Humanizing Technology

Critical Cartography and Civil Society

Visiting Voice

Lecture

Wrap-up

Group Time

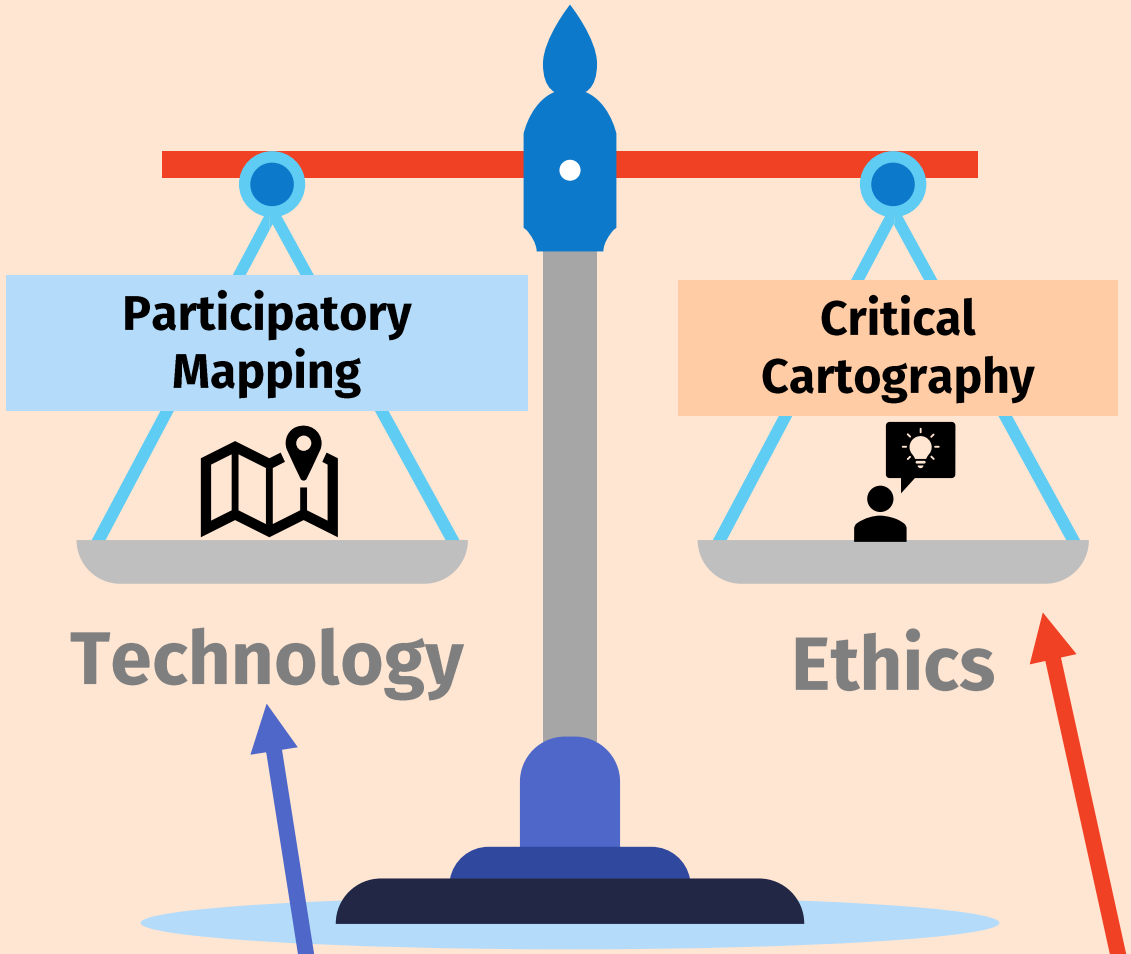
Join at
slido.com
#ucla

Albert Kochaphum
Lecture 2 | April 11th, 2023

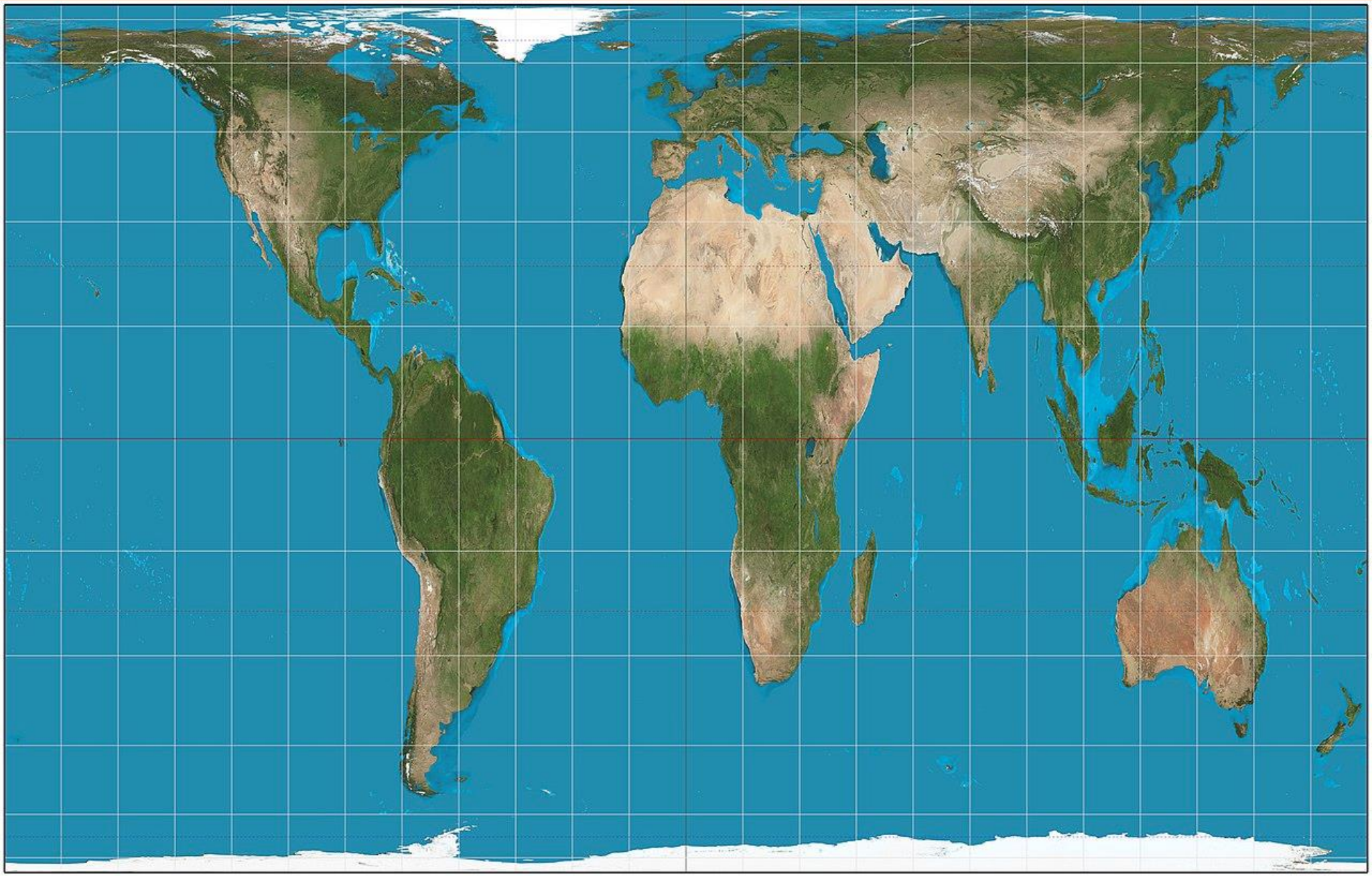
Theme of the week

Balancing critical tools with critical thinking

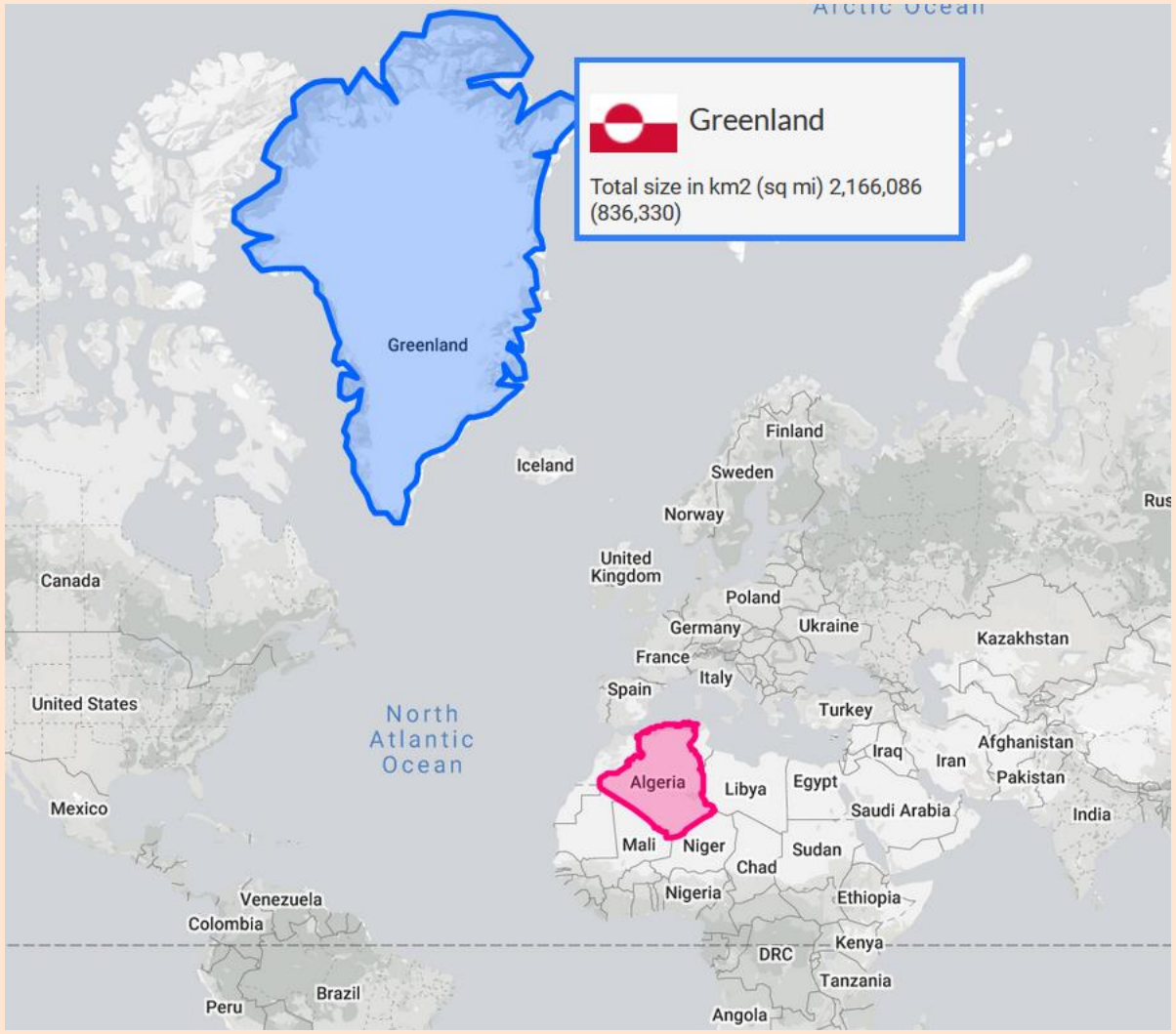
Theme of the week



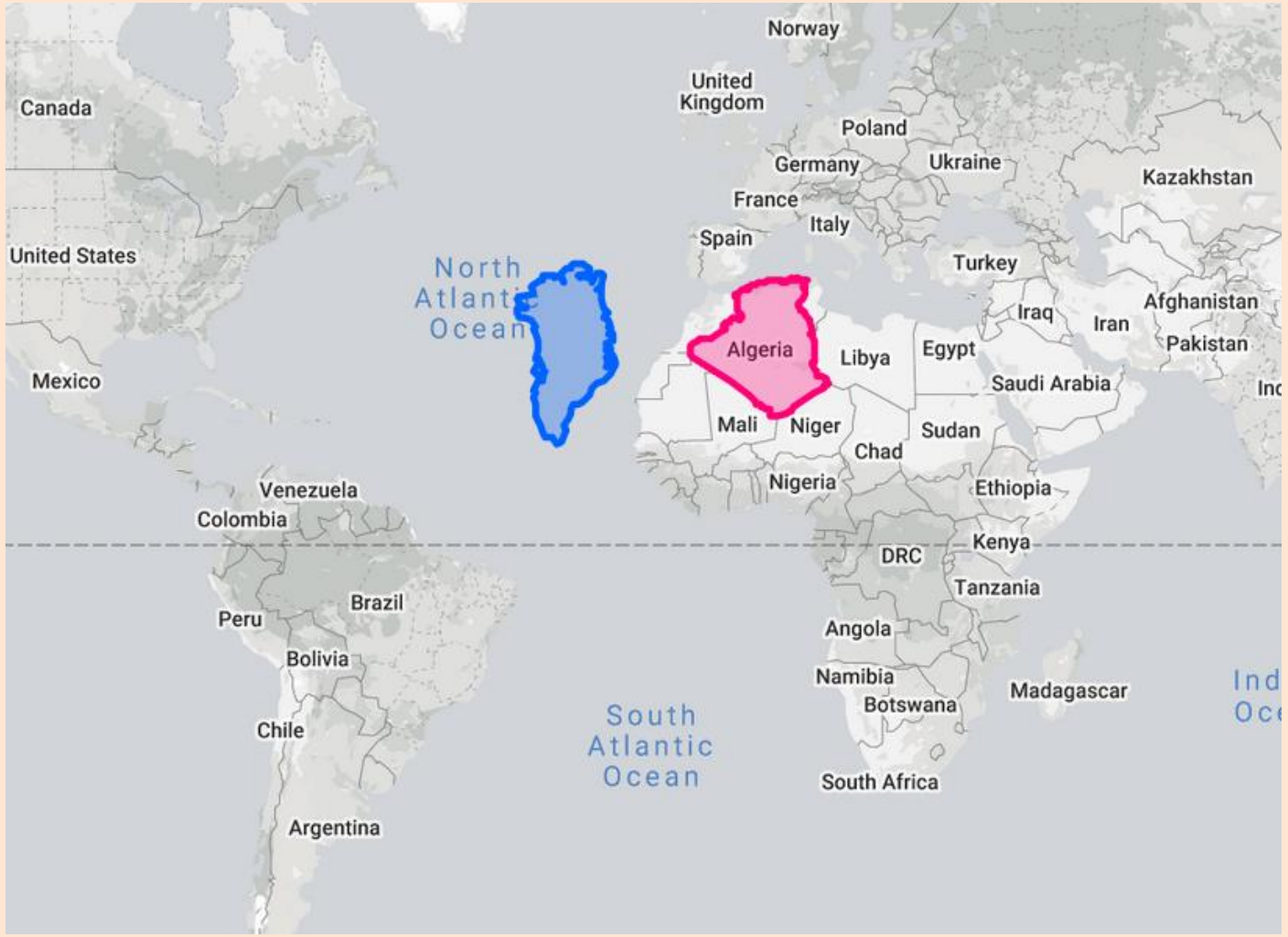
Balancing critical tools with critical thinking



Undisciplining Cartography



Undisciplining Cartography



https://thetruesize.com

Undisciplining Cartography

“Critique is about the politics of knowledge”

Humanizing Technology

Visiting Voice

- **Visiting Voice**
- **Lecture**
- **Wrap-up**
- **Group Time**

Visiting Voice: Mariah Tso

Mariah Tso is a Diné woman, artist, and GIS Specialist for the Ralph J. Bunche Center and the Million Dollar Hoods Project.

slido

Audience Q&A Session

ⓘ Start presenting to display the audience questions on this slide.

Humanizing Technology

Lecture

- Visiting Voice
- **Lecture**
- Wrap-up
- Group Time

Lecture

???

Visiting Voice

???

