

Archaeology and the Map: Critique and Practice  
University of Leicester  
May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015.

From the very beginning of archaeological practice, maps (and plans) have been one of the discipline's most fundamental tools. The number, variety and prominence of maps in archaeology have been increasing further since the beginning of the 1990s due to the availability of a growing range of digital technologies used to collect, visualise, query, manipulate and analyse spatial data. It is therefore surprising that whilst generalised critiques of mapping as a modernist practice have been ubiquitous, direct and focused critiques of "the archaeological map" have been rare.

This slow development of archaeological cartographic critique should be considered a missed opportunity given the growing dissatisfaction in other areas of the social sciences with the modern Western map and particularly its grand claim to represent "the world as it is". We suggest that this multidisciplinary dialogue with anti/non-representational, more-than-representational, neo-pragmatist tones would undoubtedly enrich archaeological thinking. Moreover, archaeology could significantly contribute to this dialogue, thanks to its vast and multifaceted experience with maps and mappings as well as its well established tradition of thinking about cultures through the visual, material and other performative qualities of the images that they produce.

A one-day meeting "Archaeology and the Map: Critique and Practice" which is to take place at the University of Leicester on 23 May 2015, aims to present an opportunity to scrutinise the archaeological map and the possibilities for alternative archaeological mappings. The meeting will be open to both theoretical and empirical approaches providing they seek to destabilise and unsettle the current status of maps and mappings in archaeology.

Among the issues that could be addressed in the meeting are the need for a critique of archaeological maps; performativity of archaeological maps; the map as assemblage; promises of epistemologically modest genres of archaeological maps (e.g. explicitly performative, narrative, affective, playful); deep-mapping; maps as a creative artistic process; counter-mapping; maps and visual literacy; maps as story-telling; idiosyncrasies of archaeological cartographic discourse; gender issues in archaeological mapping; archaeological map in the digital age; archaeological map as a part of archaeological visual culture; and the potentials and promises of 'science-technology-studies' in the study of archaeological mapping.

A title and extended abstract (ca. 750 words) for paper proposals can be sent to the organisers Mark Gillings ([mg41@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:mg41@leicester.ac.uk)), Piraye Hacıgüzeller ([piraye.haciguzeller@arch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:piraye.haciguzeller@arch.ox.ac.uk)) and Gary Lock ([gary.lock@arch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:gary.lock@arch.ox.ac.uk)) no later than 20th February 2015. The final programme will be announced by the end of February.