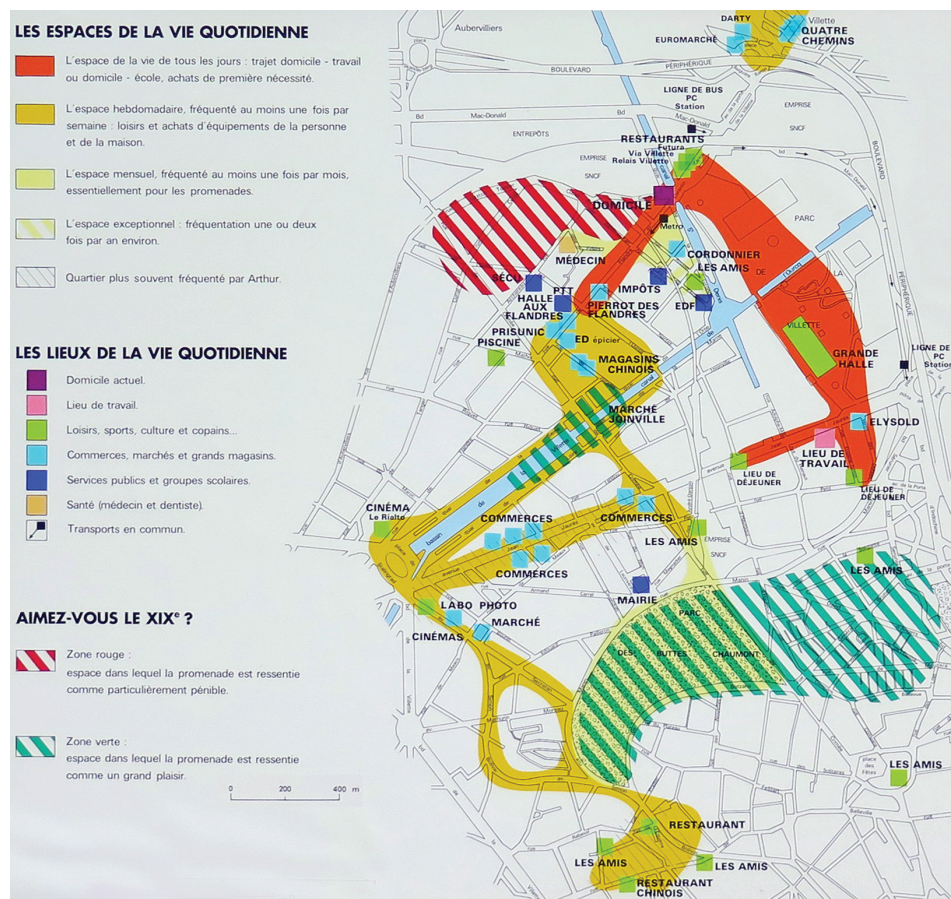


MAPPING EXERCISE MANUAL

Experimental Cartography Exercise:

Drawing my “identity map”

by Philippe Rekacewicz



MAPPING EXERCISE MANUAL

1. Presentation of the exercise

Students are asked to establish (draw) a map that represents their personal „identity card“, following a relatively traditional mapping methodology:

- reflection on the cartographic intention
- collection of data
- first sketched representations
- production of the final document.

This exercise can be done on a global scale (world map), but also on a national (country map) or regional (district or departmental map) or even local (for the study of how one projects oneself within a neighborhood or in neighborhoods of a city).

The objective of the exercise is to enable participants to become familiar with the „*cartographic creation process*“ by choosing not to map traditional socio-economic indicators (GDP per inhabitant and country, infant mortality, etc.). but more personal and emotional data according to two orientations by mapping:

- the main elements of their life itineraries (personal, family);
- their sensitive / personal perceptions of the world around them on a global, regional or local scale.

In other words, it is a question of „*projecting oneself personally in the geographical map*“ in order to try to create a new form of representation of the world, which is based on one hand on our perceptions and our interpretations of reality rather than on tangible data, and secondly on our personal territorial practices (how we use space and circulate in the world).

In this way, we go „*full force*“ in the map, by imprinting our perception of the world, our life itinerary, trying to visually express the emotional and sensitive aspects of geographical situations. In other words, it is about to reintroduce „*feelings*“ in addition to „*information*“ into the map. That is: the I „*me*“ cartography, me, my immediate and distant environment, I „*me*“ represented on the map, I express „*my*“ vision of the world. In short, the exercise consists of creating the constituent elements and atmosphere of one's own „*identity map*“.

The exercise has several advantages: it is an opportunity to formalize a very personal knowledge, to organize it, and to find graphical responses. It is also a very good way to learn about cartographic creation (i.e. the spatialisation of qualitative and quantitative data).

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2. Methodological approach

The first step is the collection of information: in other words, it is the formation of a „database“. We list the information in bulk before choosing them, to select them, to classify them, to organize them. Here is a non-exhaustive list of „possibilities“. We can choose or take everything, this list is not comprehensive, only a set of examples, tracks to follow, participants can of course think of other elements:

- Places of life, past, present, future; where am I from?
- Past, present and future life itineraries. What were my moves?
- Direct, second, third and X generations (+ displacements). Do I know the places and routes of X generations of my family? direct and indirect?
- Visited countries. How often? Often? Rarely?
- Imagined territories: those we dream of and those who scare us.
- Important regions or countries, which played a role in the construction of identity, culture etc.

In addition to the personal elements, we can also characterize and qualify the spaces in which we live and move, describe how we perceive them by adding observations on accessibility, or the comfort / discomfort of the infrastructures, the perspectives that we please, those we find ugly, etc ...

Imaginary / Reality

Dreamed territories/areas
Feared territories/areas

Visited countries/places
Unknown countries/places

Countries: areas where
... I often go
... I rarely go

Country/places important
or crucial for my cultural
identity

Cartographic intention

PERCEPTION:

How do I perceive the space?

How do I move within this
space?

How do I use this Space?

On a daily, weekly, monthly
or yearly basis

Understanding our itineraries

MAPPING A SYSTEM
(NETWORK):

Personal and professional
circulation

From living places to work
places to leisure places to
«resting» places», etc.

How do I use this Space?

How easy is the city

MAPPING PERCEPTION
OF ACCESSIBILITY:

Conflicts cars/pedestrian/
bicycle

Pleasant/disgusting places
or landscape or perspectives

Comfort or discomfort
circulation

Easy or uneasy access to
various infrastructures

Possible option for the Key/legend

Geographical representation
of your use of the city (through
space)

Temporal representation
of your use of the city
(variation through time)

Emotional representation
of the city (you can create a
scale of intensity from «weak»
to «strong»)

MAPPING EXERCISE MANUAL

The second step is a short reflection on these elements, during which we try to define a „cartographic intention“ (the process that allows us to go from mental construction to drawing - from the idea of the map to the drawn sketch). We try to imagine what we would like to represent before drawing. We give ourselves one or more objective. When we are ready, we move to:

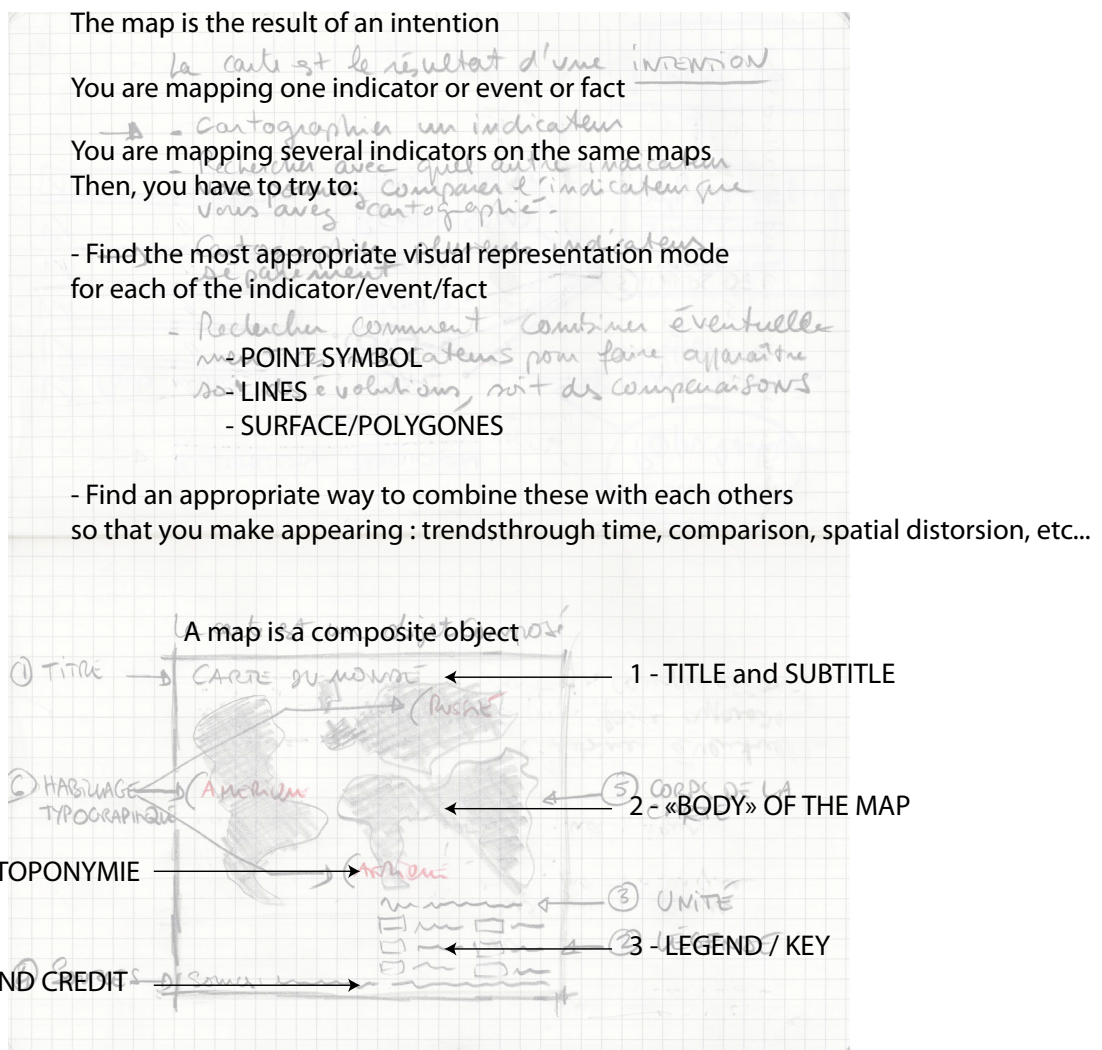
The third step is to put ideas on paper. We only „build“ a graphic or cartographic document by starting with the „deconstruct“ it, that is to say by actually deconstructing our ideas in as many components as necessary to master the course of operations. We can then choose graphic representation modes (points, lines, surfaces) adapted to what we want to show.

As it is a reflexive process, everything can be done by hand, with base maps or simply white sheets using traditional drawing tools (pencils and markers). But for those who want, it is also possible to use the computer and drawing software or graphics processing.

We have the right to make mistakes, and we can draw as many sketches as necessary to arrive at a result that suits us. We can do a rough draft, and redraw properly in a subsequent step, we can also succeed at first!

Reminder of the objective:

- Produce a map or a collection of maps following (approximately) the proposed methodological approach.
- Use at least once each of the three basic graphic forms (point, line, plane)
- The card must have a main body, a legend, a title, a signature, possibly sources
- The legend should be organized and logical if possible



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In the end, this approach must make it possible to understand what „experimental cartography“ is in its multiplicity:

- to understand that the map is a graphic expression of how one perceives the world, while one was using it, is using it or will be using it. The map is the reflection of the perception of its designer or creator, not the reality.
- Reclaim the sensitive and the emotional for cartographic representations;
- possibly create new forms of modes of visual representation;
- Approach the cartographic exercise as a staging of theater: sets, actors who engage in a permanent dialogue between the real and the imaginary.

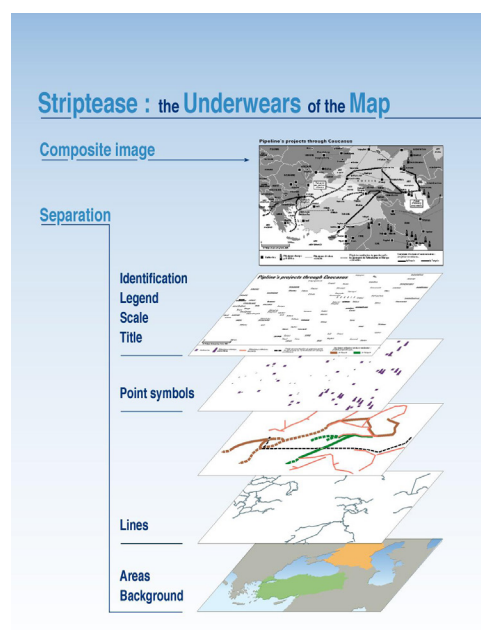
Element of cartographic methodology

To produce a geographical map, it is necessary to keep in mind a few simple fundamental rules of **graphic semiology** and protocols that will allow to effectively guide the cartographic creation – i.e. to carry out a „rather complex mission“ (the conception and the realization of a card) without getting lost.

The „3 + 1“ principle

A map is basically and always a graphic composition consisting of three fundamental elements: **points**, connected (or not) by **lines**, all resting on **surfaces**. It was Kandinsky who first conceptualized this graphic approach in his book „point and line on plan“ published in 1926. These three elements (3) are by complementary by an additional element (+1), which is the set of identifiers which accompanies the map: toponymy, legends, sources, credits – i.e. everything that informs the map, all that makes it possible to identify where we are and what we are talking about.

Cartography or data visualization is the art of associating graphic forms with information, facts or ideas: following this constitutive approach makes it possible not to get lost in a complex environment. It is to compose the cartographic landscape in a relevant way: a place of life, a then of oil, a source of water is a **point symbol (point)**; a migratory route, a journey, a pipeline, a diplomatic link between two countries can be a **linear representation (line)**; and finally, a jurisdiction, a territorial sovereignty, a dream space, a country of origin a **surface representation (plan)**.

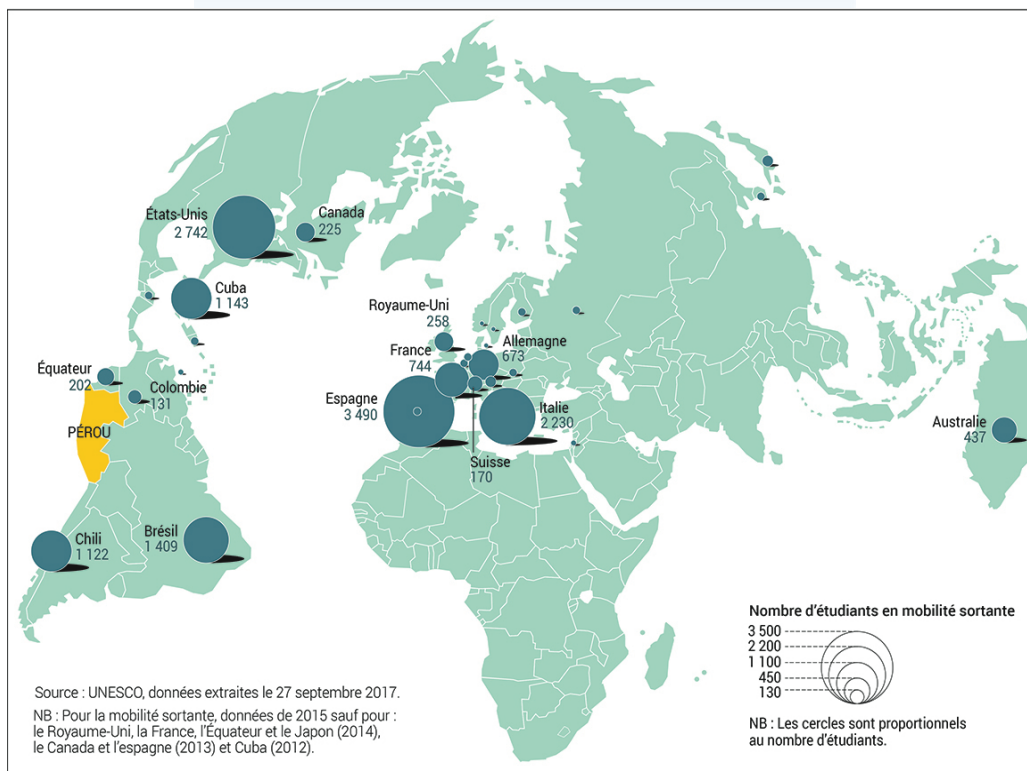
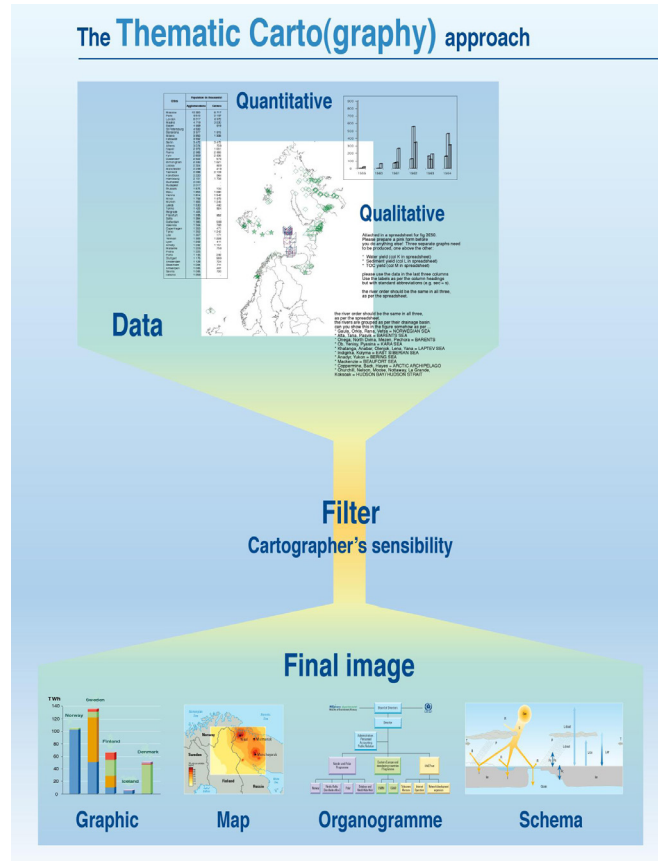