Lecture

Discussion

Join at
slido.com
#ucla

Albert Kochaphum
Lecture 2 | April 11th, 2023

Week 1 ALwards

Refreshing ComMINTs ALwards

tic tactful points

Catherine Hu

Moreover, how someone chooses to present the data in a map—whether that's **selectively omitting certain locations**, **renaming some regions**, etc.—is entirely up to them and something the audience may not be aware of unless they do their own research.

https://github.com/albertkun/23S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-5567265

Mohammed Azad

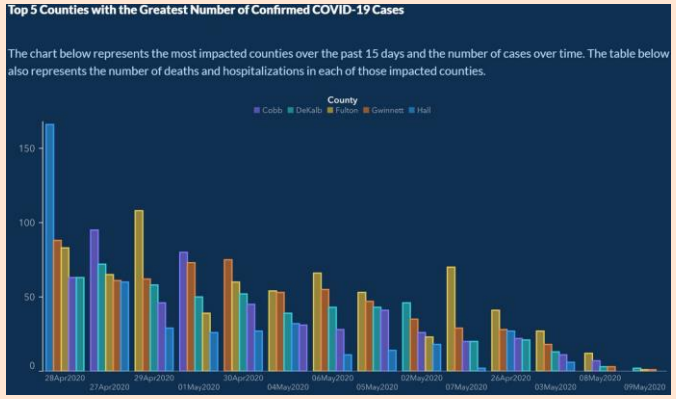
"Even as the power to make maps is being transferred to the hands of the people, it is important to **see who continues to produce certain data and GIS** analyses in today's era. It is often **governments** and **businesses** with the resources to purchase high end data and mapping software compared to the average person"

https://github.com/albertkun/23S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-5567949

Excellent com

Cassidy Tu

I would like to add that another big factor is within the visualization of the data itself, as this reminds me of the Georgia Department of Public Health sharing a chart with non-chronological dates to make it seem like COVID cases were decreasing (which was not true at all).



https://github.com/albertkun/23S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-5573911

Joanne Luong

"I agree in that people don't take maps and GIS with a grain of salt. It is very rare that people are completely objective and unbiased in their creation of these."

https://github.com/albertkun/23S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-5567061

Trinh Le

"I agree with you that thinking data is always accurate can be a problem because sometimes it can be biased. This is true for GIS too, where thinking there's only one right answer can lead to mistakes. Your example of the Mercator projection is a good example of this."

https://github.com/albertkun/23S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-5559152

Great connection ween the reading and prompt

Paige Lee

I think a **problem with the way we use data and GIS** is that despite recent technological advancements in this field, there is still **unequal access to tools and resources**... However, there is a "**digital divide**" that exists between social groups "by race, age, location, and education."

https://github.com/albertkun/23S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-5565928

GREAT EXAMPLE ABOUT

NATIVE PERSPECTIVES

Zachary Pakin

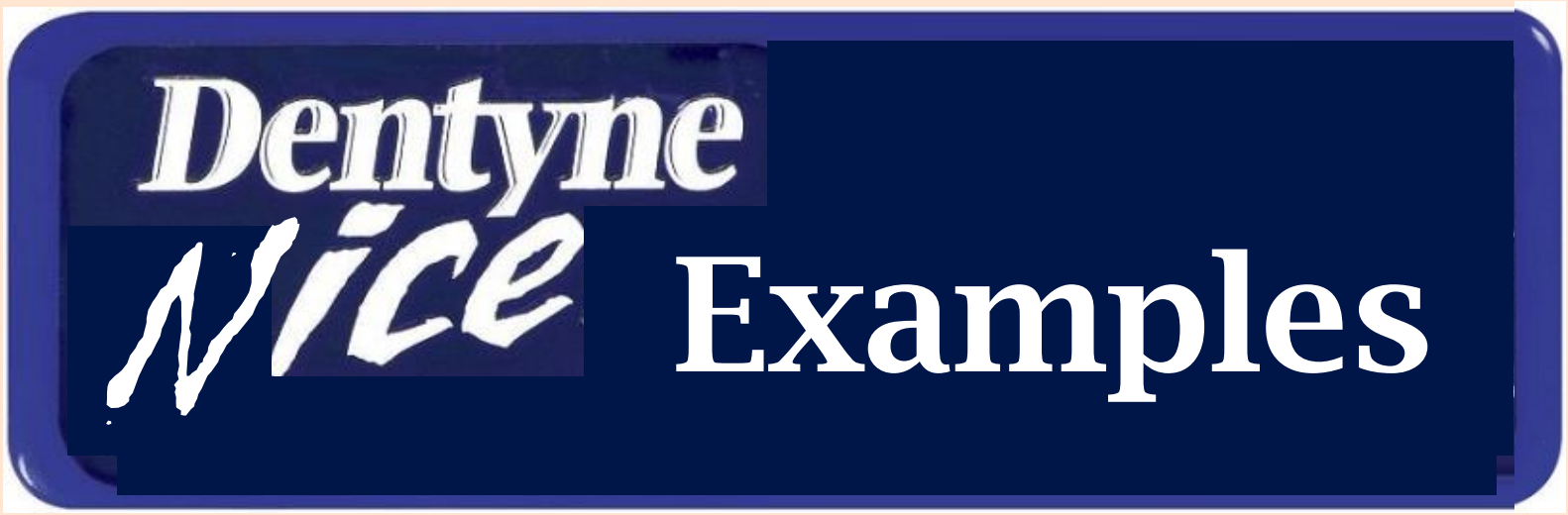
"Simply thinking of a basic example of the **Mercator projection** that I look at every time I open Google Maps **reinforces the idea of a single truth**. I believe that many people have no idea about how the **Mercator projection is biased**..."

https://github.com/albertkun/23S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-5526768

Sage Luong

"...**These contrasting or silenced narratives thus make it difficult for people to know who to trust**. Having civil disagreements also becomes impossible as people condemn the other party's sources for being inaccurate, wrong, or of poor quality simply because it **supports a different narrative than theirs**."

https://github.com/albertkun/23S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-5566745



Examples

Charles Zhang

“When used in a vacuum, **people can use data** to generate their own narratives, **push their own agendas**... a restaurant could claim that it has **100% positive reviews**, but if they've only been reviewed by **one customer**, then the statement is a lot less impressive”

https://github.com/albertkun/23S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-5549306

Mandy Lai

"when representing the number of COVID-related hate crimes in the United States, it is important to decide whether to use the **absolute value** or **value adjusted to the population** of each state"

https://github.com/albertkun/23S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-5573666

Good reading material Ricolaetcion

Casey Carandang

"An example from An Introduction to Critical Cartography, if a **map hacker** uses information of their own or from some other websites in which they transfer the info into softwares we use like Google Maps, cartography is no longer in the hands of healthy resources but rather from internet users."

https://github.com/albertkun/23S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-5567846

Danielle Goldwirth

"…. **mapping involves political bias and can perpetuate lies in our society**, thus suggesting that GIS can be used by institutions to perpetuate certain inaccurate narratives that may create tension between communities and countries… Therefore, we must be aware that **mapping is more than displaying the distribution of data** across various locations and thus must work to follow ethical practices that produce accurate narratives that are not influenced by states' political objectives.

https://github.com/albertkun/23S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-5566687

Kyle Tsujimoto

"A historical example is the **common Eurocentric depiction** of the global map many of us studied in grade school which **divides the Pacific Ocean** on either side of the map. This map, however, implies that the Pacific Ocean is simply a body of water, ignoring the **diverse populations of Oceania** whose lands, and even families are divided by the map"

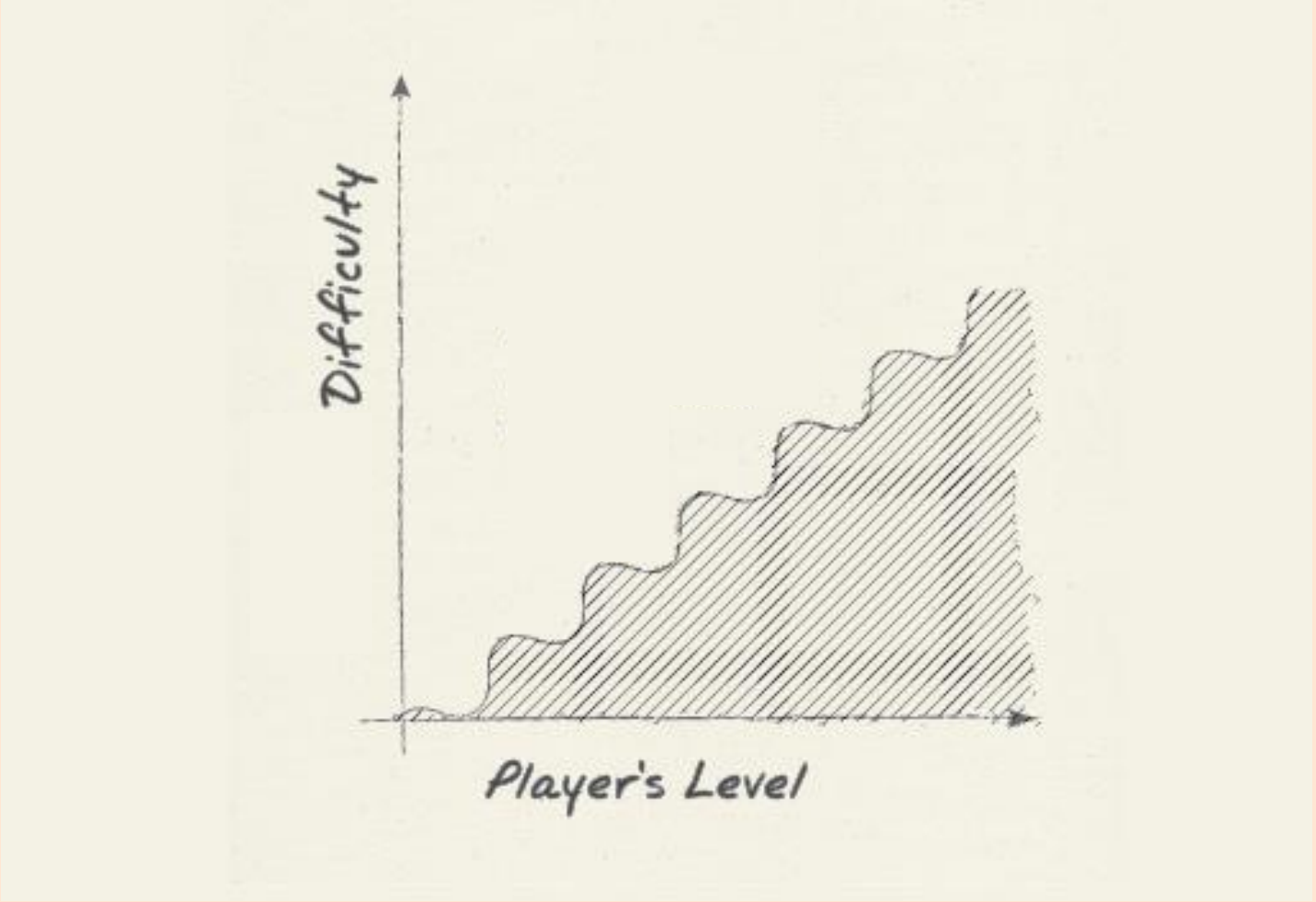
https://github.com/albertkun/23S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-5562006

