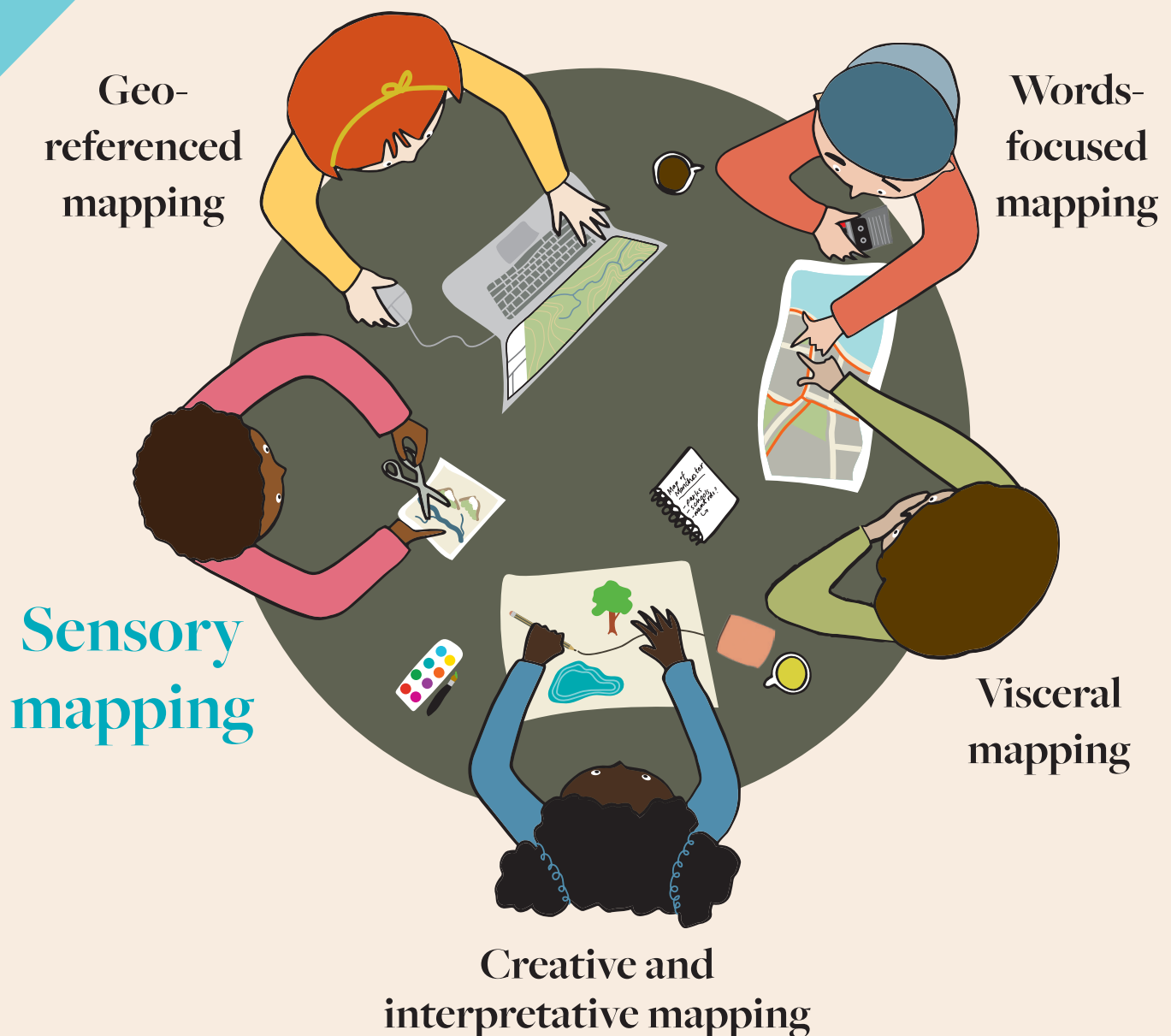


Sensory mapping is linked to these research methods:

- Ethnographic participant observation
- Feminist and embodied
- Walkalongs/walking interviews
- Mobile methods

# Multi-method mapping



These cards introduce the breadth of data and understandings generated by map-making and map use. The different practices are research methods that can be used separately, or you can use the cards to choose which different mapping types could be used *together* in your research.

