Week 10: Lecture Activity

Mapping the Invisible

Introduction

Mapping is always a *political* act. From data collection, generalization, and analysis to symbolization and design, the mapmaking process gives power, voice, and visibility to features displayed on the map. An important question to ask is, what is being left off/put on the map and why? Thinking about UW-Madison's campus map. What is left off the campus? What features would you add? What political commentary would these features provide?

One goal of critical cartography is to reveal invisibility through mapping. As such, this lecture activity challenges you to pick a topic or theme that's invisible on our UW-Madison campus map and to create visibility through mapping.

Directions

- 1. Pair up with a partner or a create a group (no more than 3 people per group). Take a look at the UW-Madison campus map and pick a topic or theme to map. Check out the Canvas discussion board for inspiration!
- 2. Go outside and collect the data using printed maps of campus or a GPS application! The data must have a geographic component (i.e. coordinates for specific points or areas), but you may also want to record qualitative data too (i.e. descriptive notes).

GPS Applications:

Fulcrum (http://www.fulcrumapp.com/integrations/carto/)

ArcGIS Collector (http://doc.arcgis.com/en/collector/android/collect-data/collect-tutorial.htm)

- 3. After you collect your data, come back to Science Hall and write a brief reflection on your topic/theme and your process of collecting the data.
- 4. Scan your printed maps and download your digital data. Submit to Canvas.

Outcome

To receive full credit for this lecture activity, submit the following:

- 1. Your reflection as a paper or digital copy.
- 2. Your data. Scan your printed maps or download the GPS data that you collected. Submit to Canvas.