Cassidy Tu

"maps should be viewed as social documents analyzed with an awareness of their historical context... Overall, this ties nicely into Michel-Rolph Trouillot's *Silencing the Past*, where he analyzes how silences in historical narrative (essentially what has been **forgotten vs recorded**) **reveals inequalities of power**...."

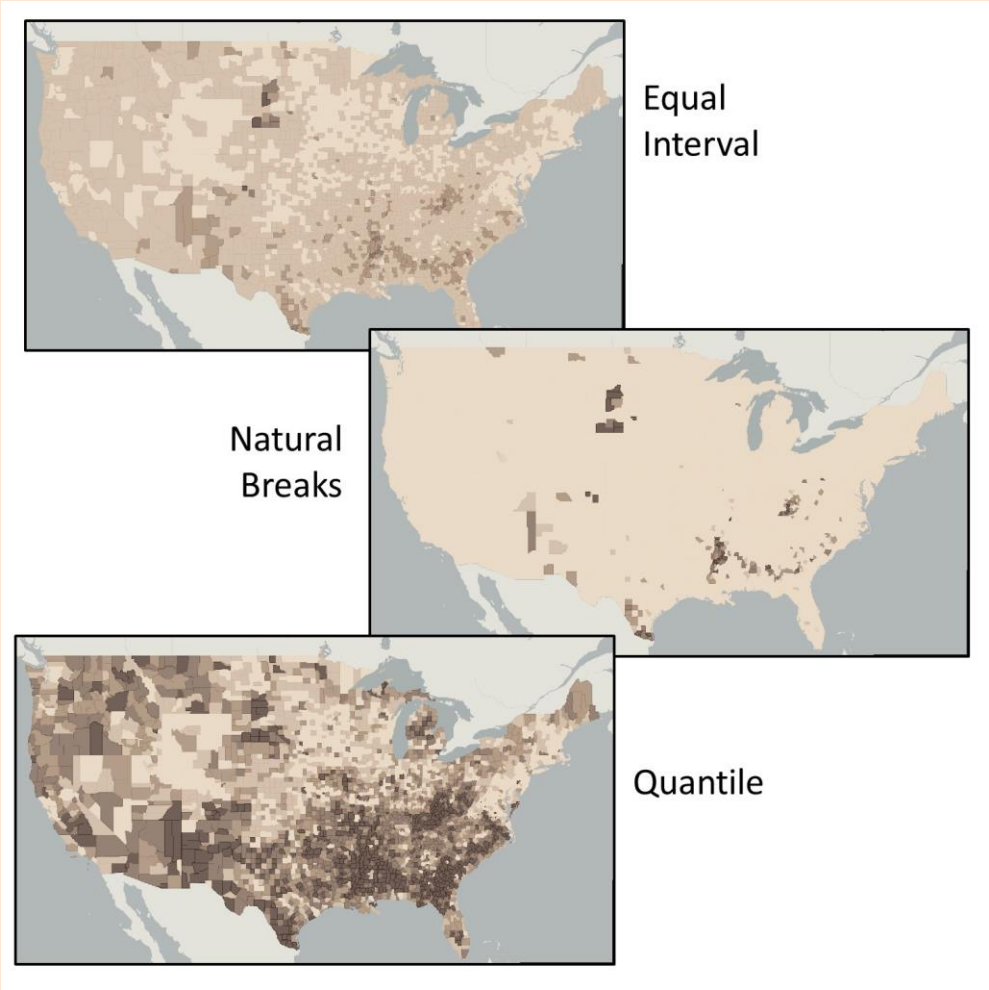
https://github.com/albertkun/23S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-5573805

ALward Notes



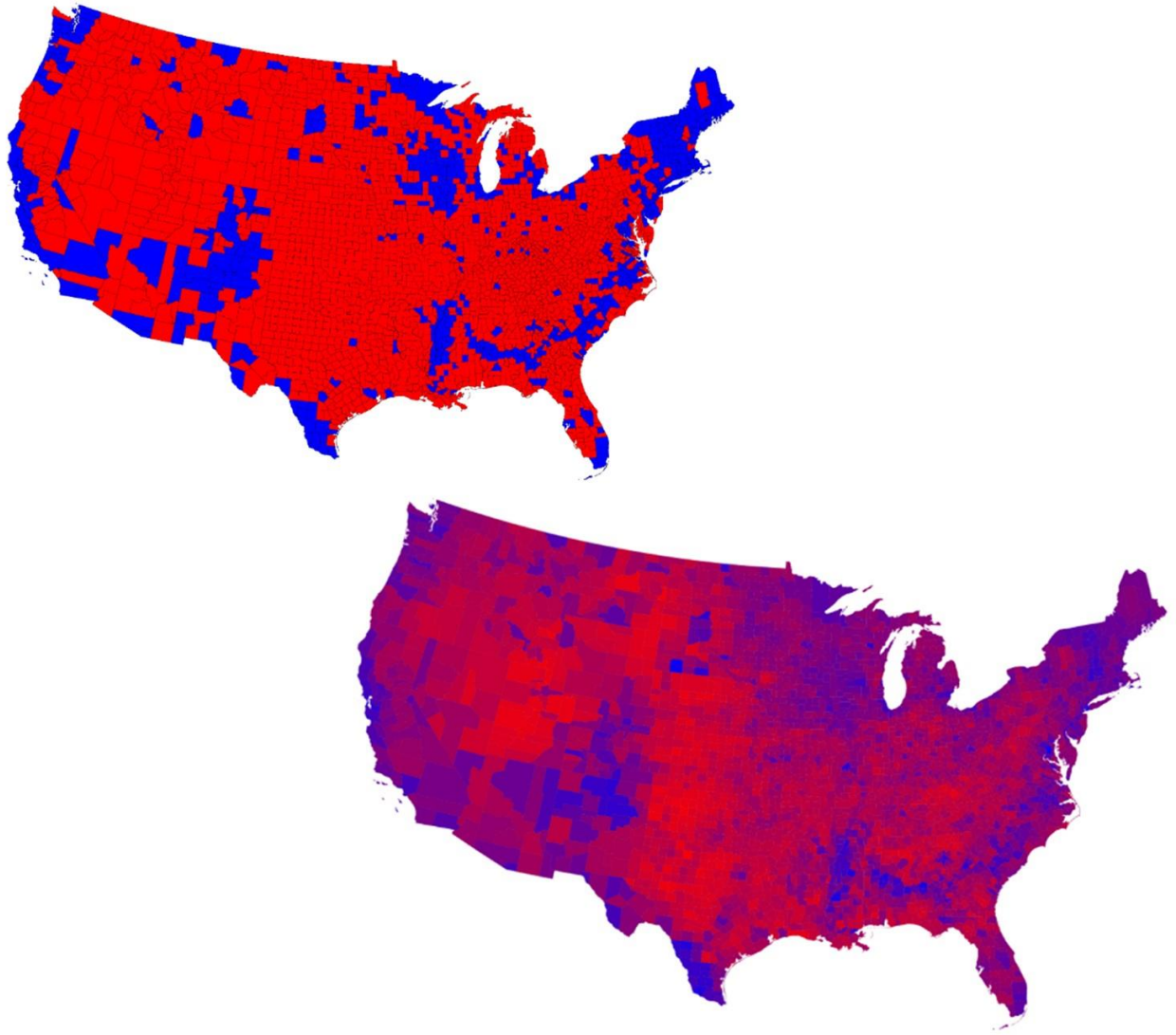
Harder to get awards next time!

