

# storytelling with maps

lecture 7

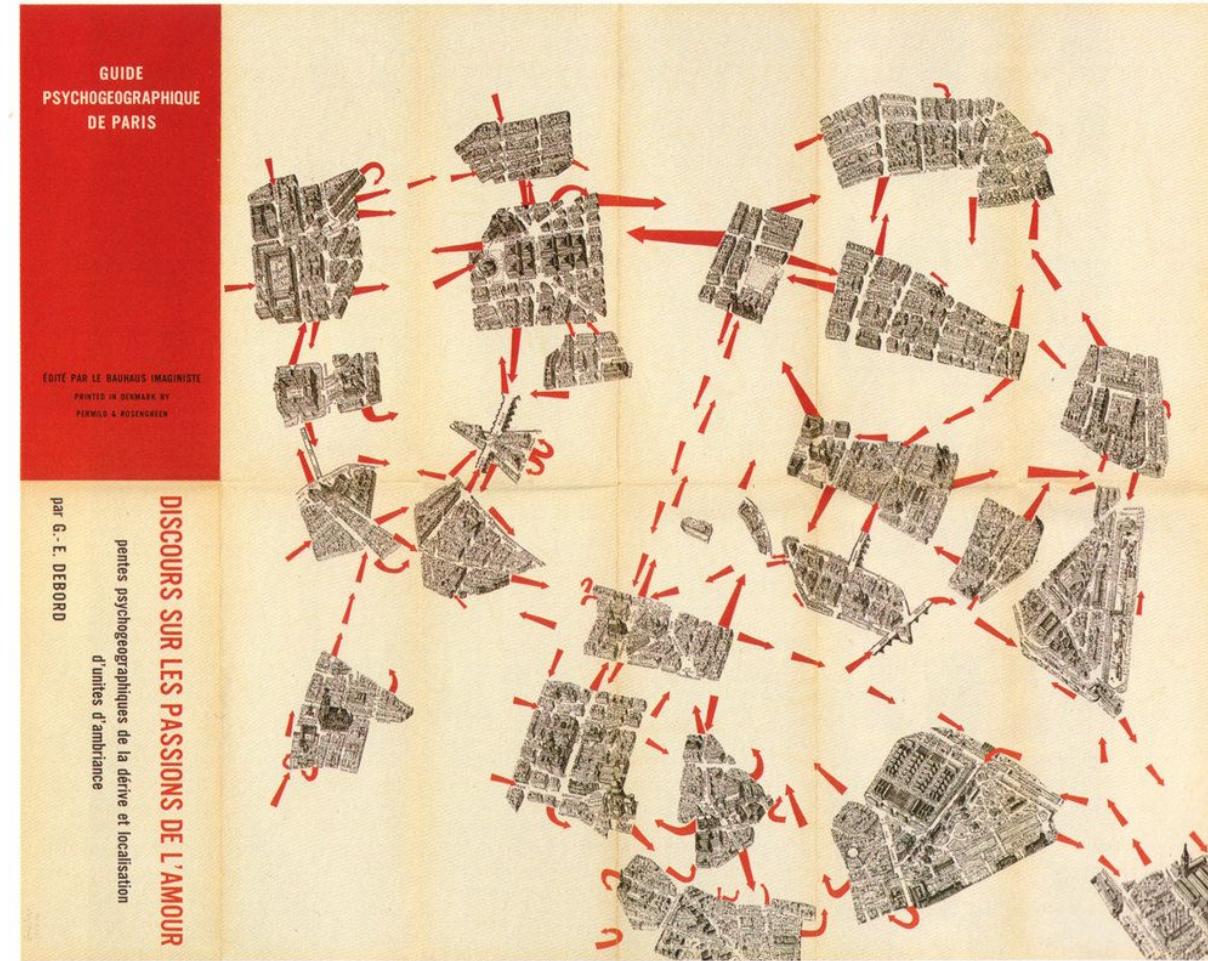
*overview*

- 1. psychogeography**
- 2. allegorical and political maps**
- 3. cartograms**
- 4. activist maps**

cover image: Flighttracker, March 2022,  
showing air traffic diverted over Ukraine

“...most designers and planners consider mapping a rather **unimaginative, analytical practice**, at least compared to the presumed ‘inventiveness’ of the designing activities that occur *after*.... An unfortunate consequence of these attitudes is that the **various techniques and procedures of mapping have not been subjects of inquiry, research or criticism.**”

- Corner, “Agency of Mapping” (1999)



"The practice of de-familiarization and the choice of encounters, the sense of incompleteness and ephemerality, the love of speed transposed onto the plane of the mind, together with inventiveness and forgetting are among the elements of an ethics of drifting we have already begun to test in the poverty of the cities of our time."

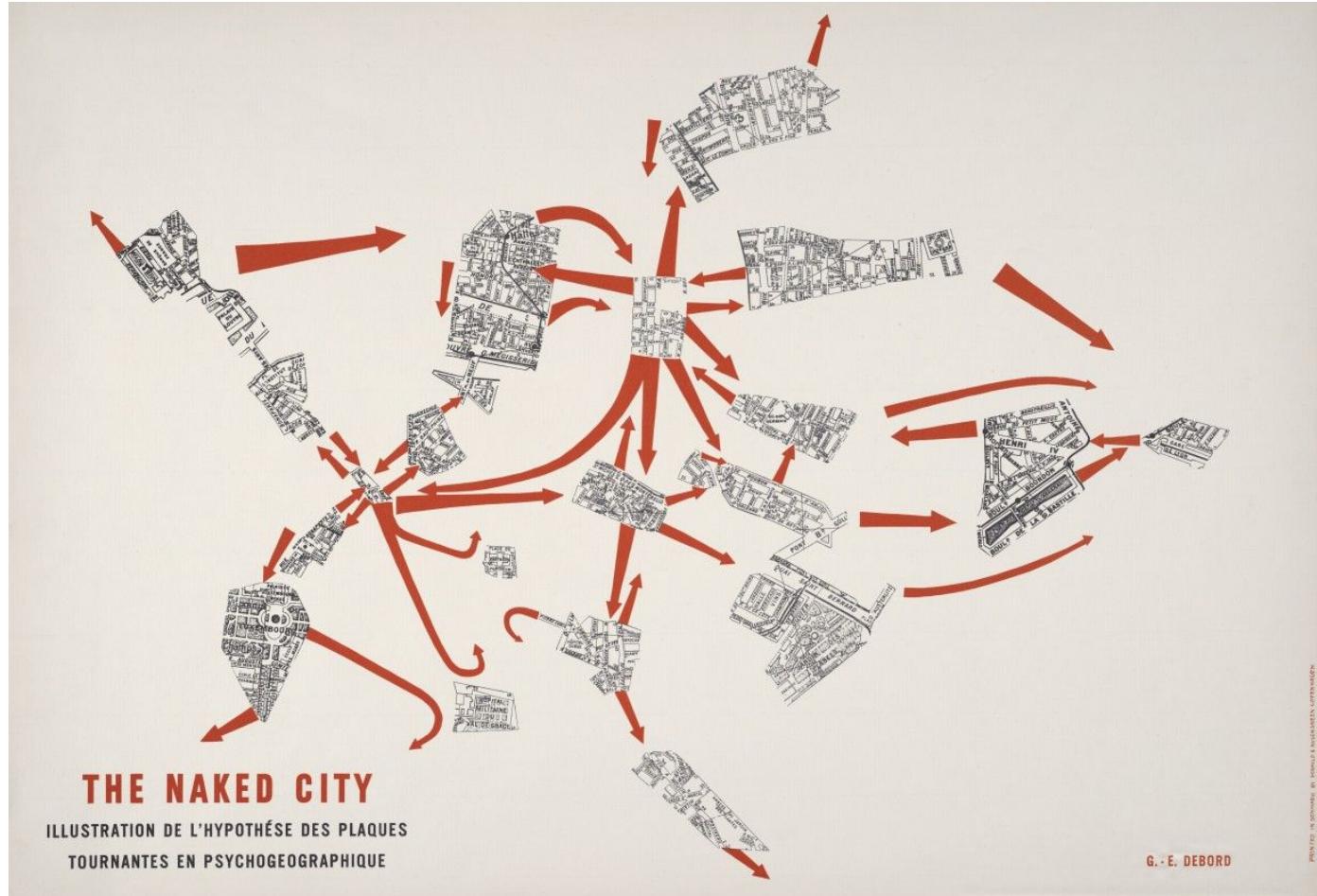
- Lettrist International (Paris, 1954)

