

Week 12: Lecture Activity

Making Feminist Maps

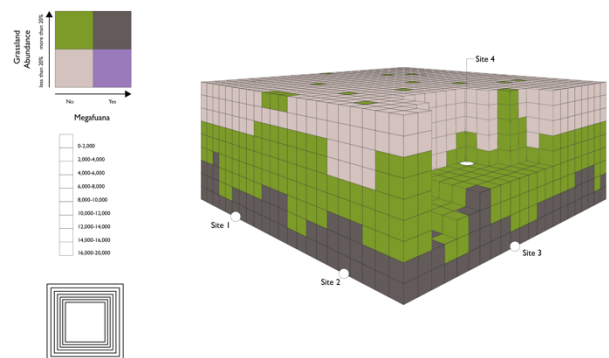
Introduction

Feminist cartographies can be defined as the (often) visual expression of spatial information that intentionally and explicitly addresses questions of power, inequality, representation, and ethics. Feminist theory can directly inform the feminist mapmaking process, putting theory into practice. Last week, you extensively researched a feminist term or concept and explored map examples that embody the term. Now it's your turn to create a feminist map! This map can take any shape or form. It can be online or print. It can be digitally derived or hand drawn. It can be data driven or more narrative. It can be a final map or a proof of concept. The point is to nudge our cartographic methods forward to explore and visualize feminist theory.

Directions

1. Using computer technologies (ArcMap, QGIS, Illustrator, Photoshop, etc.) or analog techniques (sketching, collage, drawing, painting, cut/pasting paper, etc.), create a map or a proof of concept that embodies your feminist term.

A *proof of concept* is an experiment or pilot that demonstrates the feasibility or potential of a design idea. For example, Meghan created the proof of concept to the right for the 2015 Design Challenge. Proof of concepts are helpful in conveying an idea when technology or your skillset may be limited.



2. Begin a Word document and explain your map or proof of concept. How does your map relate to the feminist term or concept? What are the limitations of your design?
3. Consider the kinds of data that would be needed to facilitate your map design. Does that data exist? How might you collect that data? Should that data be collected at all? Are there privacy or ethical concerns with the data? What are

the limitations of the data itself? How might we expand our notions of data to help create your feminist map?

4. Last, consider current mapping technology. Were you able to implement your map design in a GIS? How is technology limiting your design? How can we extend GIS technologies to support feminist cartographies? For example, how might Nick Lally expand his Geographic *Imagination* System?
5. Save your reflection as a PDF and submit.

Outcome

To receive full credit for this lecture activity, submit your feminist map in whatever form it takes. If your map is digital, please submit to Canvas. If your map is paper or another medium, take a photo and submit to Canvas. You can also submit to Meghan directly. Last, submit your reflection as a PDF to Canvas.