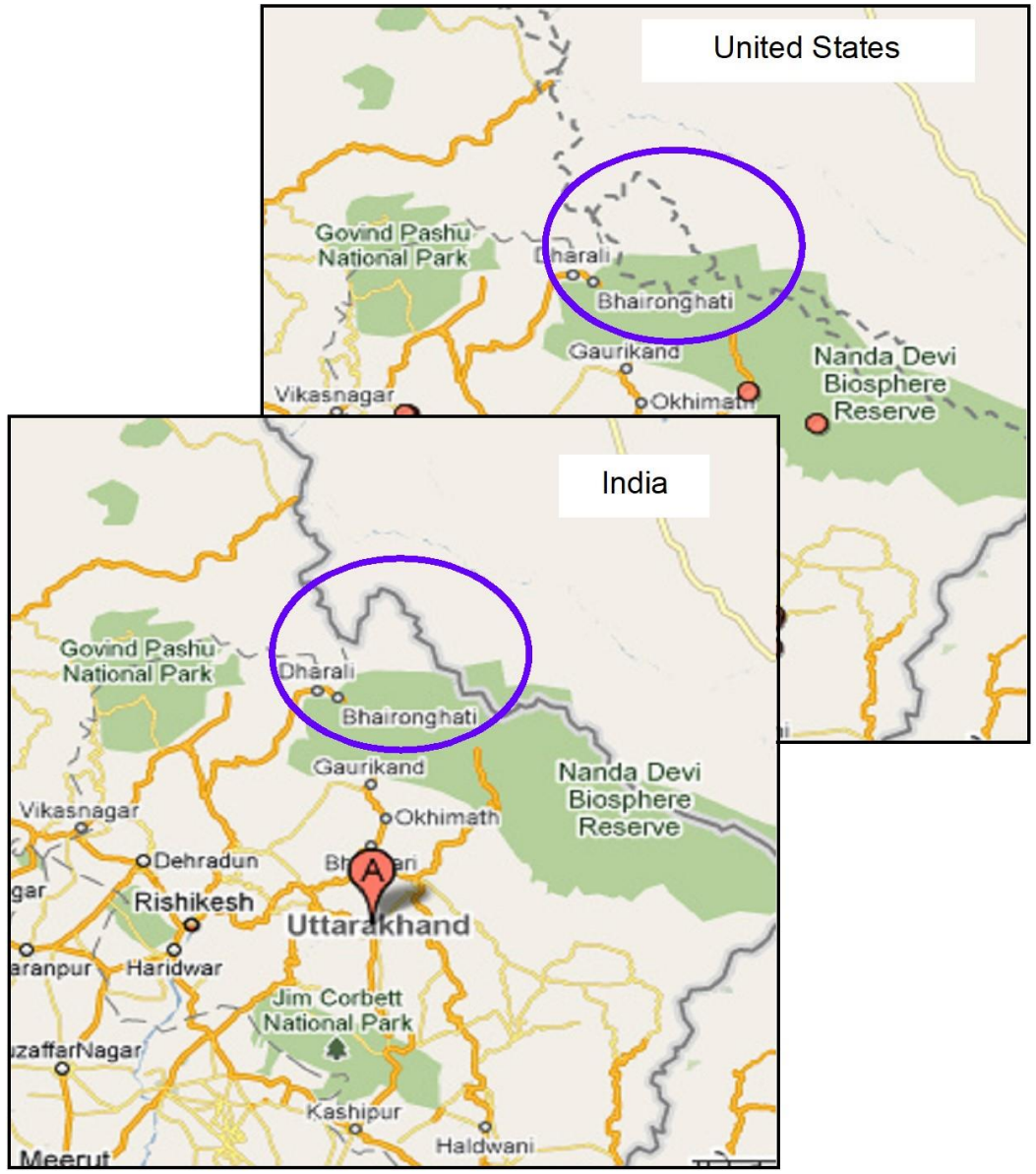
ALward Notes: Lying with maps

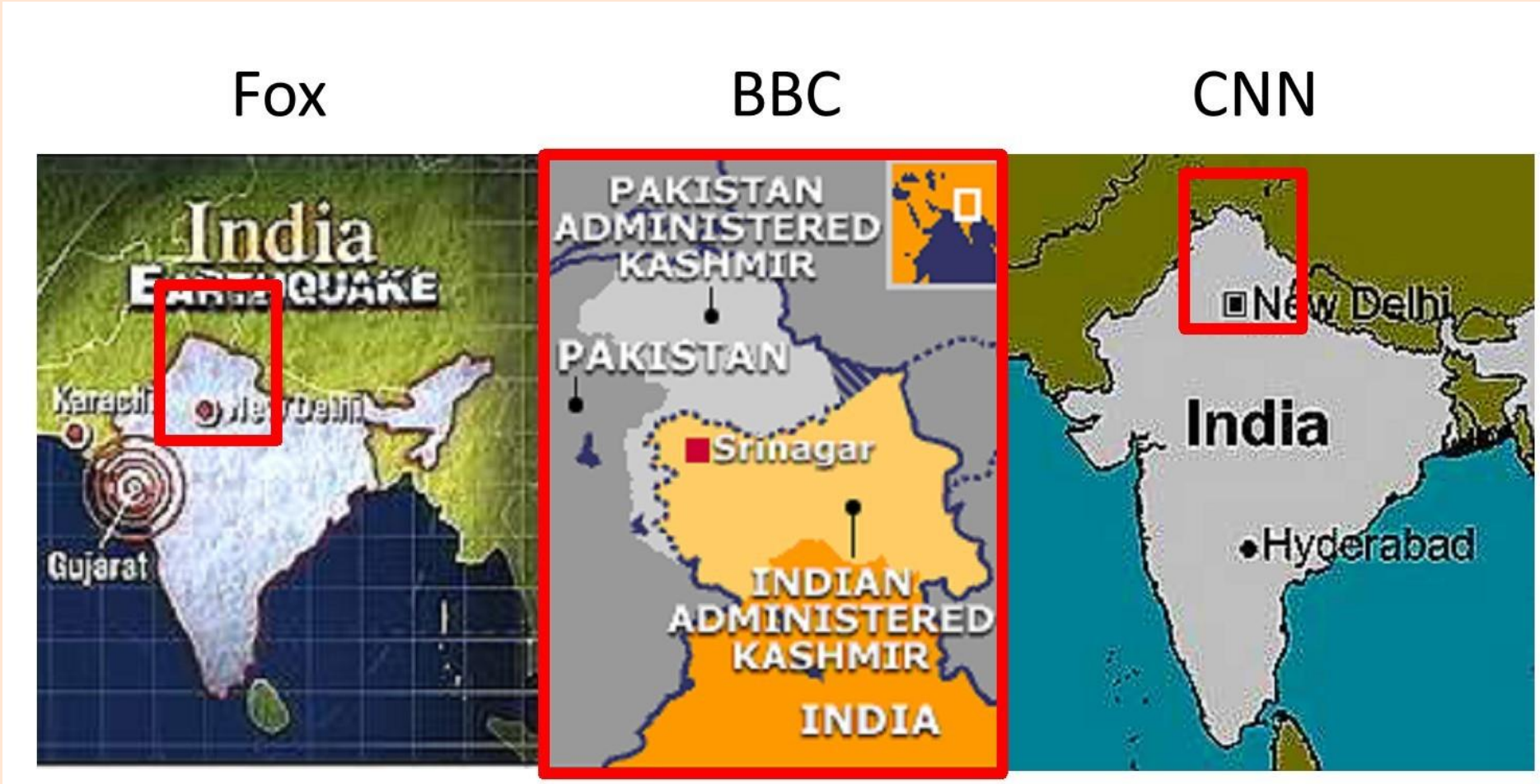


https://open.lib.umn.edu/mapping/chapter/7-lying-with-maps/

US Presidential Election Results by County (2012)




