

Editorial

Maps are not just for geographers

From the outset, Livingmaps Review has been committed to engagement with all manner of mapping cultures and practices - digital and analogue, imaginative and forensic, hegemonic and counter-hegemonic. That has meant exploring the intersections between critical cartography and a whole range of cognate disciplines in the arts, humanities and sciences. What is known as 'the spatial turn' gave geography a privileged position in this dialogue. Physical geographers took on GIS, and cultural geographers got excited about mental maps and indigenous cartography as methodological resources.

But however academically productive, this cosying up of cartographers and geographers has had the unintended effect of creating a conceptual closure around our understanding of lived space. Lived space is above all embodied space, mental maps are not just in the mind, they are a functional aspect of the practical activity involved in navigating the world. In this issue, Christian Nold outlines his theory and practice of biomapping, drawing extensively on the work of Bruno Latour. Actor network theory (ANT), with its methodological emphasis on scaling and tracing the relays between rich mixes of material and cultural elements, is well adapted to the task of overcoming the dualisms of Cartesian cartography - albeit at the price of ignoring some of the more structural and enduring features of the body politic.

This dimension of spatial power is central to Christos Varvantakis' phenomenological account of children's locally situated knowledge of a neighbourhood in Athens which has been occupied and transformed by radical urban social movements. Both pieces illustrate in their different ways that maps are not just for us geographers, but also have a lot to teach us. We hope to develop this problematic in future issues of the journal, especially in *Navigations* and we are delighted to announce that Mike Duggan has joined our editorial team as the new editor of this section.

At the same time the journal has been concerned to engage with processes of creative and critical map making outside the academy. LMR has welcomed contributions from artists and activists, especially in *Lines of Desire* and *Waypoints* while *Mapworks* provides ways to appreciate the aesthetics and historical background of specific maps and mapping in very localised contexts.

Our ambition for the journal is to widen both its readership and its authorship. Maps are not just for geographers, but even more they are not just for professional cartographers. Cartography, including critical cartography, continues to be dominated, both numerically and institutionally, by white middle class professional men. It has its own skeletons in the cupboard when it comes to chauvinistic and sexist attitudes. It is not enough to critique Eurocentric or patriarchal values inscribed in mapping forms or practices. We have to become the change we want to see. We have done our best to address gender imbalance in terms of our contributors, but recognise the continuing challenge of broadening social and cultural diversity and making our community of practice more inclusive. So this is a call to potential contributors. If you have an idea for an article get in touch to discuss it with us. The journal is supporting a conference, organised by Livingmaps Network, on the theme of Front Line Cartographies, bringing together political activists and communities of resistance, to address a wide agenda of issues of race, gender, class and disability. Further information will follow on the Livingmaps website.