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Data types

The data can be divided into two broad categories: qualitative and quantitative (or statistical).

- The perception that one has of a space, a displacement, a place of birth, is qualitative data.
- The number of stays, the frequency of a trip over time, is quantitative data.

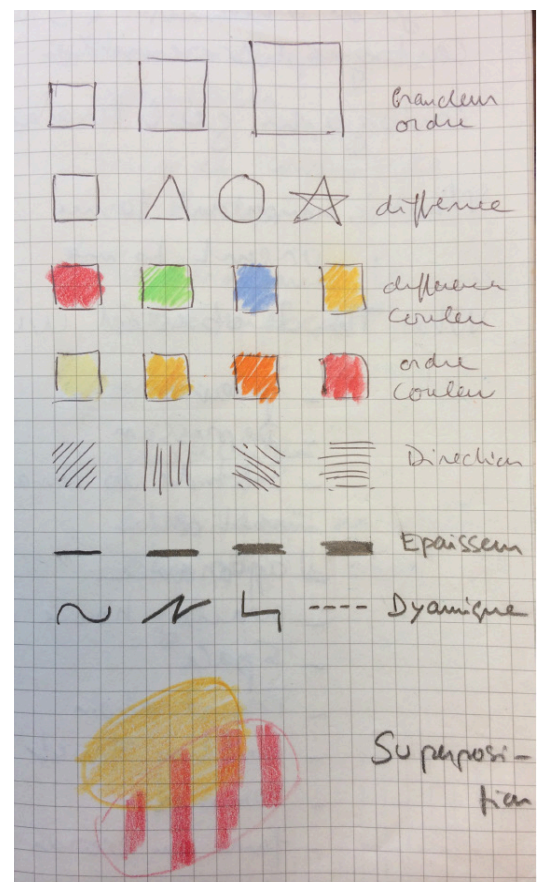
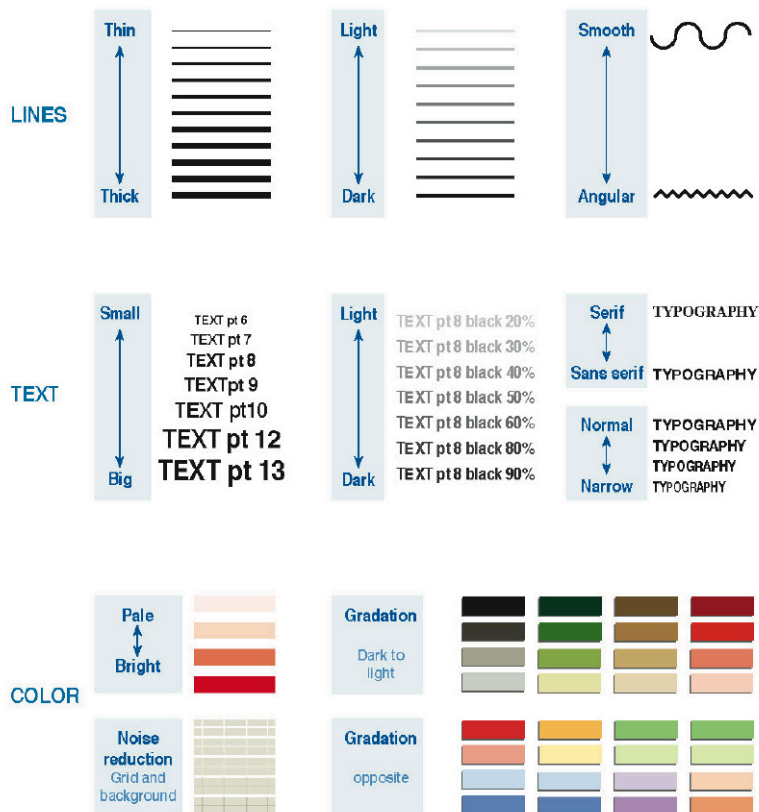


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In this exercise, it is possible to use only qualitative information, or a mix of qualitative and quantitative information, in which case we can choose to represent the qualitative data by symbols of size proportional to the value:

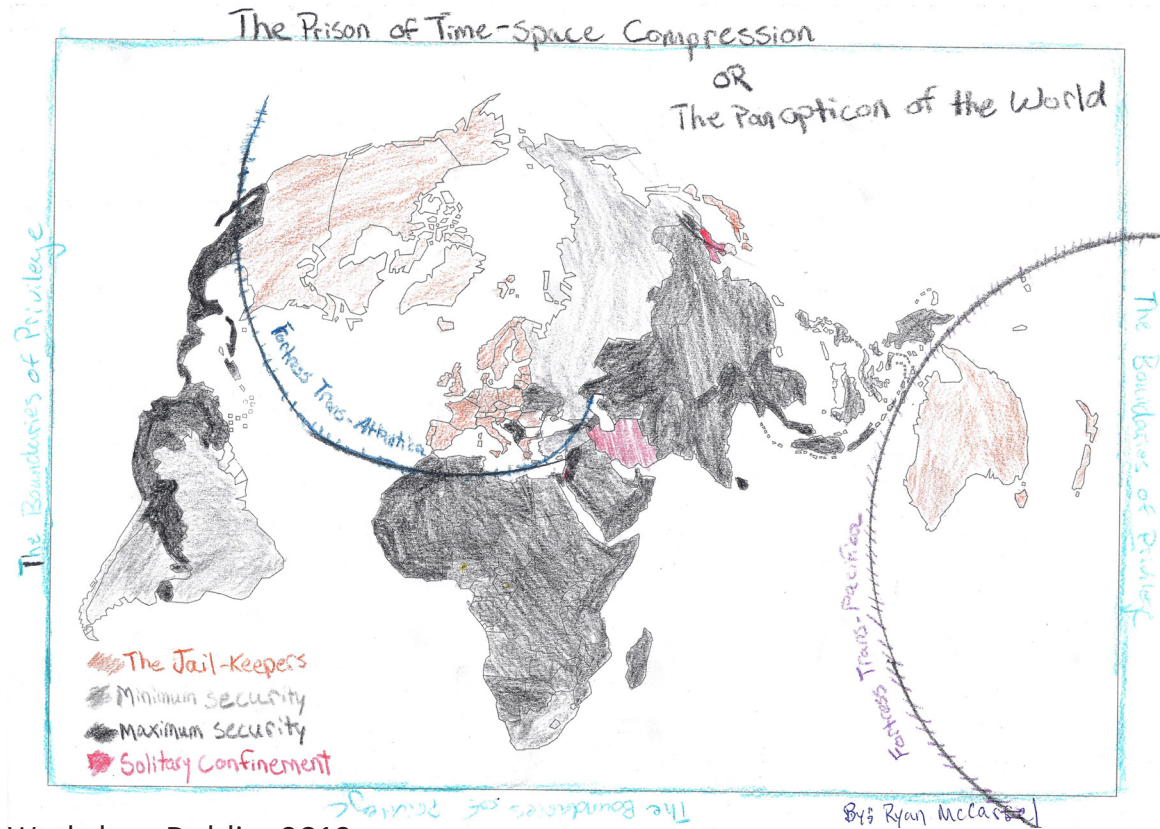
The exercise also requires considering other aspects of graphic semiology:

- logical use of colors
- vary the line thickness
- vary the contrasts
- use patterns
- create symbols, abstract or figurative
- etc.