United States
Govind Pashu
National Park
Dharali
Bhaironghati
Gaurikand
Okhimath
Nanda Devi
Biosphere
Reserve
Vikasnagar
India
Govind Pashu
National Park
Dharali
Bhaironghati
Gaurikand
Okhimath
Nanda Devi
Biosphere
Reserve
Vikasnagar
Dehradun
A
Rishikesh
Uttarakhand
Haridwar
Jim Corbett
National Park
Kashipur
Haldwani
Meerut



https://open.lib.umn.edu/mapping/chapter/7-lying-with-maps/

ALward Tips

- **Here to learn from each other: connect your own experiences!**
- **Always a good idea: referencing what was covered in the reading!**

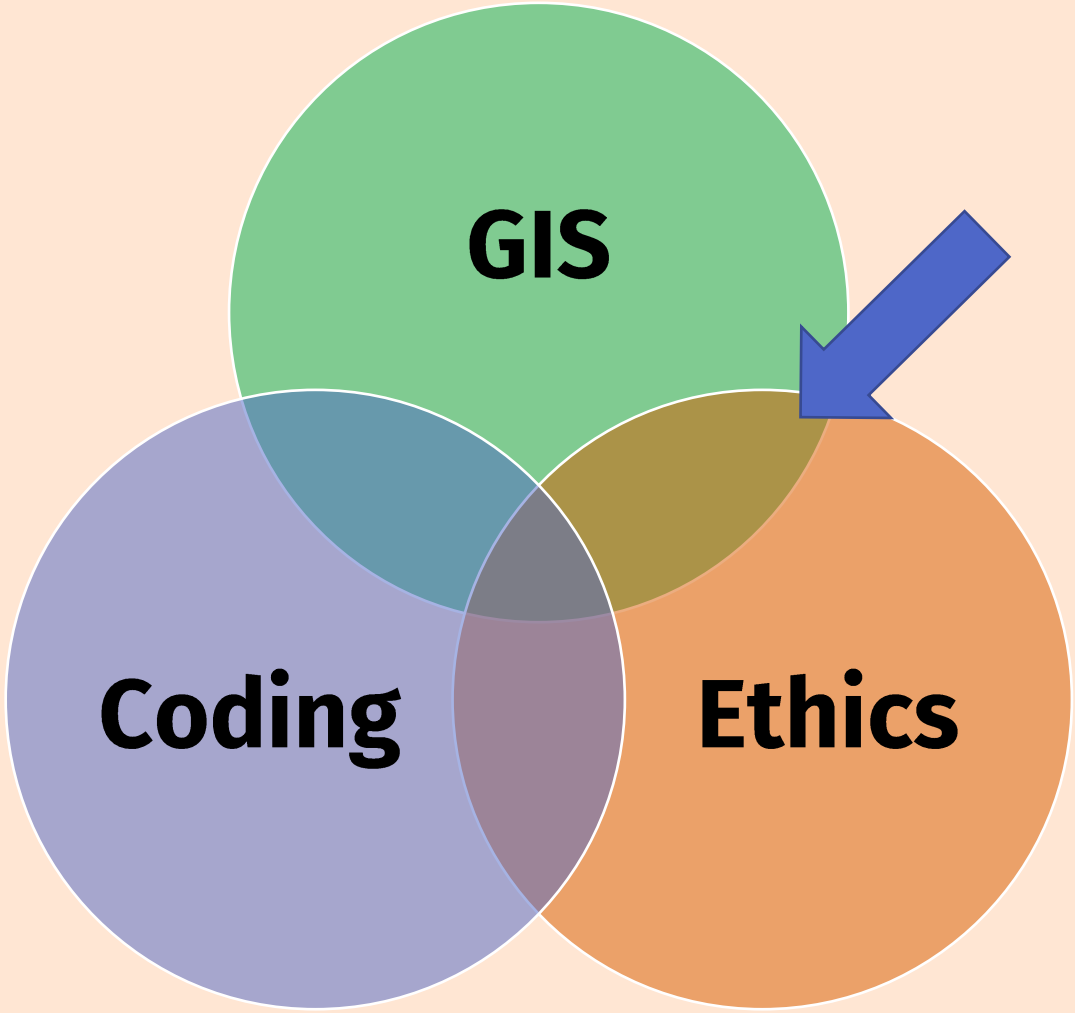
Humanizing Technology

Lecture

Join at
slido.com
#ucla

Albert Kochaphum
Lecture 2 | April 11th, 2023

Remember this?



Where was Critical Cartography?

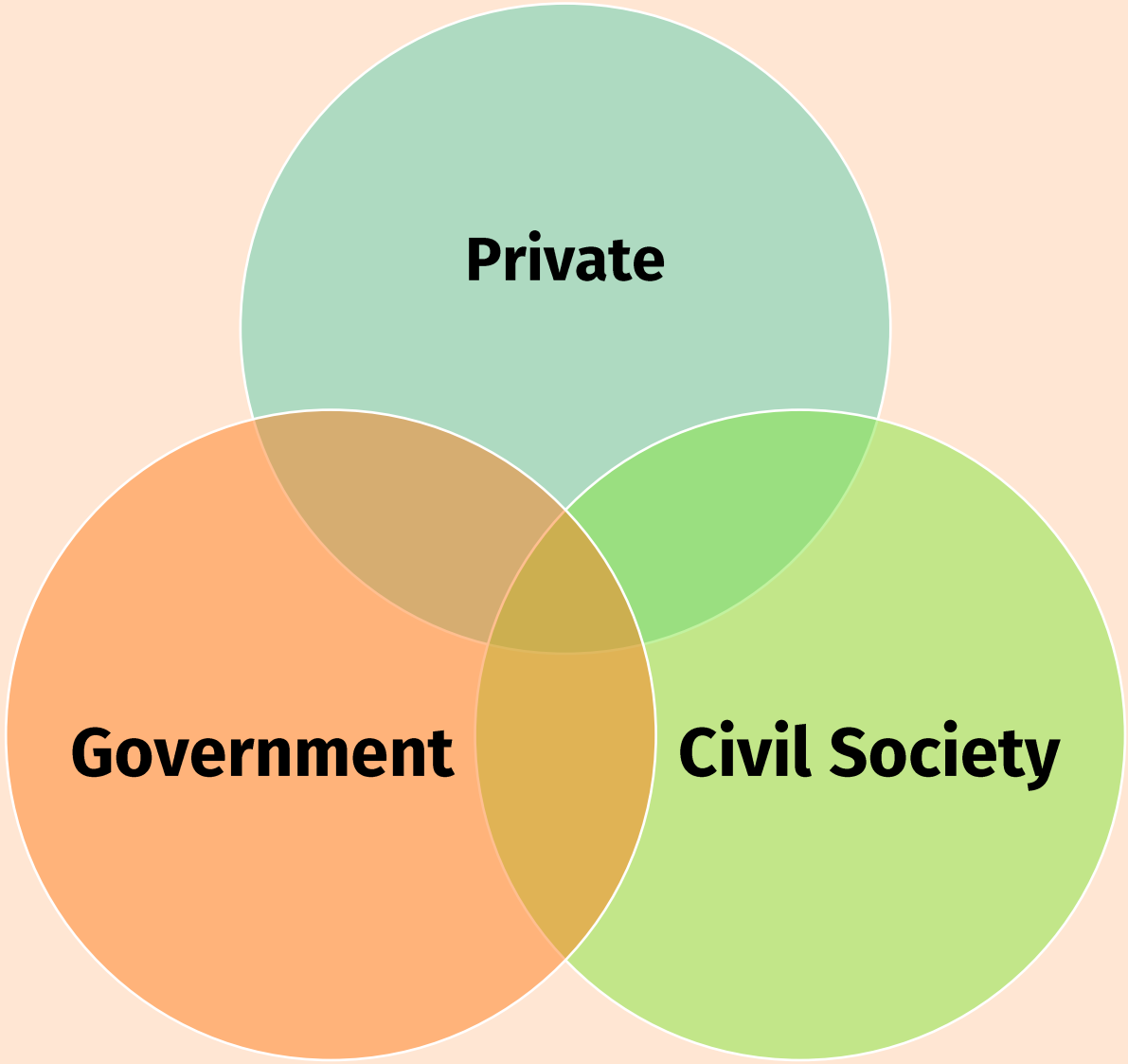
Venn will you ever stop showing diagrams?