Source: Guy Debord and Asger Jorn,  
*Guide Psychogeographique de Paris*  
(1957)

"The map has to do with *performance*, whereas the tracing always involves an alleged 'competence'"

- Guattari and Deleuze, quoted in Corner

Source: Guy Debord and Asger Jorn, *The Naked City* (1957)



"Moving elements in a city, and in particular the people and their activities, are **as important as the stationary physical parts**. We are not simply observers of this spectacle, but are **ourselves a part of it**, on the stage with the other participants. Most often, our perception of the city is not sustained, but rather partial, fragmentary, mixed with other concerns. Nearly every sense is in operation, and the **image is the composite of them all.**"

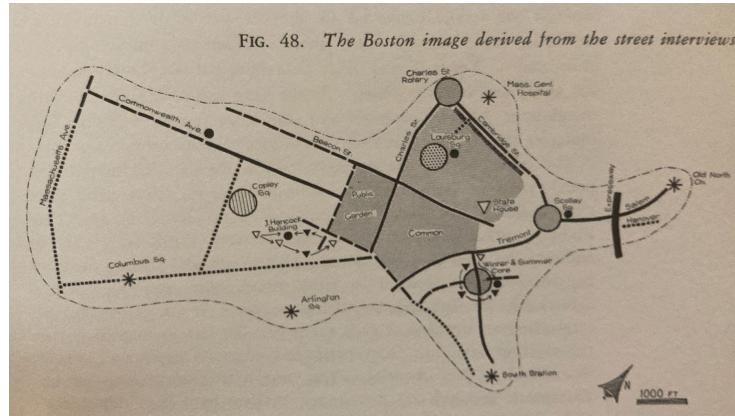
- Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City* (Boston, 1960)

The office interview itself covered the following questions:

1. What first comes to your mind, what symbolizes the word "Boston" for you? How would you broadly describe Boston in a physical sense?
2. We would like you to make a quick map of central Boston, inward or downtown from Massachusetts Avenue. Make it just as if you were making a rapid description of the city to a stranger, covering all the main features. We don't expect an accurate drawing—just a rough sketch. [Interviewer is to take notes on the sequence in which the map is drawn.]
- 3a. Please give me complete and explicit directions for the trip that you normally take going from home to where you work. Picture yourself actually making the trip, and describe the sequence of things you would see, hear, or smell along the way, including the pathmarkers that have become important to you, and the clues that a stranger would need to make the same decisions that you have to make. We are interested in the physical pictures of things. It's not important if you can't remember the names of streets and places. [During recital of trip, interviewer is to probe, where needed, for more detailed descriptions.]
- b. Do you have any particular emotional feelings about various parts of your trip? How long would it take you? Are there parts of the trip where you feel uncertain of your location? [Question 3 is then to be repeated for one or more trips which are standardized for all interviewees, i.e., "go on foot from Massachusetts General Hospital to South Station," or "go by car from Faneuil Hall to Symphony Hall."]
4. Now, we would like to know what elements of central Boston you think are most distinctive. They may be large or small, but tell us those that for you are the easiest to identify and remember. [For each of two or three of the elements listed in response to 4, the interviewer goes on to ask question 5:]
- 5a. Would you describe \_\_\_\_\_ to me? If you were taken there blindfolded, when the blindfold was taken off what clues would you use to positively identify where you were?
- b. Are there any particular emotional feelings that you have with regard to \_\_\_\_\_?
- c. Would you show me on your map where \_\_\_\_\_ is? (and, if appropriate:) Where are the boundaries of it?
6. Would you show me on your map the direction of north?

from Kevin Lynch's *The Image of the City* (1960); alternative ways to document Boston.

Lynch's team interviewed a series of Bostonians on the street and in their office to get a sense of how they experience their city. Lynch's team then attempted to replicate the resident / pedestrian understanding in maps.



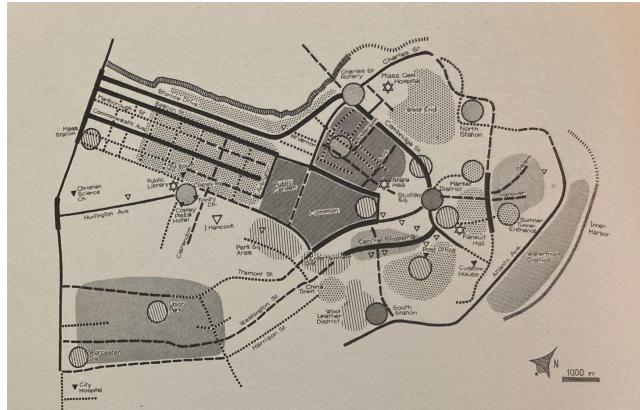


FIG. 35. The Boston image as derived from verbal interviews

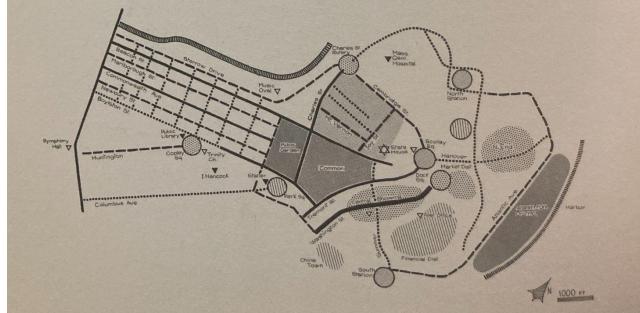


FIG. 36. The Boston image as derived from sketch maps

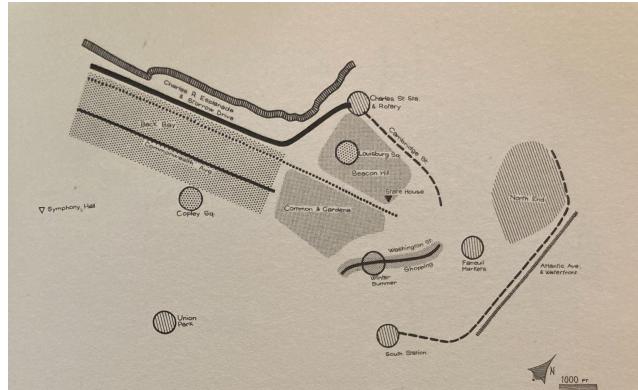
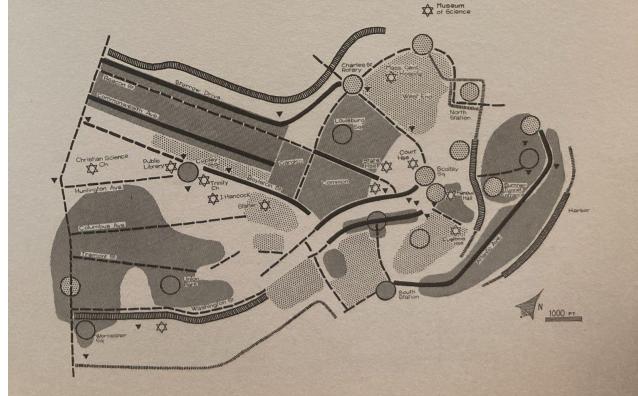


FIG. 37. The distinctive elements of Boston

FIG. 38. The visual form of Boston as seen in the field



from Kevin Lynch's *The Image of the City* (1960); alternative ways to document Boston.