These types of mapping are concerned with the process as well as 'a final map' per se. Some do not necessarily aim to produce a map at all. This enables *different data types and understandings*.

The cards can be used by transdisciplinary teams of researchers. Here, transdisciplinary is defined as research shaped by a critical engagement with the differences between disciplines and research/ knowledge styles.

*Maps provide a physical, familiar and experimentable focus for researchers who use contrasting research approaches.*

**Researcher:** Heather Miles, University of Manchester/ESRC NWSSDTP **Illustrators:** India Joseph and Molly O'Halloran

## What is sensory mapping?

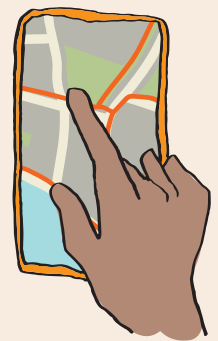
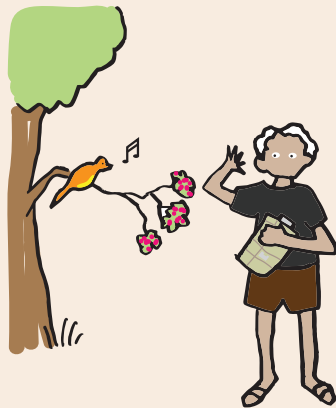
- Maps connect experience to place/space<sup>1</sup> by recalling sensory memories, or by evoking the senses.
- Applies to all maps, not just those that are explicitly designed to capture what is sensed<sup>2</sup> (e.g. soundscapes). For example, tracing a finger along a walked route from a walkalong or drawing a route during map-making echoes previous sensory and embodied experience.

## Why is sensory mapping used?

- Helps researchers to understand community members' lived experiences, including what is tacit or unspoken. It enables researchers to explore people's (contrasting) experiences of spaces.
- Or such drawing or tracing can help those with no direct experience of the geography of a place to apprehend it remotely<sup>3</sup>.

## What are different approaches to this mapping?

- Sensory experience in mapping is most likely what is felt, both in terms of the tactile and the kinaesthetic (movement), or what is heard or smelt, but potentially what is seen or tasted.
- Relates to sensory experience both at the fieldsite during in situ data collection/fieldwork, and/or around the map.
- Sensory experience in places may be directly mimicked in the map, e.g. the movement in travelling or drawing a meandering path, or the mapping exercise may be evocative to the senses in a different way, such as the performative cutting or crossing of a paper map to evoke loss of a local feature



*Speculative methods: as with visceral mapping, this practice can imagine, or experiment with, alternative futures through recreating, recalling or evoking particular sensory experiences through maps. Community social/environmental impacts resulting from particular interventions or scenarios can be explored through mapping roleplay and experimentation; mapping apps that artificially instigate particular juxtapositions; or AR/VR.*

## How does this mapping use digital technologies AND hand-done techniques?

Sensory experience is relevant to all mapping: digital technological approaches involve corporeal touch and movement as much as paper and arts-based maps, both in terms of using and making maps<sup>2</sup>.

*Remote options: may not be applicable if it is important for researchers to share embodied experience with participants in the fieldsite. However, maps may be an important aid for remote interviews.*



## How can the different types of mapping be used together?

The types of mapping on the other cards can be used together with sensory mapping:

Visceral	• An attention to feelings and emotion - sensory experience is often strongly associated with the visceral
Words-focused	• Reflective ethnographic fieldnotes or diarying during mapping by the researcher and often participants • Interviews during walkalongs
Creative and interpretative	• Arts and crafts-based mapping exercises — these can be an effective way to express the invisible and ephemeral nature of sensory experience
Georeferenced	• Measured sound mapping (e.g. volume) or measurement of other sensory information using equipment