Never, so let me...

venone mo Diagram

to you

Sectors of Society

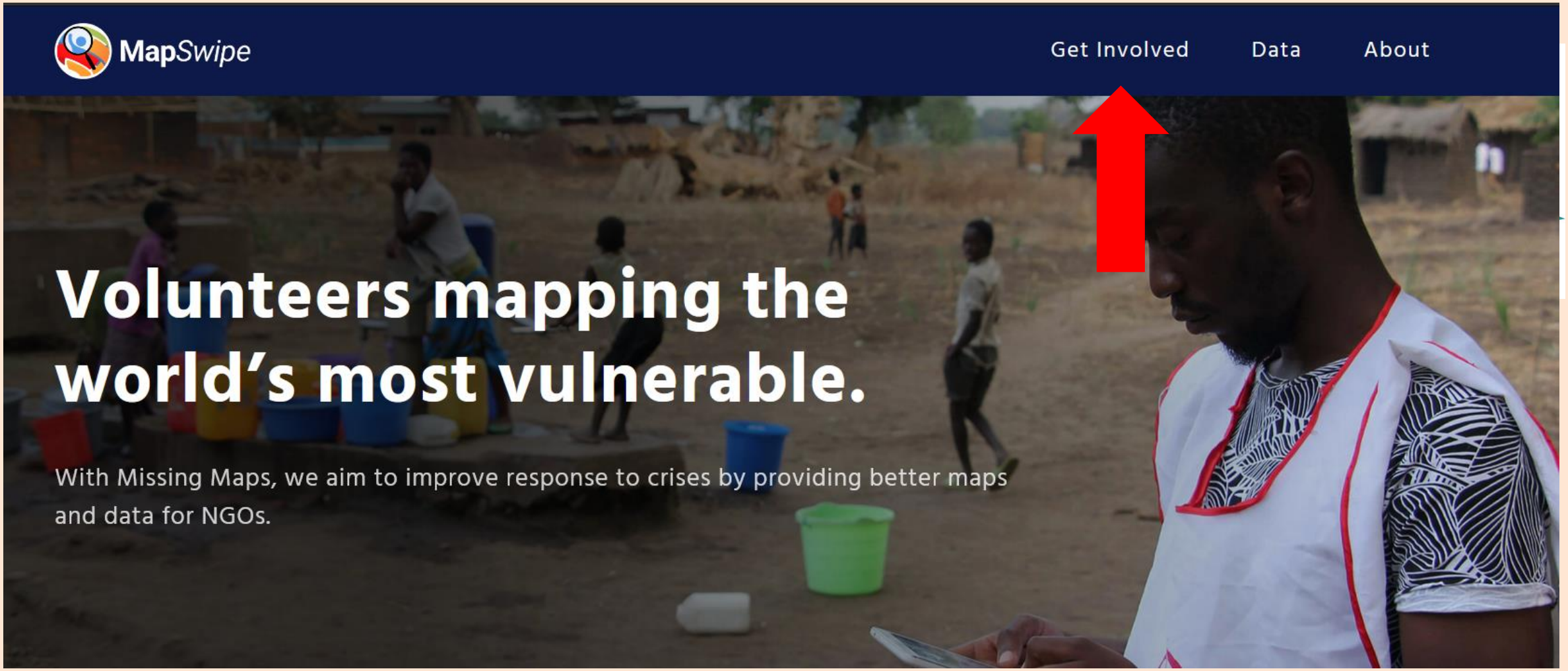


Civil Society's control over GIS data has been limited.

Civil Society

Civil Society in mapping

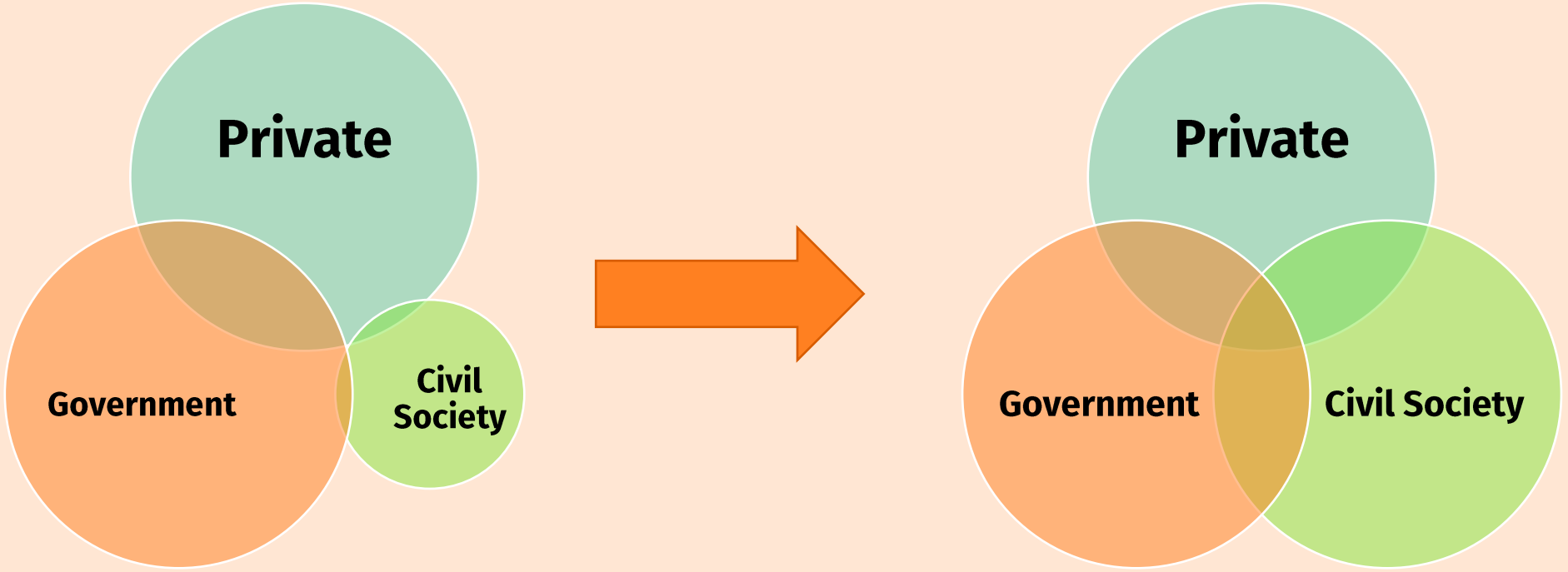
Civil Society and Critical Cartography



Undisciplining Cartography

“Critique is about the politics of knowledge”

Undisciplining Cartography



Re-aligning the power behind a map to civil society.

Undisciplining Cartography

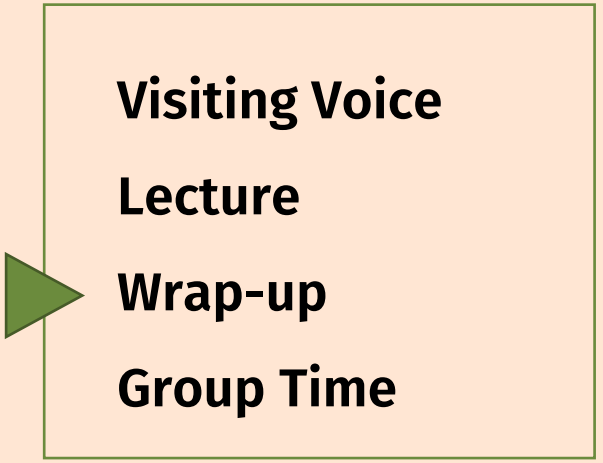
Not about “mapping accuracy” but understanding WHO’s mapped and WHO’s map is it for.