These four maps show Boston as described by residents through interviews (fig. 35) and sketches (fig. 36); compared with Boston as documented in the field by Lynch and his team (figs. 37 and 38).

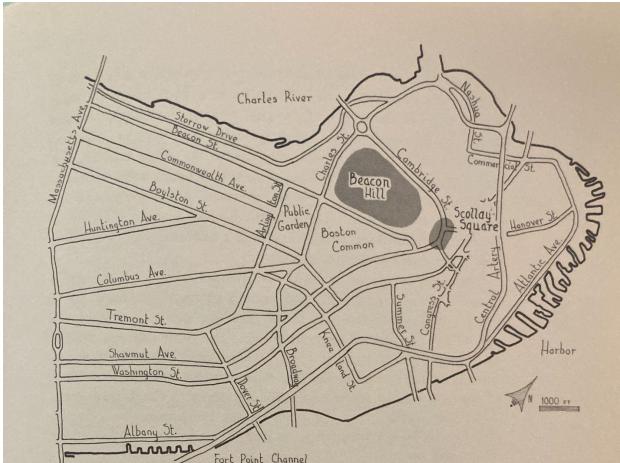


FIG. 49. Location of Beacon Hill and Scollay Square in the Boston peninsula

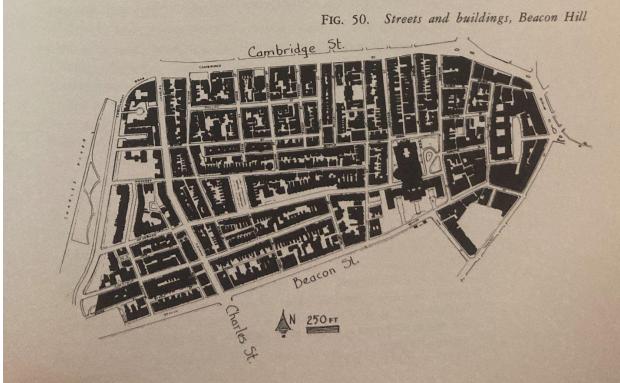


FIG. 50. Streets and buildings, Beacon Hill

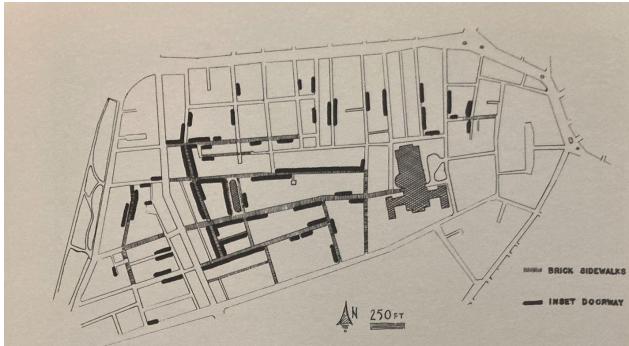


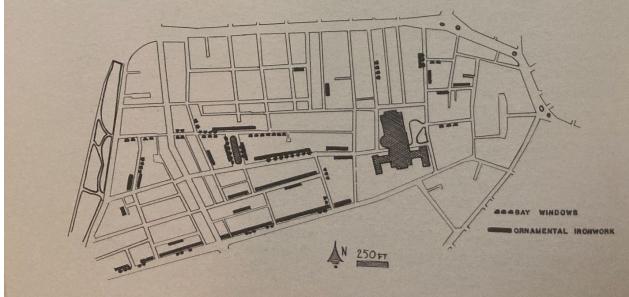
FIG. 53. Inset doorways and brick sidewalks

have a strong cumulative effect, which adds a certain vitality to the image of the Hill.

Bay windows are less characteristic, except along one piece of lower Pinckney Street, and the purple windows, popularly associated with the Hill, in reality rarely appear. The same is true of cobblestone pavements, which actually are visible only in two short, narrow

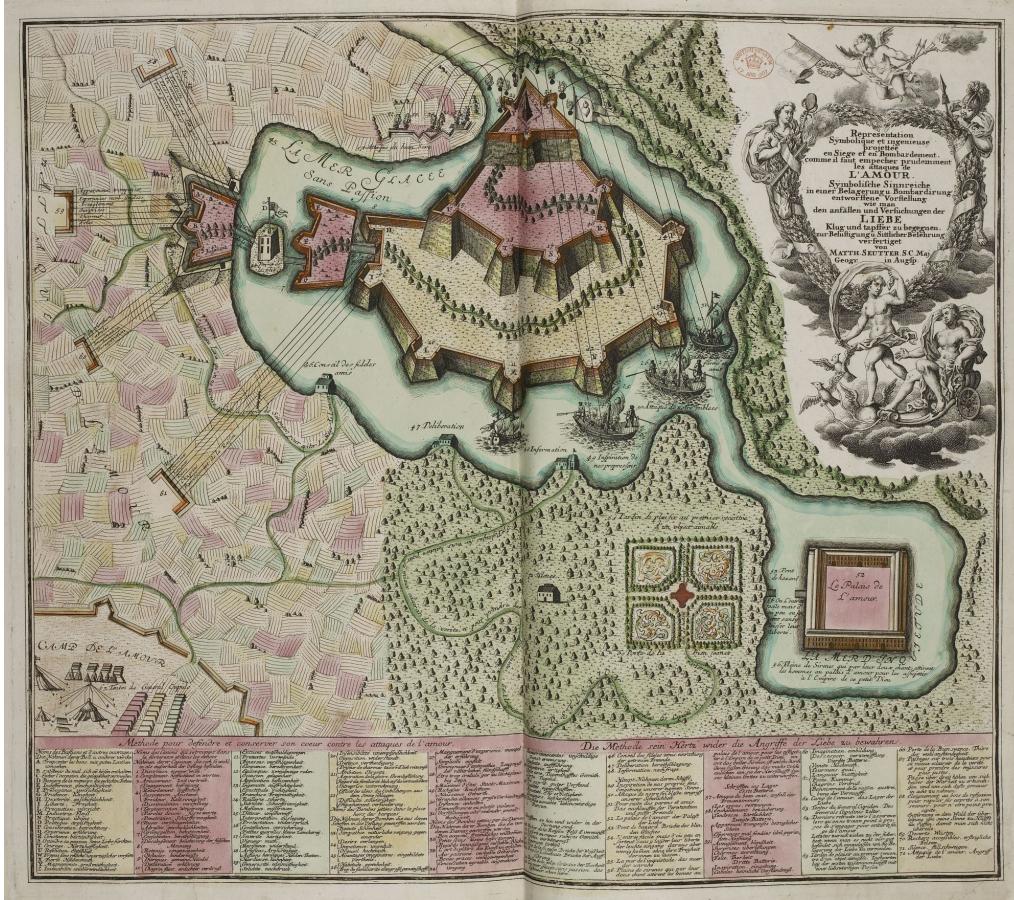
Figure 55, page 167

FIG. 54. Bay fronts and ornamental ironwork



from Kevin Lynch's *The Image of the City* (1960); alternative ways to document the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Boston.