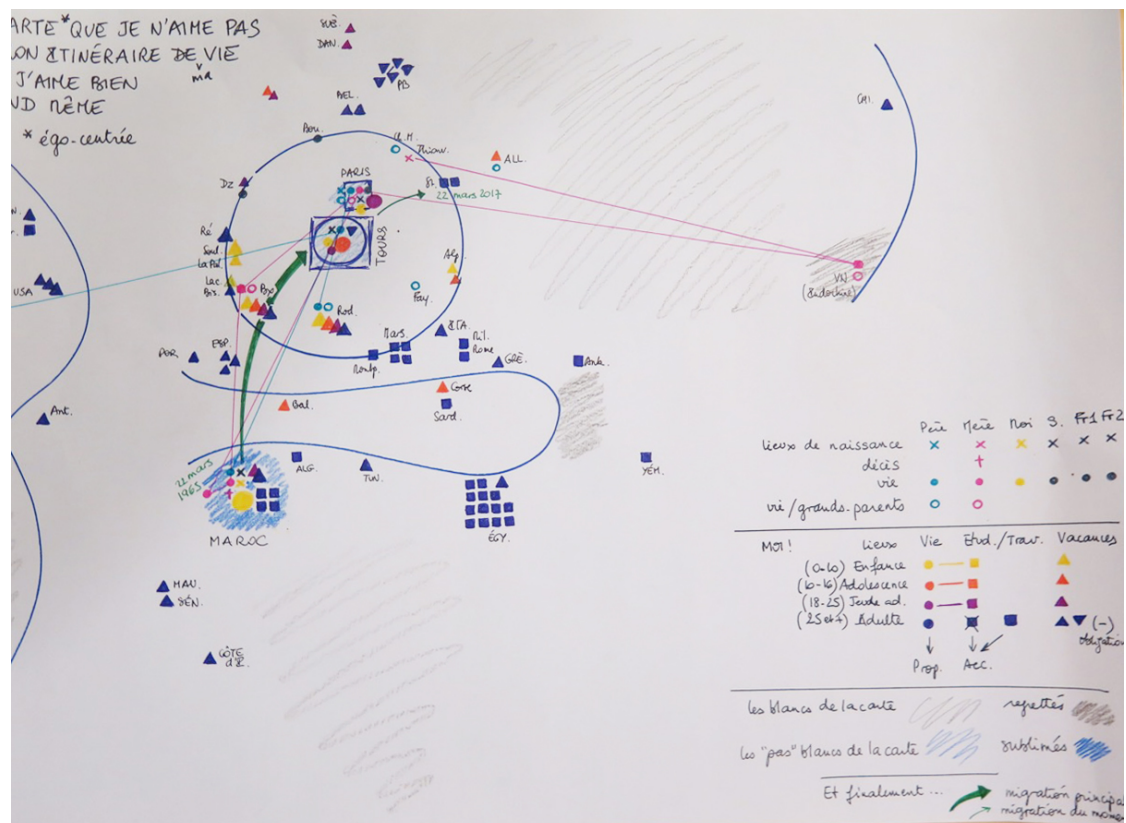


MAPPING EXERCISE MANUAL

Some examples of maps created as part of the exercise “my identity card”:



Workshop Dublin, 2016

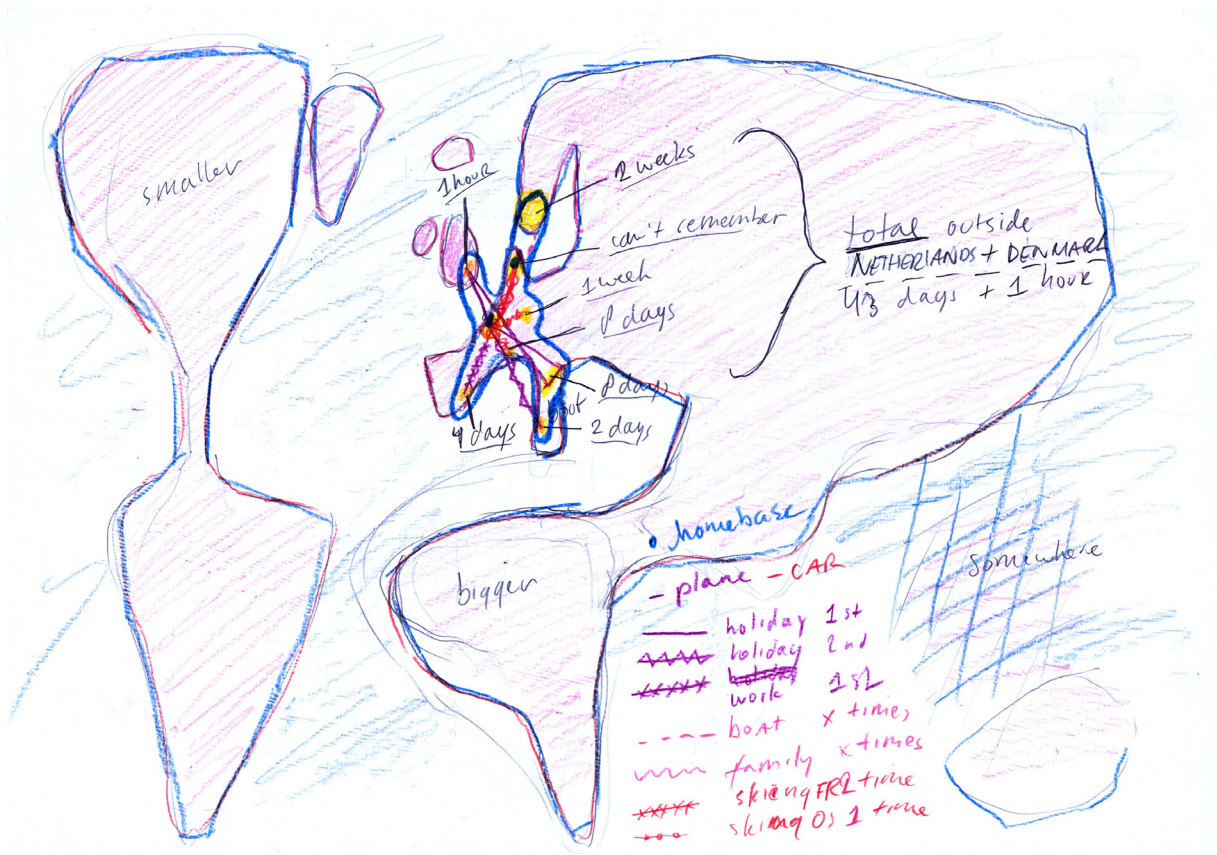


Workshop Strasbourg, 2017

MAPPING EXERCISE MANUAL

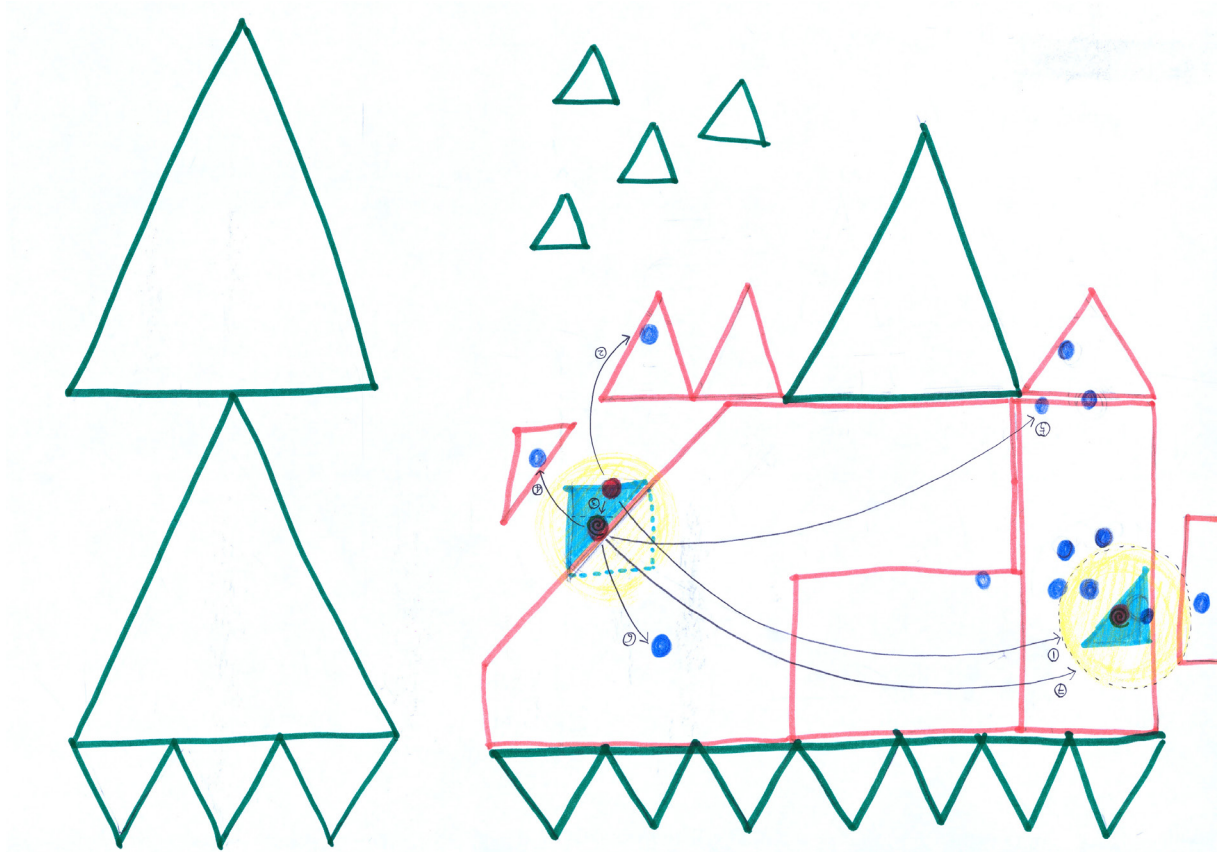


✿ Workshop Amsterdam, Cecilia



Workshop Amsterdam, Henrih

MAPPING EXERCISE MANUAL



Workshop amsterdam Na kim



