on her recent project doing Social Systems Mapping in Lambeth.

Projects in Progress

The Groundbreakers

Following on from the successful launch in June, this immersive trail and guide to the back story of the Queen Elisabeth Olympic Park has been getting a lot of use and positive feedback. You can download the Guide from our website to help plan your visit. We will also be organising some tours of the park using this material, dates to be announced on the website.

Young Cityzens Atlas

This project has now entered its active phase with pilot projects to test and evaluate the core modules scheduled to take place in a community arts centre in West Ham, a youth centre in Hackney and a Saturday school in South London. The material produced by children and young people will be shown in a dedicated space on our website and a set of learning and teaching resources compiled for use by teachers and youth workers. The next step will be to develop content for the optional modules and to build an infrastructure of online support and dissemination so that the Atlas can be rolled nationwide. For this purpose we are currently convening a consortium made up academic and cultural organisation partners.

Every Dog is a Lion in its Home: Personal geographies of place, identity and belonging within London's Ukrainian communities

We have obtained a small grant to run a series of workshops in association with Pushkin House, with groups of Ukrainians now established in London, both adults and children. The aim is to provide a platform from which participants can use a variety of media to co-create a space and form of collective representation of their situation which is also of benefit to new arrivants. The work produced will be hosted on the Livingmaps website, so that is available to a wider public, as well as being disseminated through Ukrainian community organisations.

Growing up in coastal towns: exploring the impact of place on young people's life chances

Coastal towns have come to the fore in recent UK policy debates as some of the most deprived neighbourhoods are now in coastal areas. These debates often raise concerns about the future of young people in these towns, largely because of the limited educational and employment opportunities in these communities. Livingmaps will be running two mapping workshops in each town, one with up to 10 young people aged 15-20, and one with 10 older 40+, who have grown up in the area in an earlier period.

Forthcoming Events

In and against the fog of war: mappings from the front line :A programme of live events, webinars and workshops 2022/3

Map making and war making and their associated technologies have been closely linked throughout the 20th century; today they continue to be mobilised in tandem in both offensive and defensive spaces of military action. The destruction of urban infrastructures and displacement of their civilian populations have become key military objectives, deploying drones and other technologies of civil surveillance . ' Home fronts' have increasingly become war zones whilst even the most local conflict take place within a global mediascape. At the same time a different cartography has emerged to both document the impact of war on everyday life and to help build networks of resistance and resilience amongst those communities who find themselves on the front lines. In this series of lectures, webinars and workshops, we examine these two trajectories of recent cartographic history and draw out their implications for both contemporary geo-politics and the management of civil conflict. The opening event took place at the British Library on October 27 and featured presentations by Phil Cohen ,Hillary Shaw , Mateusz Fafinski ,and Doug Specht . A video of the event is available on our website.

Forthcoming:

November 28 Webinar Cartographies of Violence /Rhetorics of War Jeremy Black , Heather Hayes and Michael Shapiro

December 14: Webinar War Commemoration, Citizen Mapping and trench life in the First World War Ken Lilley

January 18: Live event at Pushkin House Cold War Cartography: Russian map and war making from Stalin to Gorbachev Greg Miller and Alex Kent

February 16: Live Lecture at Pushkin House Cartographies of terror and resistance

Stephen Graham, Forensic Architecture and the Centre for Information Resilience:

March 15 Webinar streamed live in partnership with Pushkin House Big Lies, Little Truths: stories of place, identity and belonging from the frontlines and backyards of war in Ukraine Andrey Kurkov, Yevgenia Belorusets and Tadas Fedirko

April 19 Live Seminar at Pushkin House 'Home Fronts' : Cartographies of Surveillance and the policing of urban space Peter Vujakovic and Debra Shaw

May 17 Webinar Mapping Armageddon 1945- 2045 : Out of the nuclear bunker into the fire next time Timothy Barney and Bradley Garrett

June 21 Workshop/seminar at Pushkin House 10 am – 4pm Make Maps, not War: Working through war trauma with displaced people using arts based methods of counter mapping.

Alisa Oleva, Debbie Kent , Jina Lee and Sana Murrani

Participatory Mapping Workshop

We are planning a day exploring different approaches to participatory mapping. We aim to develop a broader understanding of the different approaches to participatory mapping currently being practiced and also to encourage other mapping practitioners to join us and become involved in Livingmaps projects. For further information please contact Michael.Duggan@Livingmaps.org.uk

Publications

Livingmaps Review Issue 13

Walking as mapping is a theme we have covered extensively in the Livingmaps Review, especially throughout the Lines of Desire section, which has told the stories and displayed the work of walking artists ever since we started the journal. In this issue, we pick up this theme and continue to walk, but this time out and across our other sections. Along the way, we tell the stories of how walking inspires map making, how walking as mapping helps us to rethink our world, and how walking and movement draws our attention to the sensory and embodied experiences of life.

Read it here: <https://www.livingmaps.org/issue-13-1>

New Directions in Radical Cartography (ed Cohen and Duggan)

A PDF of this book, which is a selection of material published in our online journal is available to download for free from the website.