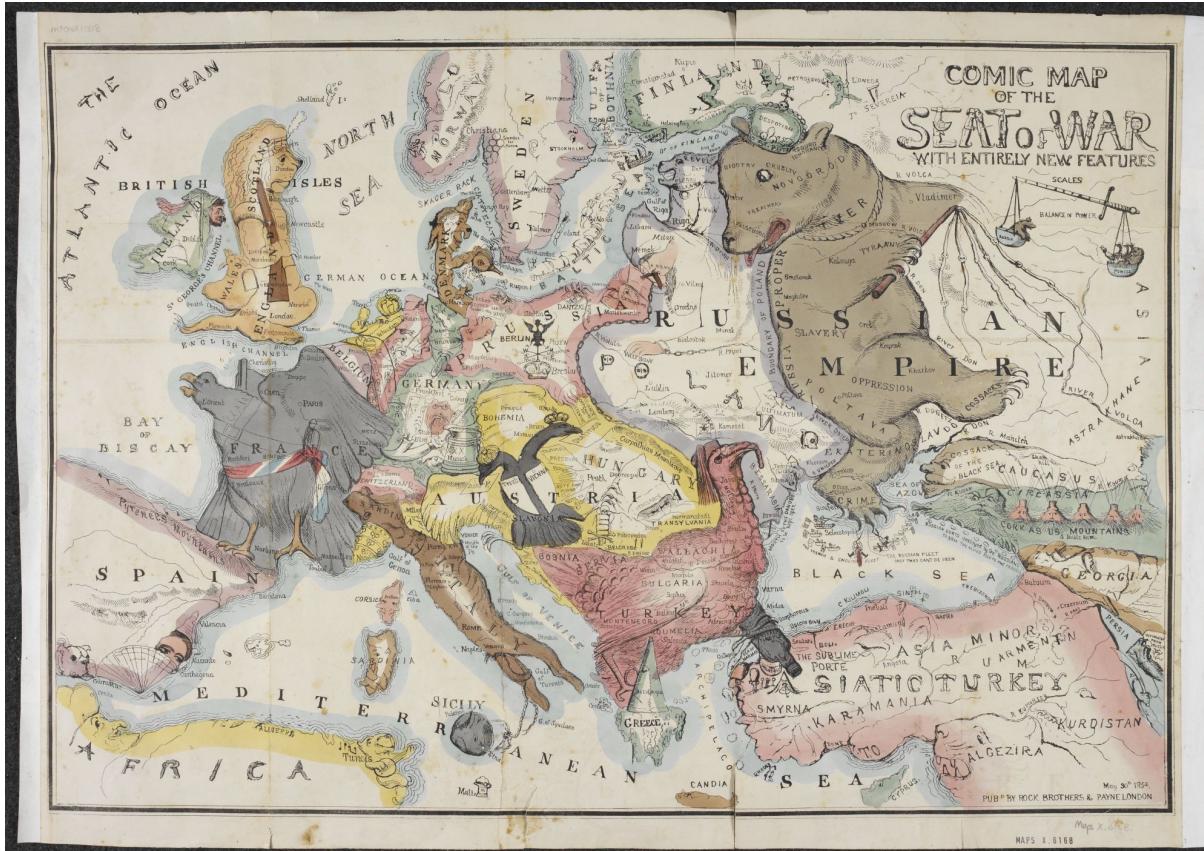
The first (fig. 50) is a basic *noli* (or, figure-ground) map of Beacon Hill's classic brownstones. Then Lynch's team looked at a few specific elements that distinguish this neighborhood, not from the bird's-eye view but from the street or pedestrian view: the brick sidewalks and inset doorways (fig. 53), and the bay windows and ornamental ironwork (fig 54).



"Allegorical Map of the Siege of the Castle of Lover" (1735) shows typical medieval town plan as male heart, with females vying to break in. A play on siege maps from the contemporary War of Spanish Succession. Includes, for instance, the "Frozen Sea without Passion" moat, and walls bombarded with instruments like "languishing looks"

Source:

<https://www.bl.uk/picturing-places/articles/curious-maps>



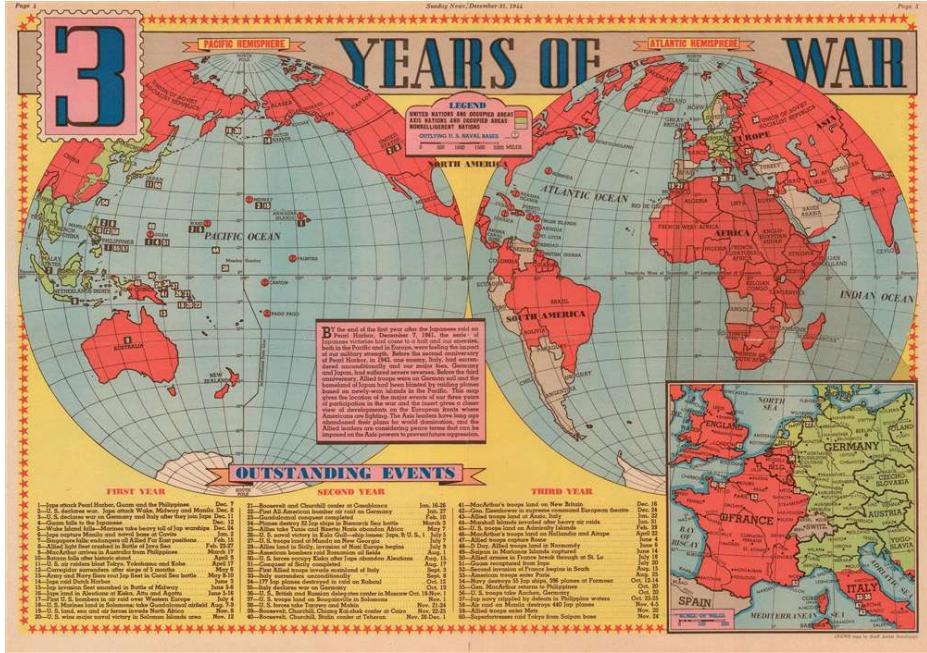
"Comic Map of the Seat of War" allegorical map from 1854 depicting European conflict with Russia. Countries are represented as various animals (England a lion, Russia a bear, Turkey a....turkey).