Workshop Goldsmith 2016

MAPPING EXERCISE MANUAL

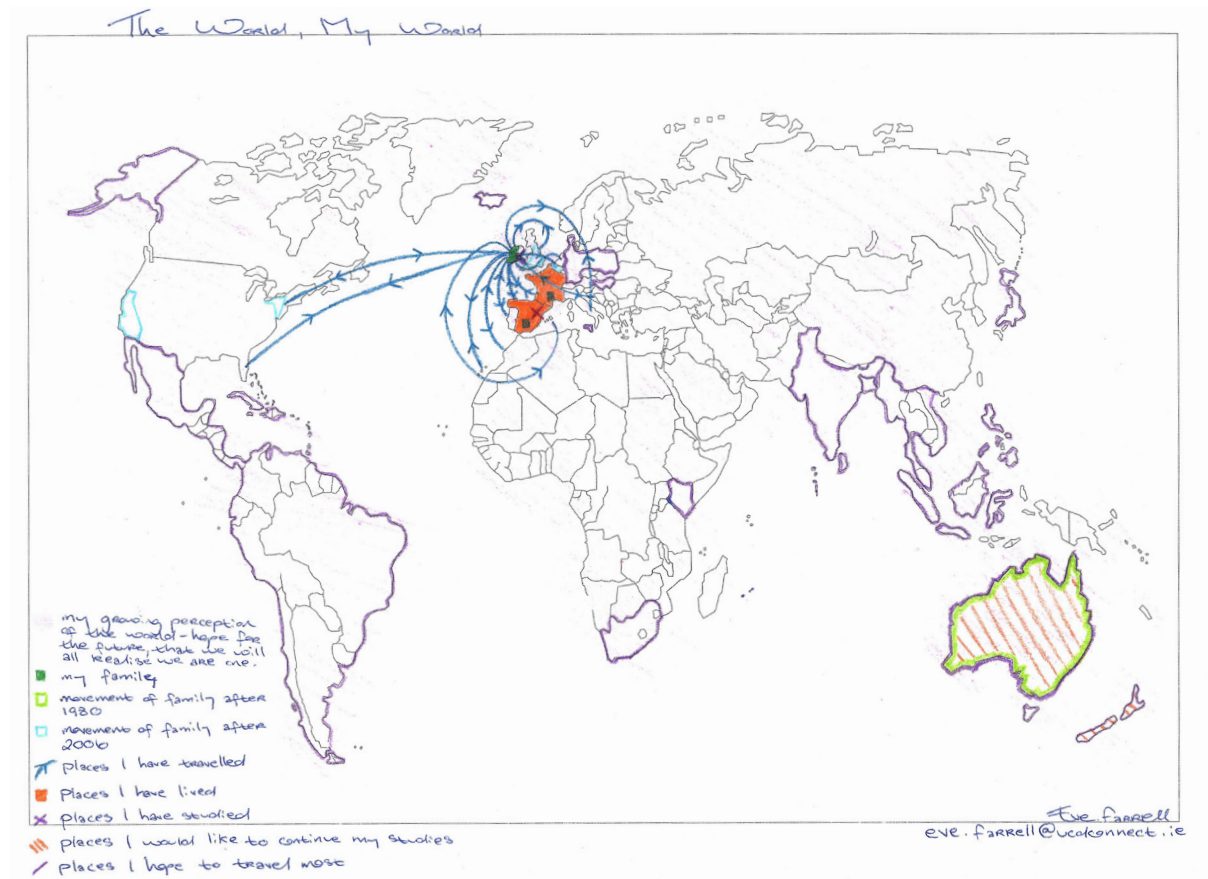


Workshop Goldsmith, 2016

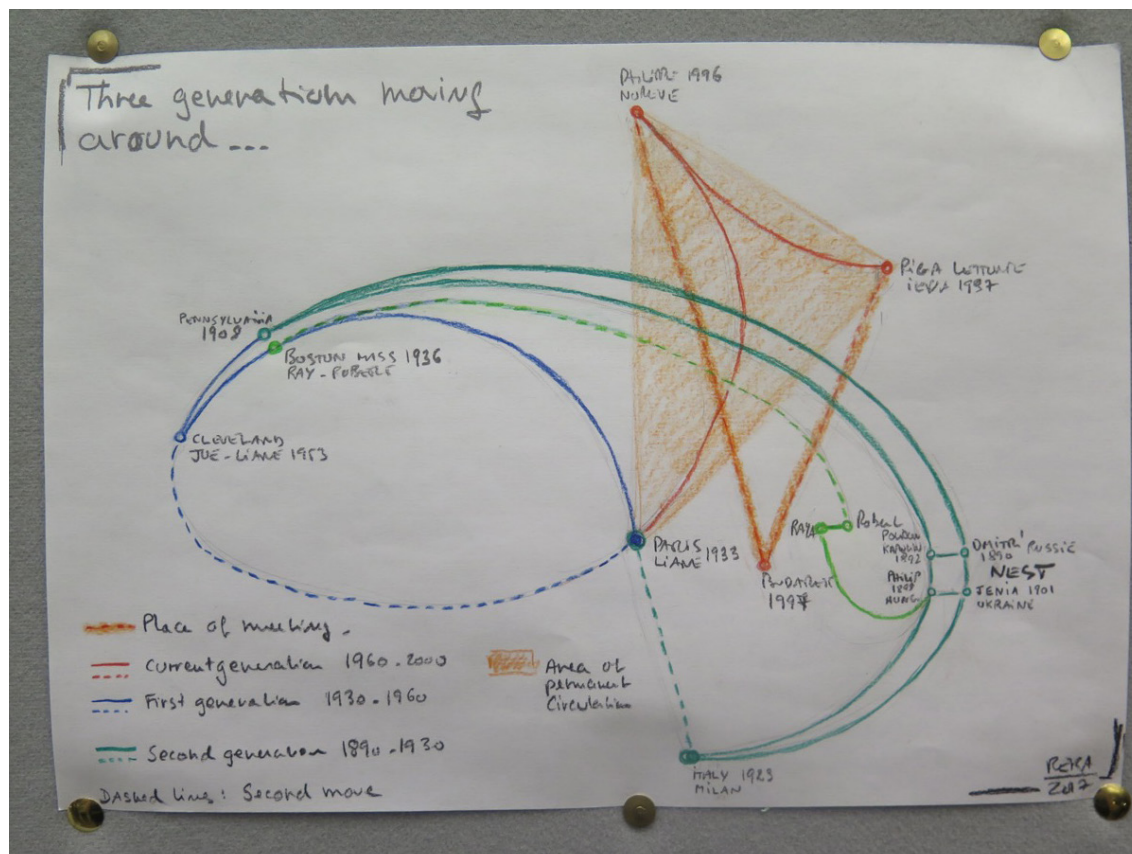


Workshop Köln, 2017

MAPPING EXERCISE MANUAL

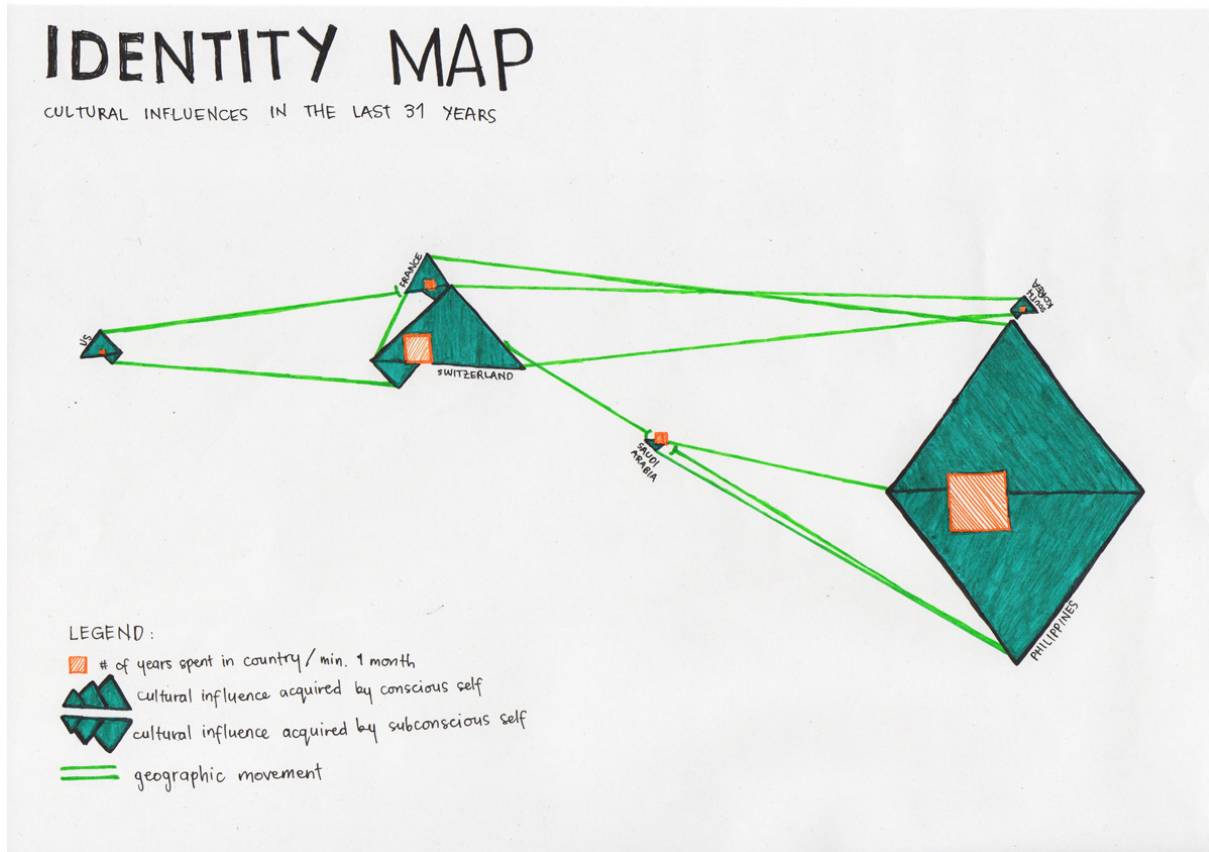


Workshop Goldsmith, 2016