Undisciplining Cartography

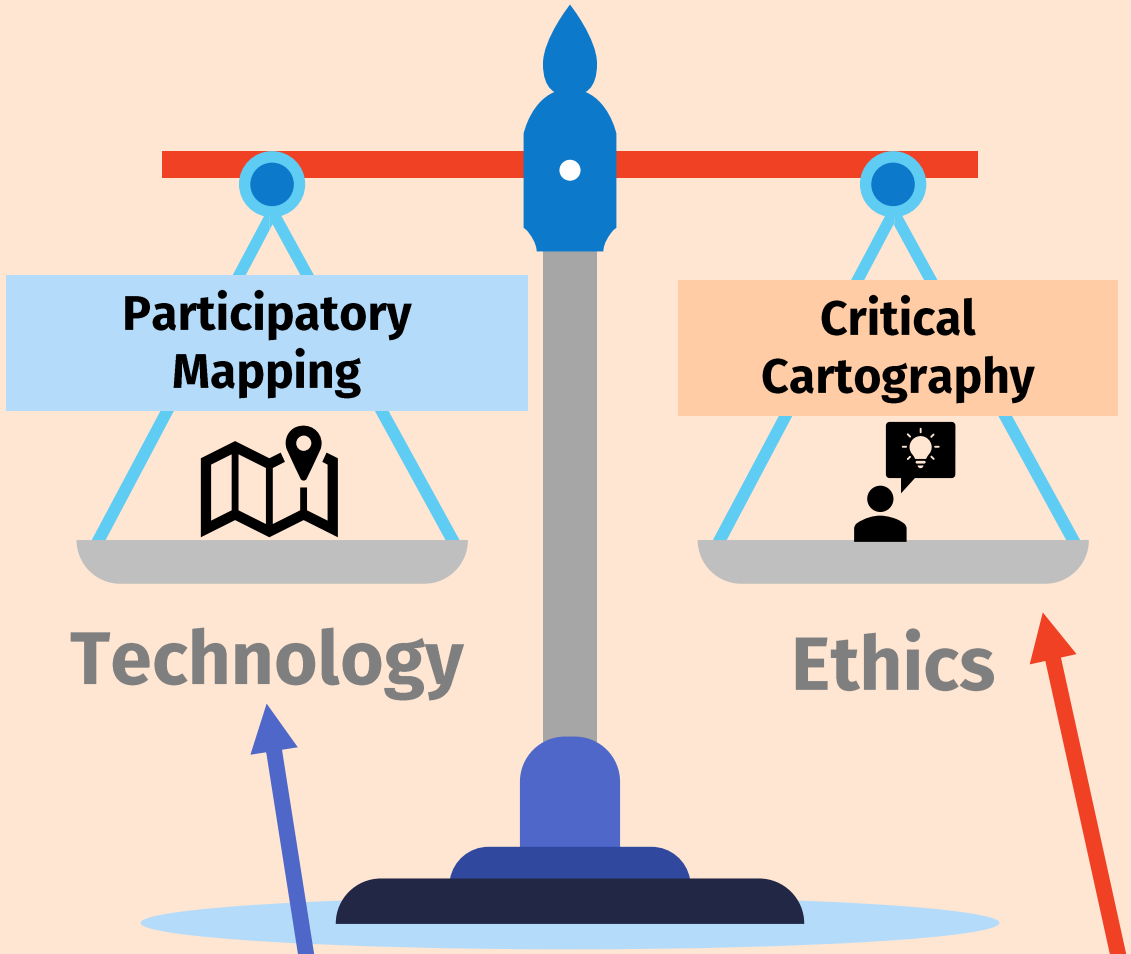
Nor is it about “perfect maps or data”: It is about acknowledging and critiquing the power dynamics behind mapping.

Humanizing Technology

Wrap-up



Reminder: Theme of the week

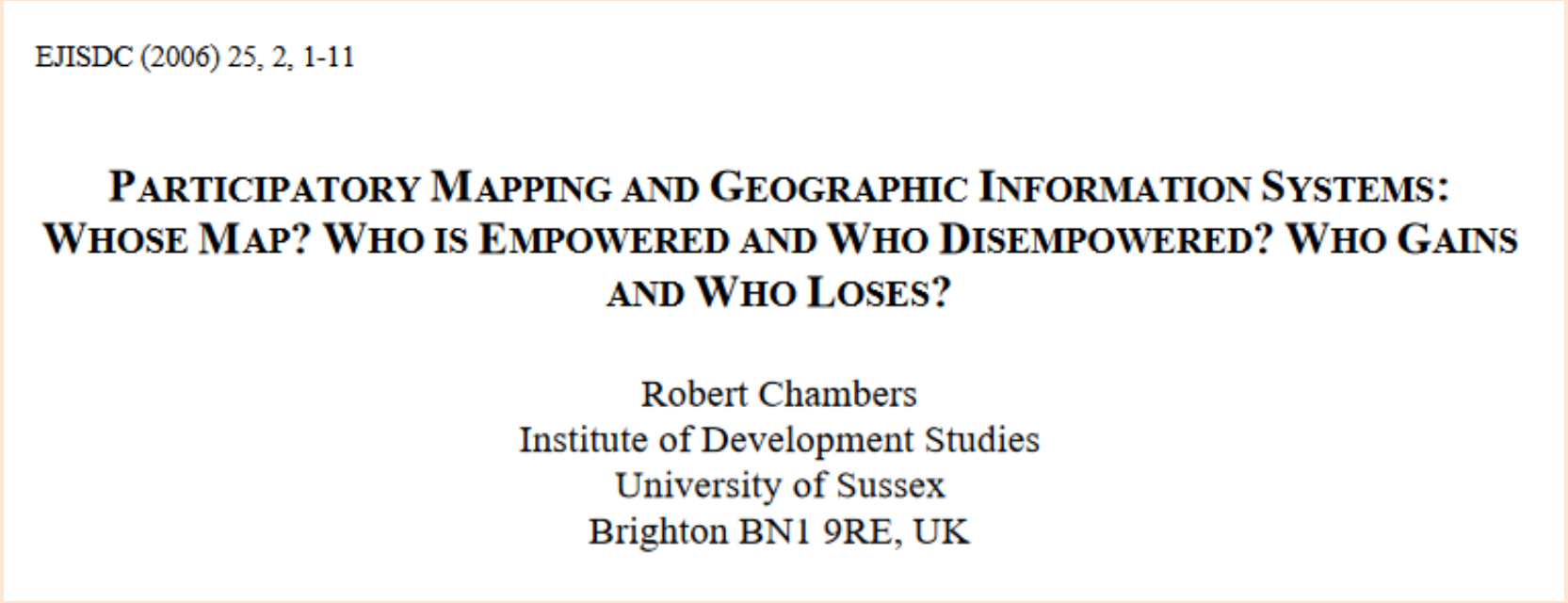


Balancing critical tools with critical thinking

Thinking Cap for the week

How can participatory mapping and critical cartography be improved?

Weekly Reading



EJISDC (2006) 25, 2, 1-11

PARTICIPATORY MAPPING AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS: WHOSE MAP? WHO IS EMPOWERED AND WHO DISEMPOWERED? WHO GAINS AND WHO LOSES?

Robert Chambers
Institute of Development Studies
University of Sussex
Brighton BN1 9RE, UK

https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/j.1681-4835.2006.tb00163.x

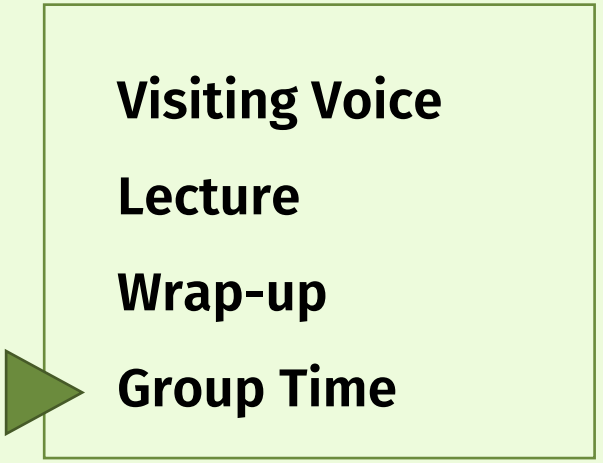
Assignments

Due Thursday 4/13:

1. Lab Assignment #1 –Your Map Portfolio
2. Group Assignment #1 – Group Repository
3. Pre-Lab – JavaScript and Web mapping

Humanizing Technology

Group Time



Group Spreadsheet

Tenative Theme	Asian American Hate	Environmental Justice	Gender Inequity	Gentrification	Health Care	Homelessness/Housing	Inequality	Mental Health	Ocean Pollution	South East Asians	Transportation
Member 1	Aris Corpus	Brian Nguyen	Cassidy Tu	Catherine Hu	Amanda Lau	Cassius "Casey" Carandang	Charles Zhang	Rebecca Suen	Angelica Alcantar	Alana Malika	Daniel Cruz
Member 2	Emma Lee	Elsa	Stella Kang	Jonathan Lopez	James Falkenroth	Josy Law	Victoria	Stephanie Cheung	Danielle Goldwirth	Joanne Luong	Dylan Wan
Member 3	Paige Lee	Enyi Emuka	Trinh Le	Maizah Ali	Kyle Tsujimoto	Mohammed Azad	Zack Pakin			Mandy Lai	Sage Luong

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ZAr9Hd9fmtevEGRadA_a4xl-AoXM8eZJ3VQFygXnT5o/edit?usp=sharing

During group time, feel free to:

- Change topics
- Move yourself around*
- Ask me questions
- Work on group assignment #1

***Note: Each group must have 2-3 people, so you may need to swap with another member to change groups.**

Group Assignment #1

1. Have one person **create a new repo** for the group and invite everyone as collaborators.

2. **Add a `readme.md`** to the repository that briefly describes the following in 1-2 sentences:
   - What social problem is being addressed?
   - Who is being empowered by your mapplication?
   - What technical and ethical problems could there be in developing this tool?

3. **Post your group members and repository on the discussion board!**

https://albertkun.github.io/23S-ASIAAM-191A/assignments/week1/group_assignment/