Source:

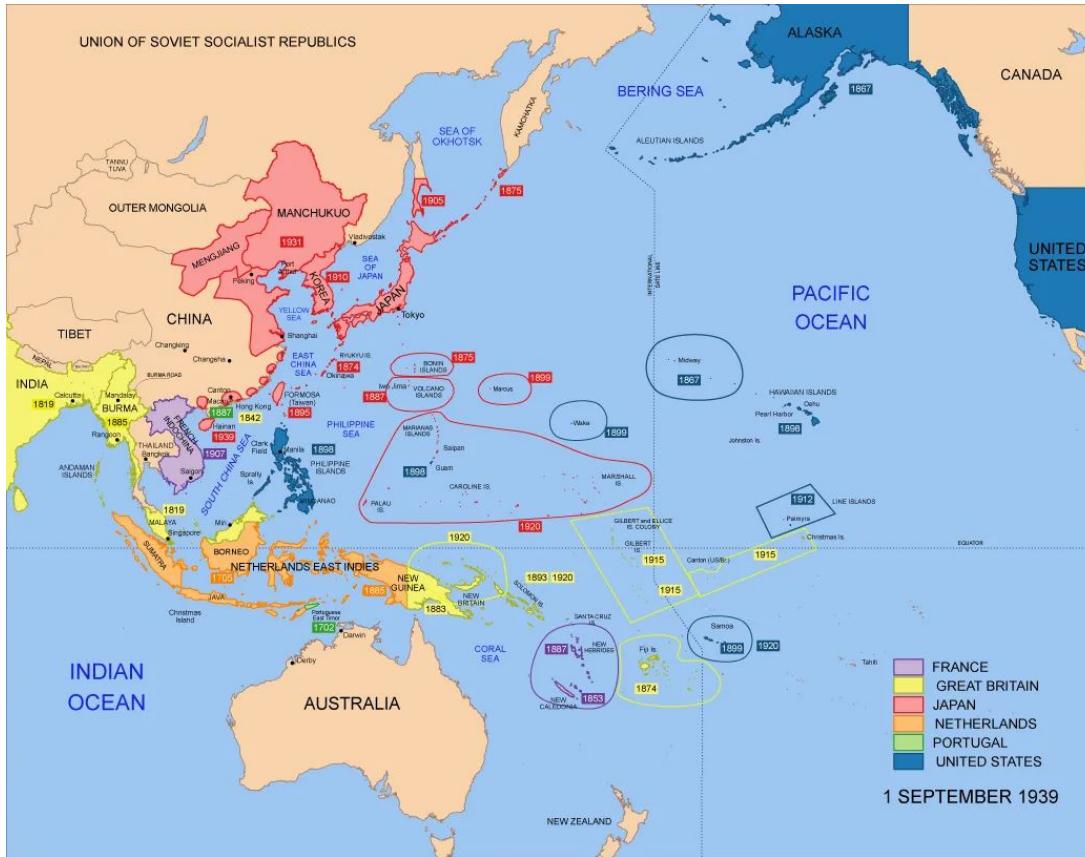
<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/comic-map-of-the-seat-of-war-with-entirely-new-features>



1942 map, source:  
<https://mapsofantiquity.com/collections/world-war-i-ii/products/one-world-one-war-wwii-sold-fortune-magazine-mil020>



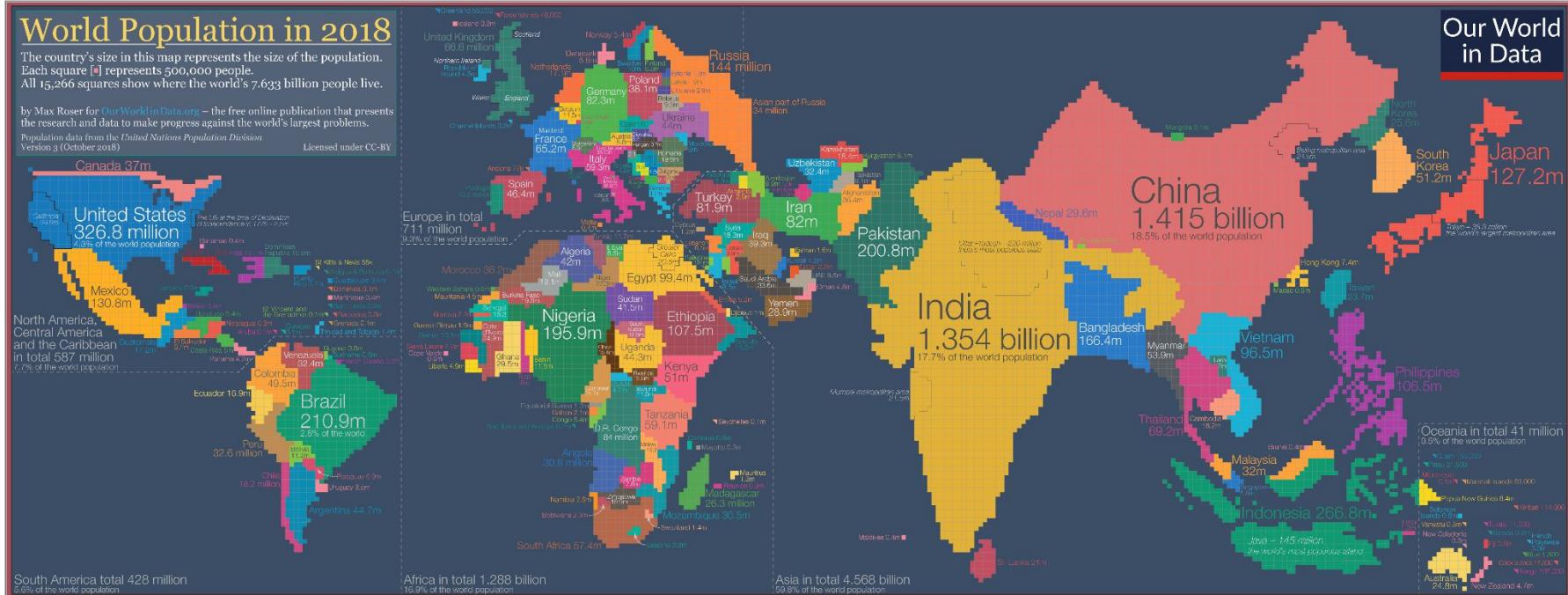
1944 map, source:  
<https://www.geographicus.com/P/AntiqueMap/3yearsofwar-sundberg-1944>



Map showing the location of military outposts at the start of World War II. Because we usually cut the global map between Alaska and Russia (at the international date line). But here we can see how close Hawaii and Midway are to Japan's Pacific islands.