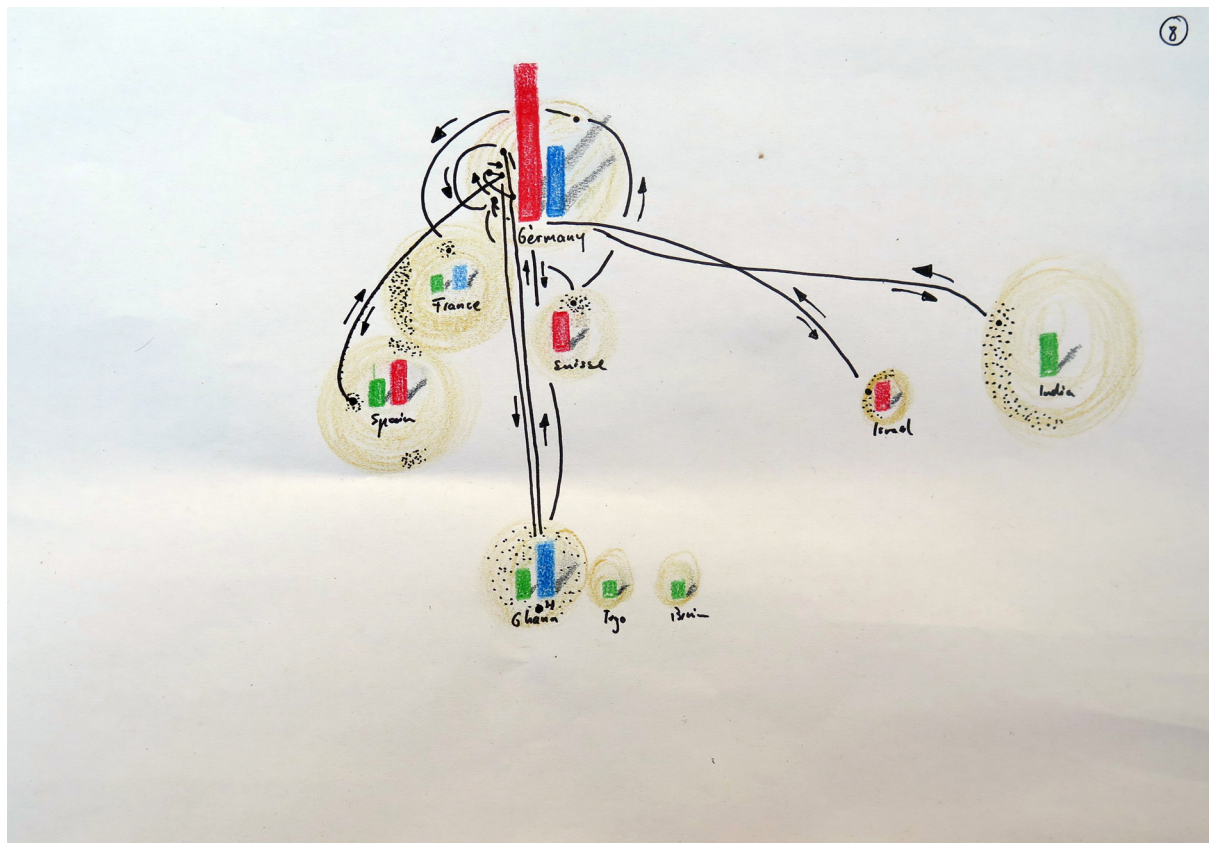


Workshop Köln, 2017

MAPPING EXERCISE MANUAL

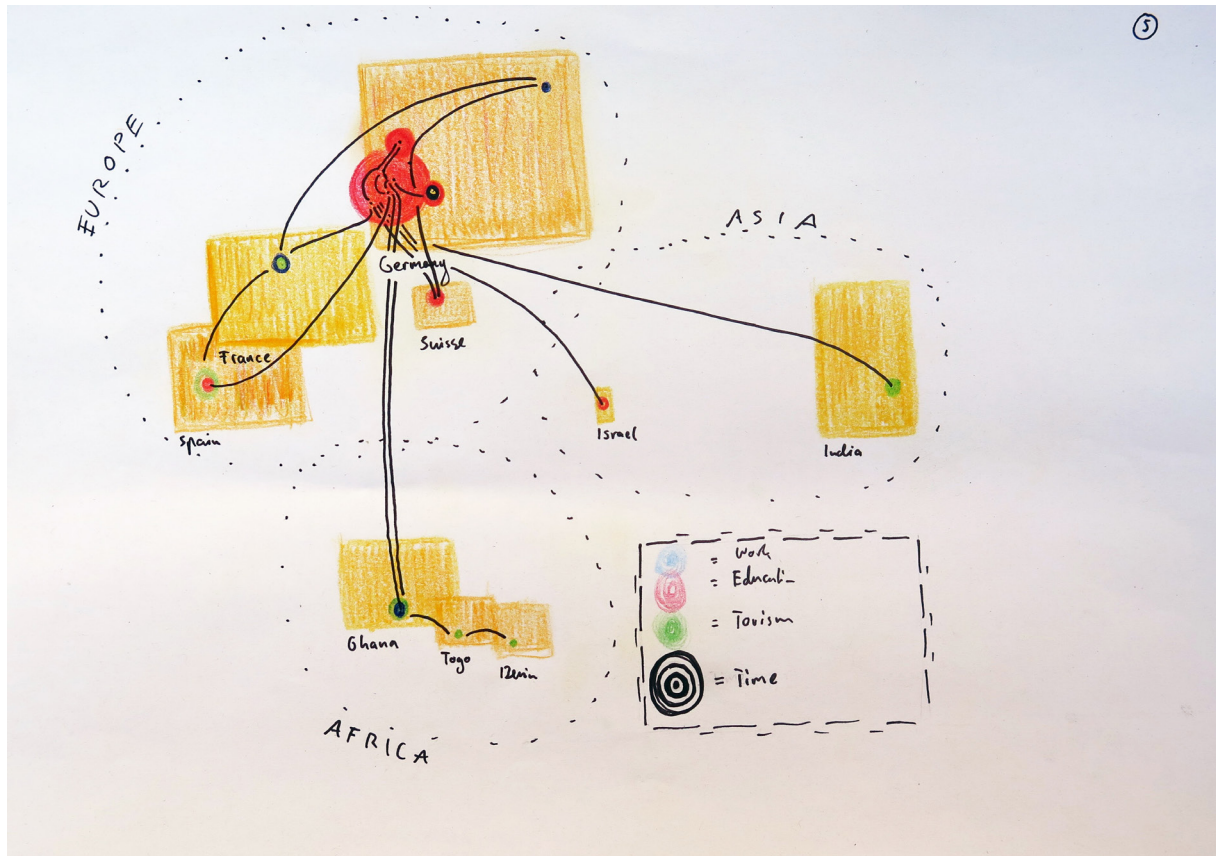


Workshop Köln, 2017

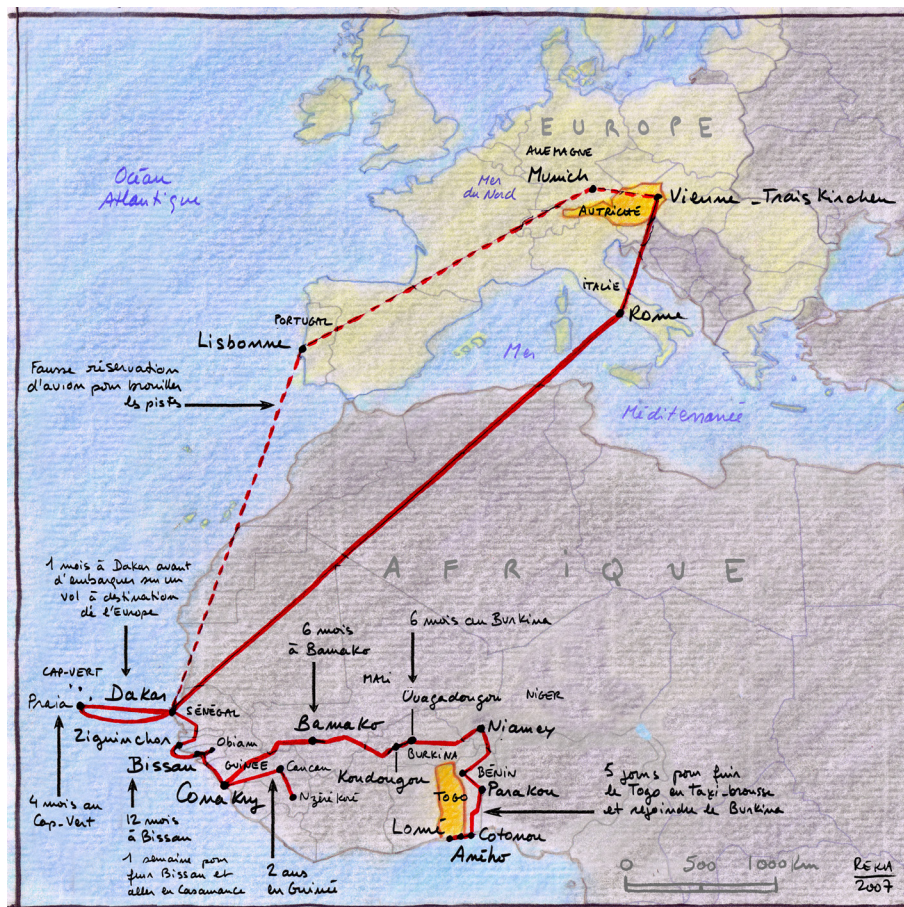


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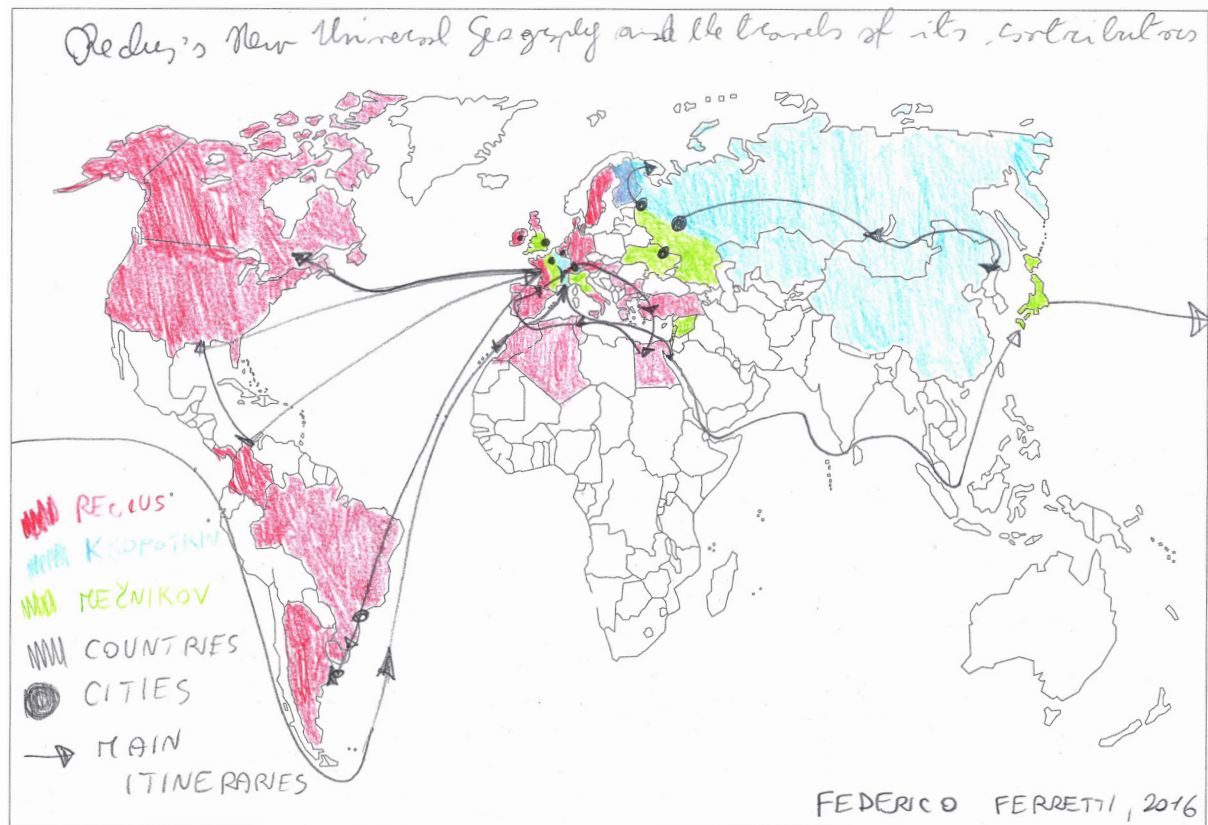