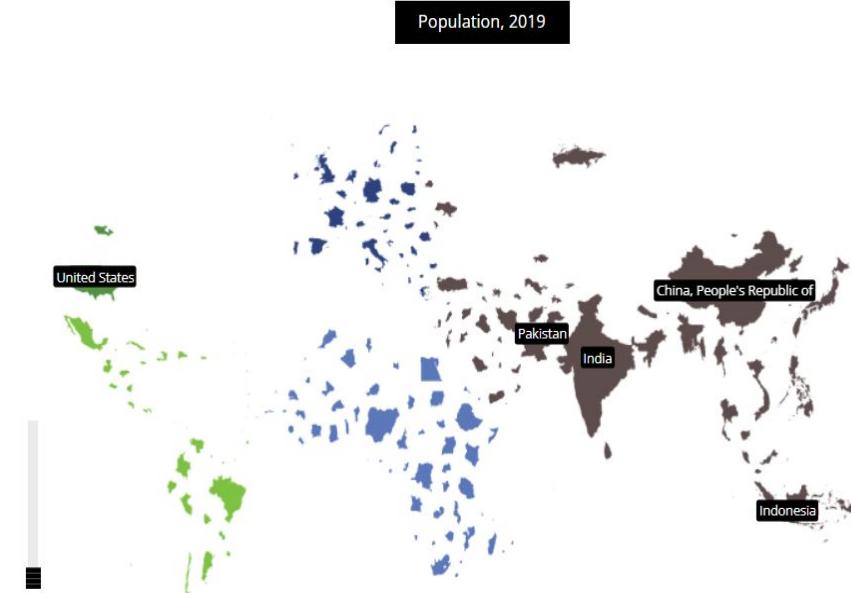
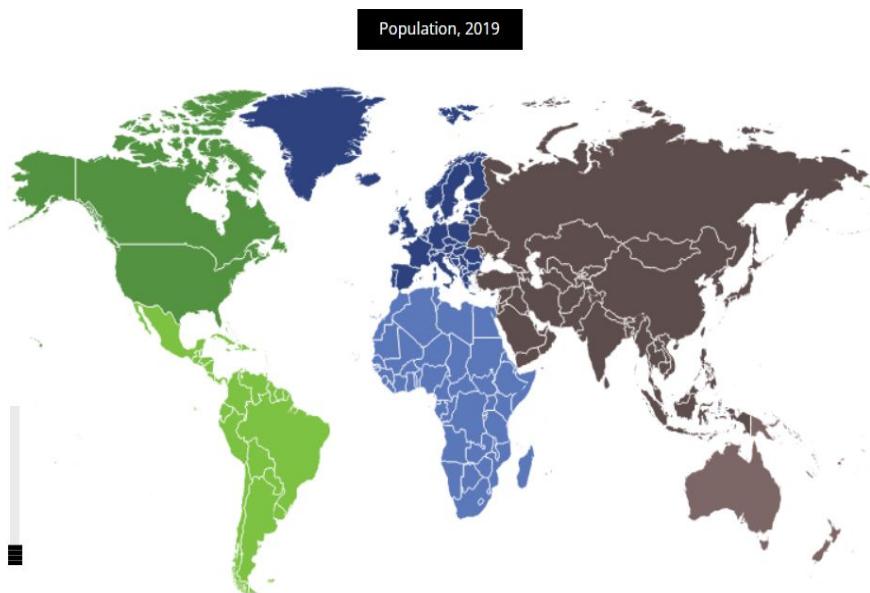
Source:

<https://www.bl.uk/picturing-places/articles/curious-maps>



Mosaic cartogram of world population

source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cartogram>



source: <https://www.bouncymaps.com/#!bouncymaps/world/-2102779804>

“We have been adequately cautioned about mapping as a means of projecting power-knowledge, but what about mapping as a productive and liberating instrument, a world-enriching agent, especially in the design and planning arts?

...

In making visible what is otherwise hidden and inaccessible, maps provide a working table for identifying and reworking polyvalent conditions; their analogous-abstract surfaces enable the accumulation, organization, and restructuring of the various strata that comprise an ever-emerging *milieu*.... **maps are sites for the imagination and projecting of alternative worlds.**”

- Corner, “Agency of Mapping” (1999)

has GIS made our maps less visually diverse?

less creative and experimental?

how can we use GIS to explore cartographic form as well as content?

## Street Names and Gender

Vienna's street names are a reminder of famous people and meaningful events. This way they tell stories about the city and its development. However, men and women are not equally represented in the urban space. Of 4379 street names related to individual persons, only 361 refer to women.

In the spirit of gender-equal urban planning, there are currently attempts to counteract this imbalance by naming streets after female pioneers in newly developed city quarters, as for example in the „Seestadt Aspern“. In 2012, this lead to more traffic areas being named after women than after men for the first time in Vienna's history. In spite of these efforts, still only 5.2% of Vienna's streets hold a female's name. In relation to the length of the streets it is only 3%, since it is mostly alleys and few prestigious streets which are named after women.

1 The **Wilhelminenstraße**, named after Wilhelmine von Montlärt-Sachsen-Curland, is the longest street in Vienna named after a woman. In 1888 she financed the construction of the Wilhelminen-Hospital in Vienna, which is also named after her and is still in use today.

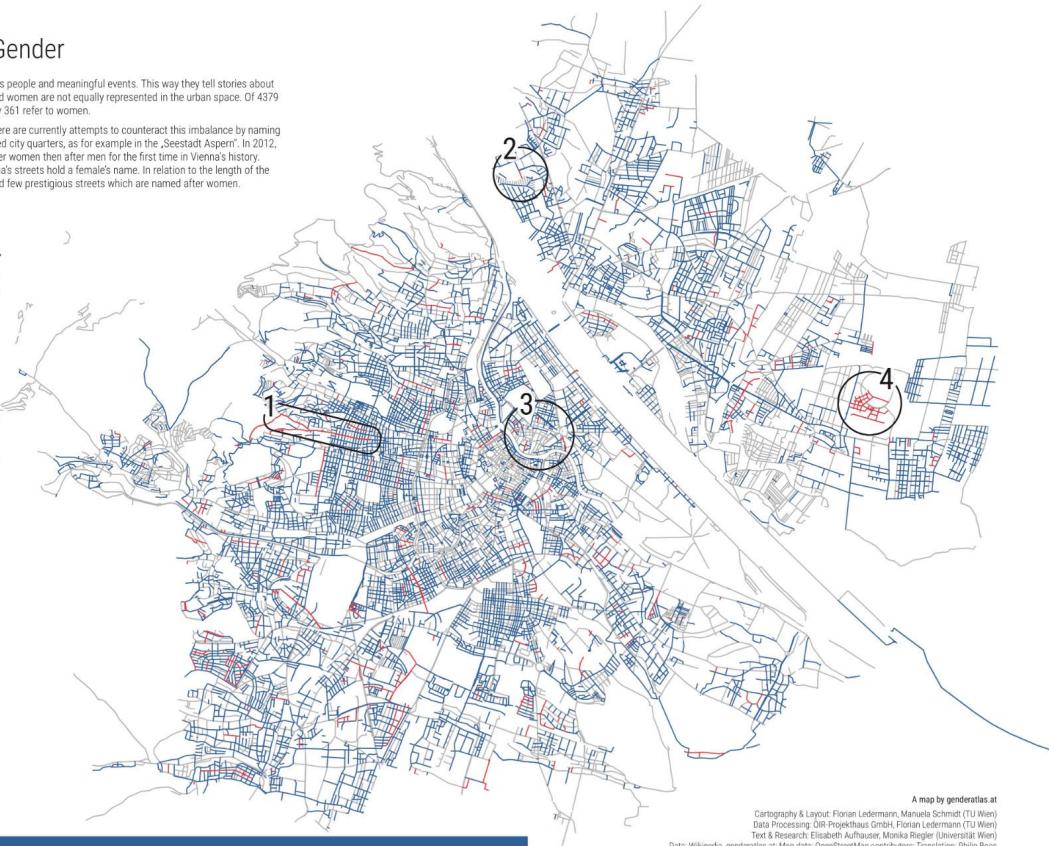
2 The **Kretschmerweg**, named after Ingrid Kretschmer, who was a geographer at the University of Vienna, was not yet mapped in OpenStreetMap when this study began. Our research contributed to completing the data.

3 In the second communal district of Vienna, an earlier head of district named some streets after female members of his family. For example, the **Hermingasse** or **Helene-gasse**.

4 From 2013 on, all streets in the **Seestadt Aspern**, a new urban development area in Vienna, have been named after women.



STREET LENGTH  
110 km 1 540 km

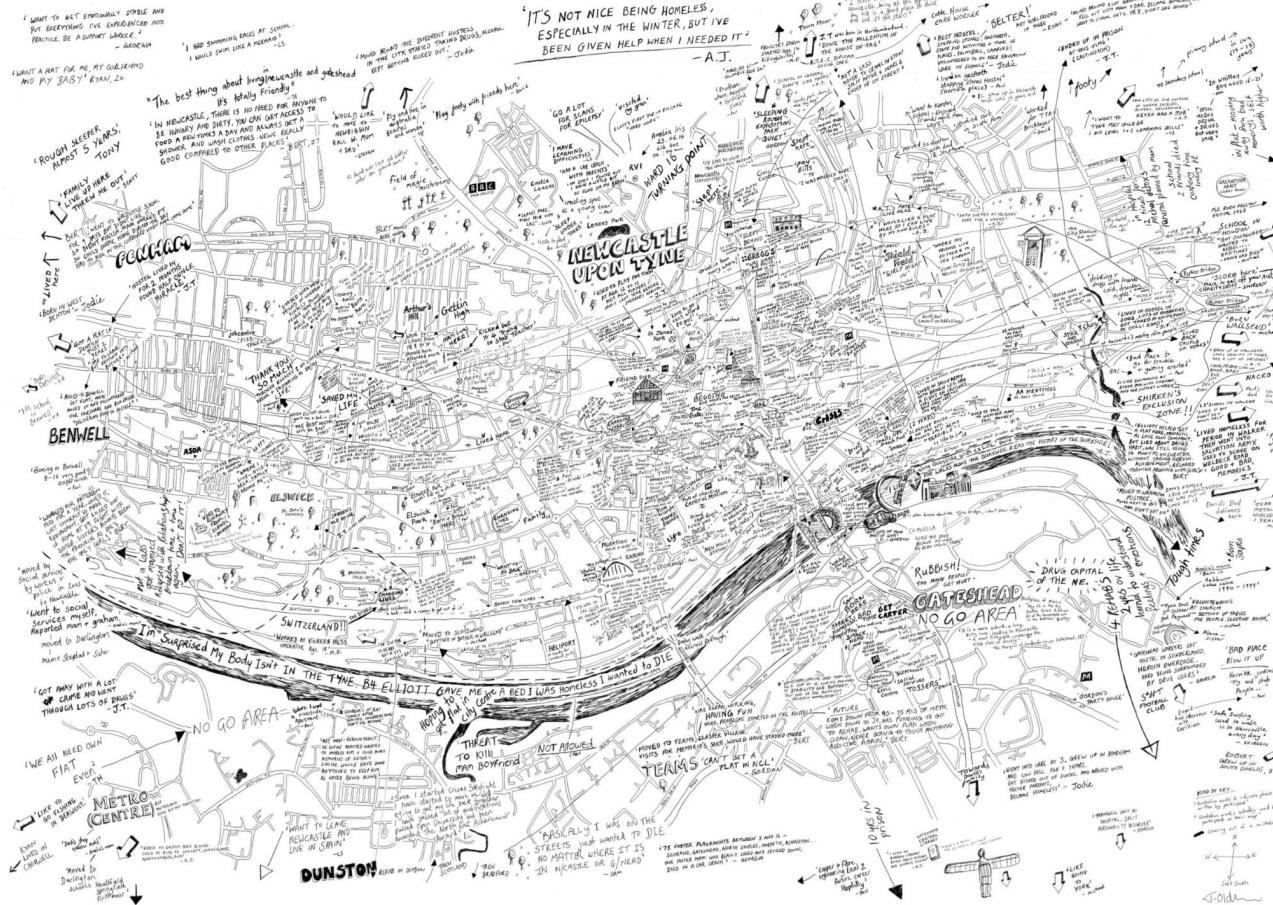


Male (blue) vs female (red) street names in Vienna, 2016.

Coupled with an interactive map which allows you to hover over the street for its name and historical summary of namesake.

source:

<https://notanatlas.org/maps/from-data-commons-to-critical-cartography/>



Participatory (community) mapping project with 30 single (no dependent children) homeless people, 2014, UK.

They “annotate[d] two-dimensional maps of the Newcastle city centre with reflections on the spaces, places and experiences significant to their life courses”

source:  
<https://notanatlas.org/maps/imaging-homelessness-in-a-city-of-care/>

## interactive map storytelling

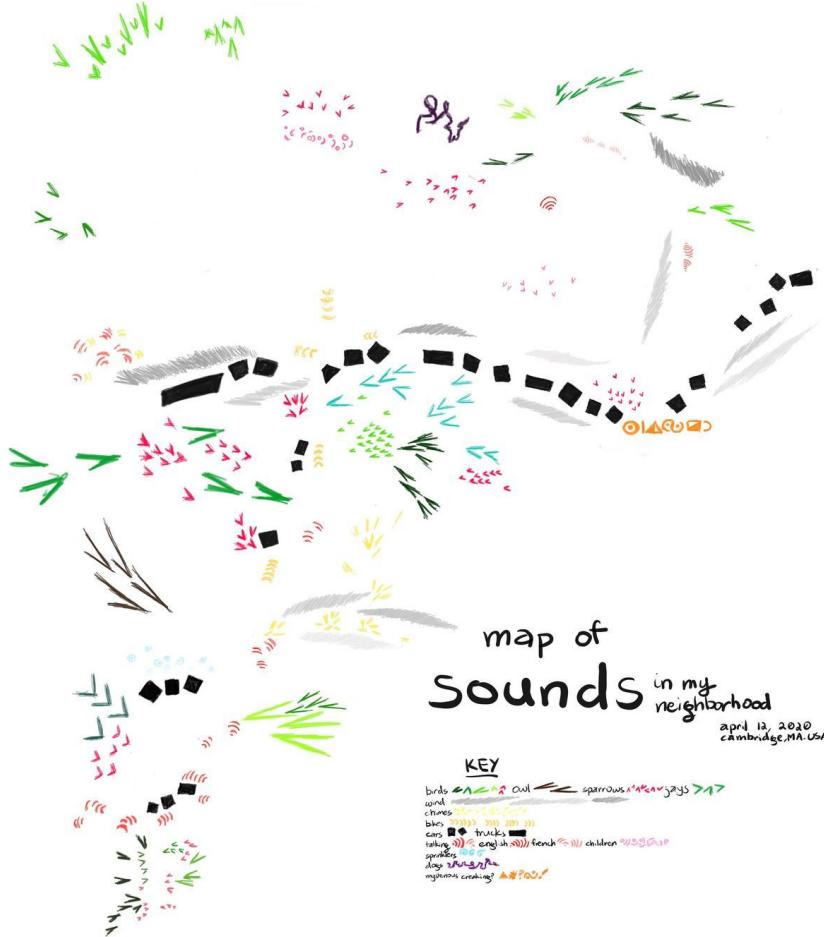
<http://www.understandhomelessness.com/explore/>



"In France, if you have no professional or emergency reasons to go out, you have to stay at home, or you can take a walk within a one-kilometer radius. Because I'm very bored, and because nobody needs my maps during these times, I've done a map of my authorized living perimeter, and indicated the places of interest inside this little world."