Workshop Köln, 2017

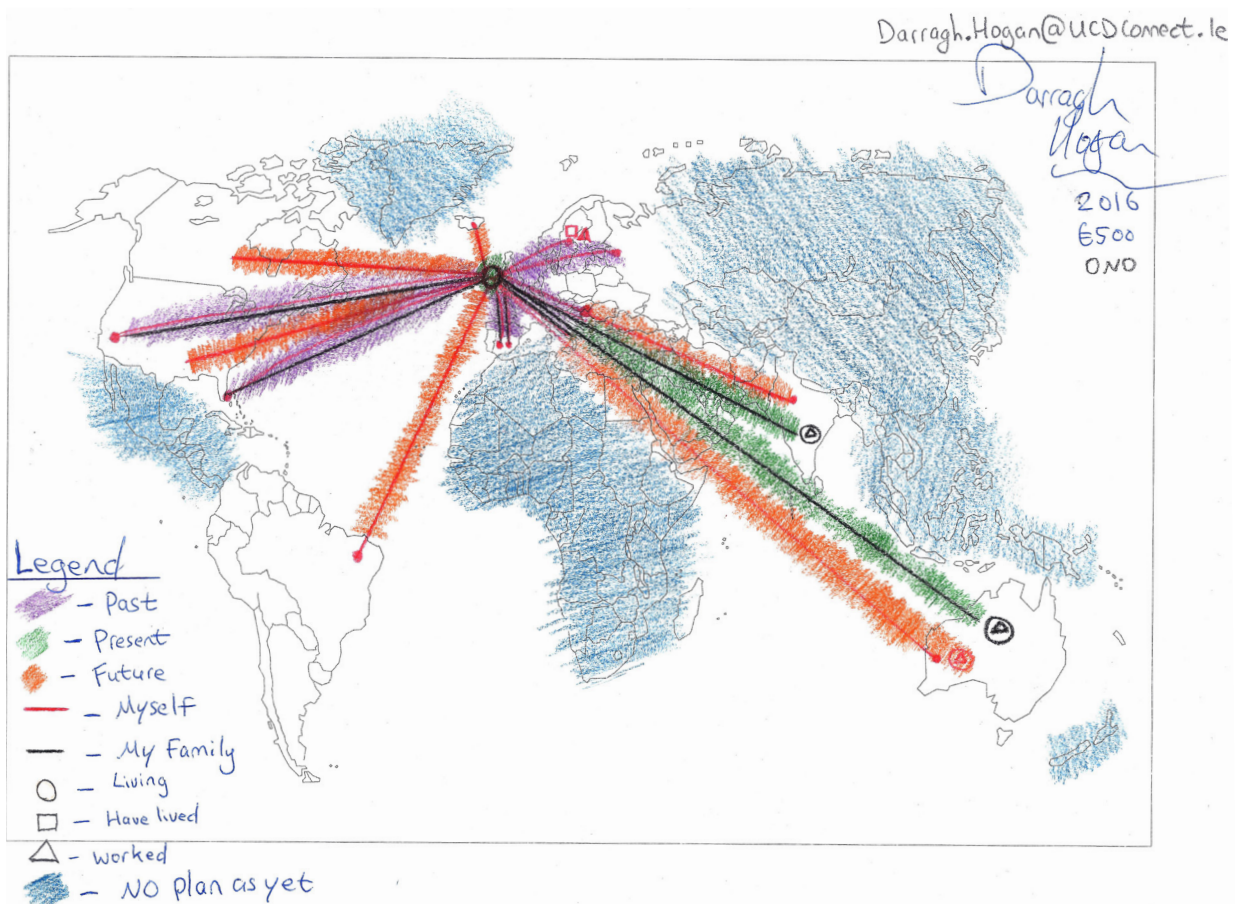


Vienne, Projet itinéraires « Way point to Sharon Stone », 2007

MAPPING EXERCISE MANUAL



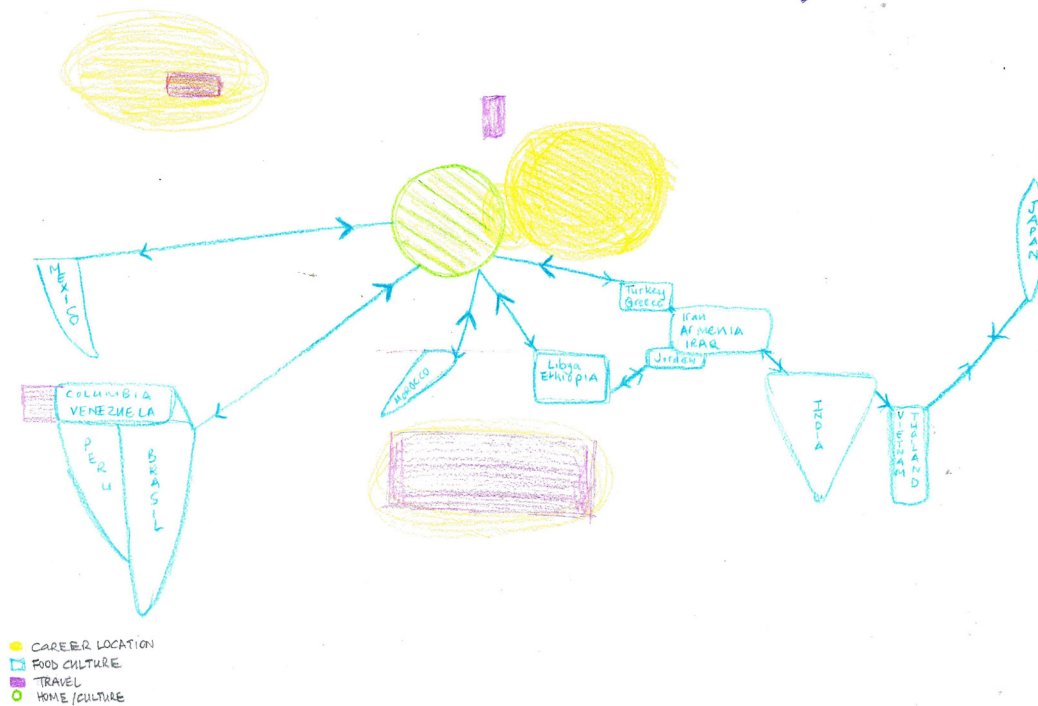
Workshop Goldsmith, 2016



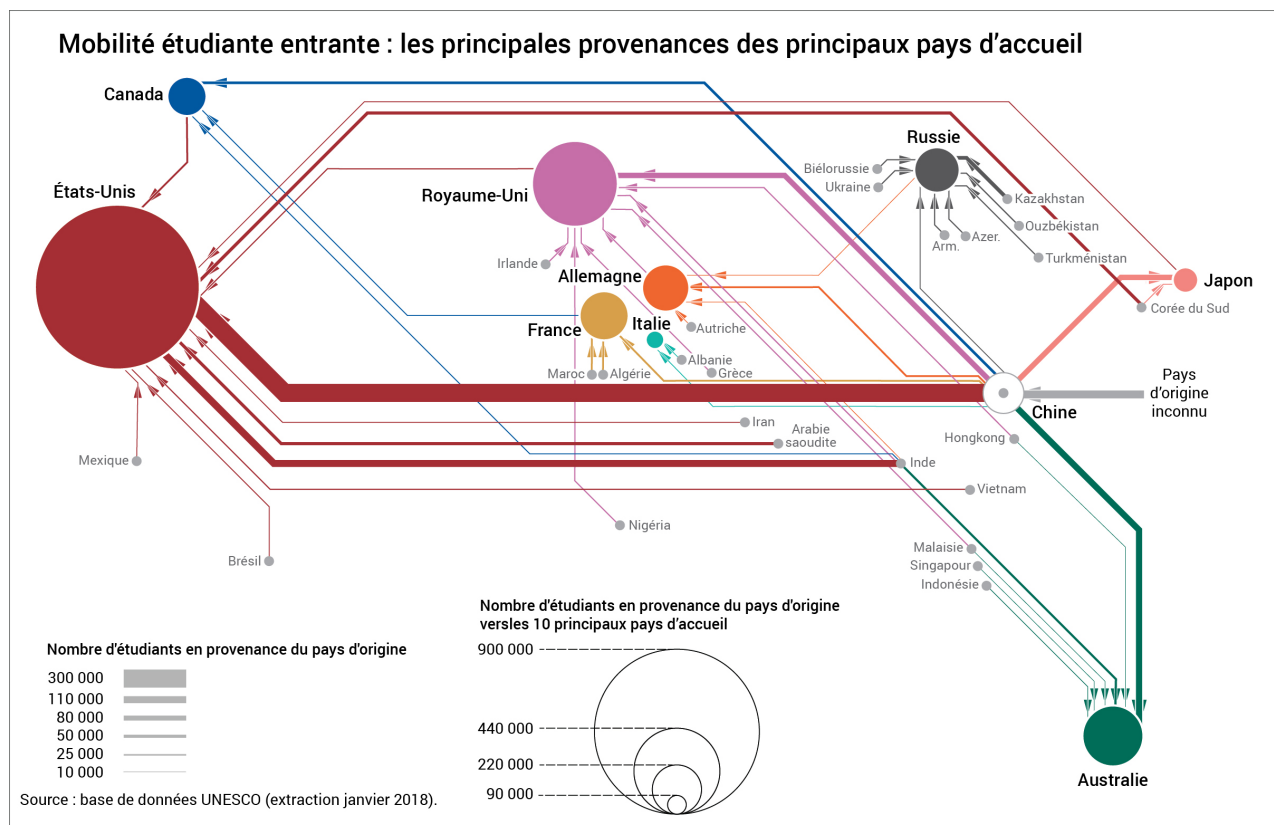
Workshop Goldsmith, 2016

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INTERESTS MAP PHASE 1



Workshop Goldsmith, 2016



CampusFrance flux entrants europaocentree