Arthur Beaubois-Jude  
Calais, France

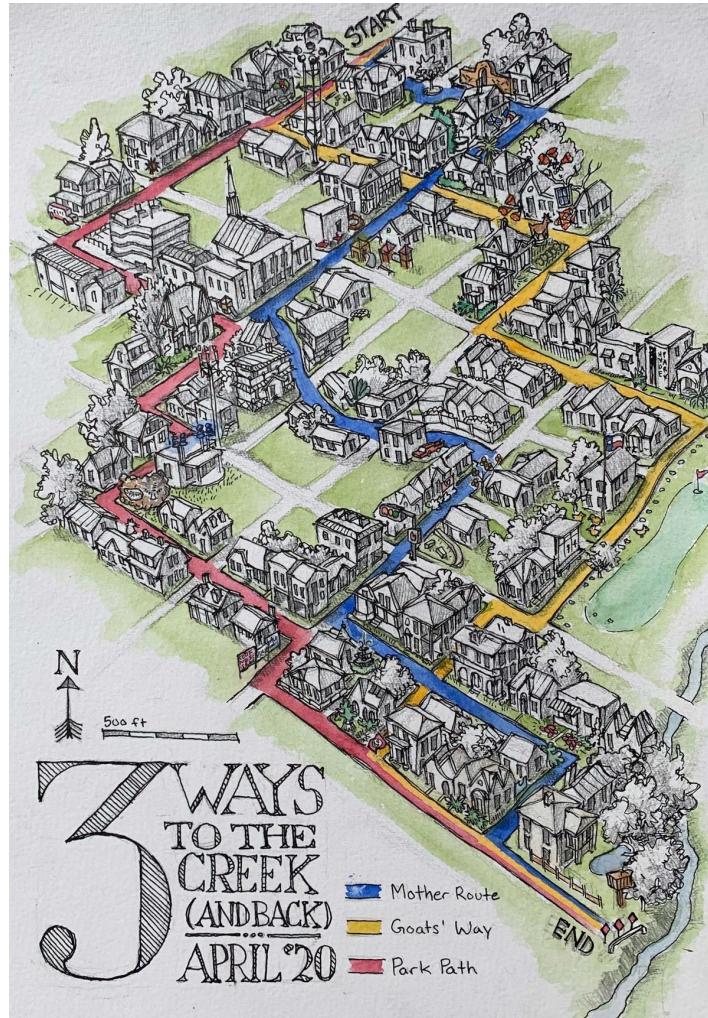
source:  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2020-coronavirus-lockdown-neighborhood-maps/>



"I drew a map of all the sounds I heard on a long walk through my neighborhood. My small neighborhood has become my entire world! So things that used to seem small now seem much bigger. Birds seem louder."

C.X. Hua  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

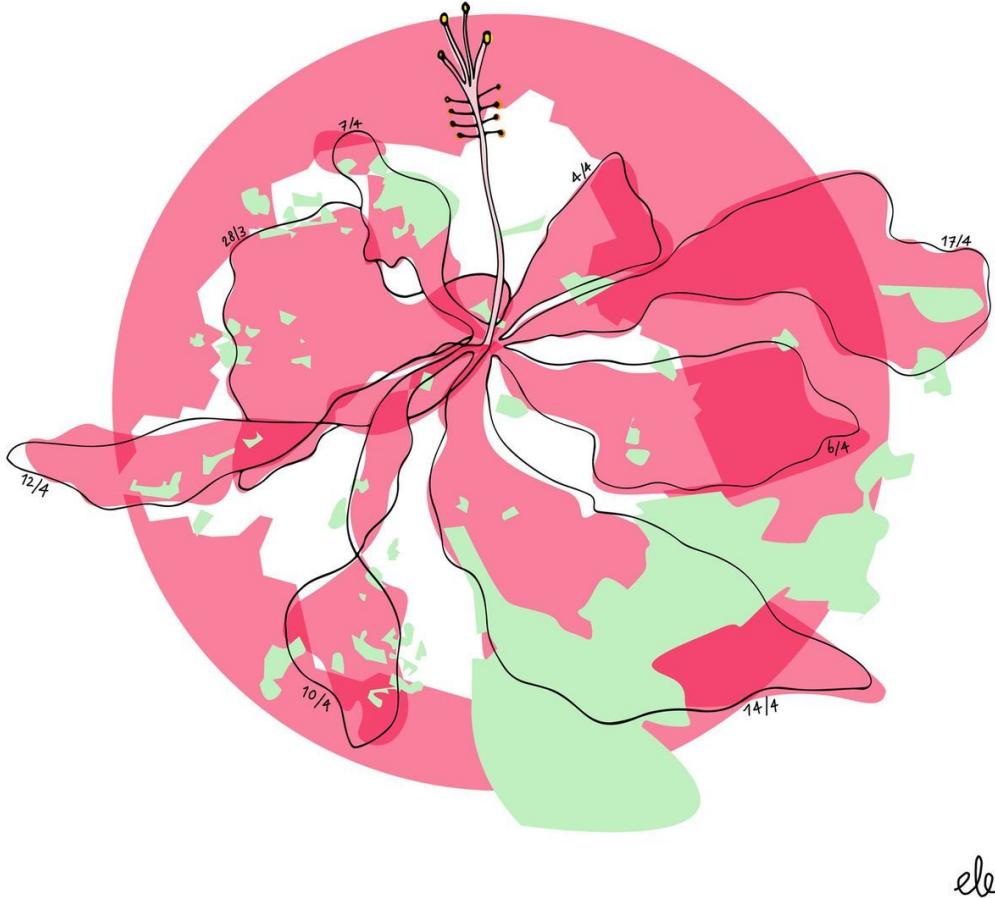
source:  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2020-coronavirus-lockdown-neighborhood-maps/>



"There are dozens of possible paths, but I selected the three I take most often... I've become cognizant of the layout of streets, locations of specific landmarks, and the tiny details in people's yards that reveal things about their lives."

Champ Turner  
Austin, Texas

source:  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2020-coronavirus-lockdown-neighborhood-maps/>



"This hibiscus flower, representing the blossoming trees here, is made up of the different bike routes I have taken over the past weeks around Brussels....I also included some parks of the area to show the unequal spatial distribution of green spaces. This inequality became more acknowledged as an issue during the first weeks of quarantine, when the police sent someone who was taking a walk back to their neighborhood without many green spaces, even though there were no official distance limits. The size of my neighborhood is increasing and decreasing at the same time."

Ele Denne  
Brussels, Belgium

source:  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2020-coronavirus-lockdown-neighborhood-maps/>



"The author and illustrator Carson Ellis suggested drawing a "treasure map" as one of her daily Quarantine Art Club assignments and this was mine: a reminder to myself of what to do to stay happy during isolation."

Gro Slotsvik  
Bristol, United Kingdom

source:  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2020-coronavirus-lockdown-neighborhood-maps/>

“...it is becoming clearer to architects and planners that ‘space’ is more complex and dynamic than previous formal models allowed. Ideas about space are moving **away from physical objects and forms** towards the variety of **territorial, political and psychological social processes** that **flow through space**. The *interrelationships* amongst things in space, as well as the *effects* that are produced through such dynamic interactions, are becoming of greater significance for intervening in urban landscapes than the solely compositional arrangement of objects and surfaces.”

- Corner, “Agency of Mapping” (1999)

## Additional References

Maps that explain the history of America:

<https://www.vox.com/2015/2/17/7917165/maps-that-explain-america>

This Is Not an Atlas, “maps” section:

<https://notanatlas.org/>

“Subjective Atlases” of various cities:

<https://www.subjectiveeditions.org/>

More CityLab quarantine maps:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2022-01-25/homemade-covid-maps-navigate-life-around-the-world>