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A case of dislocated toponymy? Thule Island from Pytheas to Cook's second voyage of circumnavigation (1772-1775)

The aim of this paper is to discuss the criteria used by early modern cartographers to name newly discovered territories in the context of overseas European expansion (16th-18th centuries). New World toponyms seem to have condensed local knowledge as well as the on-the-ground experience of travelers. But the influence of classical knowledge, brought to light by the early modern translations of Ptolemy and Strabo, was just as important. In the case of Thule Island, its initial proximity to the North Pole did not stop the toponym from being used to name an island in the Southern Sandwich archipelago during James Cook's second voyage of circumnavigation (1772-1775). In order to understand this process of "dislocation", in which the original significance of Thule seems to have remained unaltered in spite of the island's "relocation" in the proximities of the South Pole, the island's presence in the Latin translation of Ptolemy's *Geographia* (c. 1410), in Olaus Magnus' "Carta Marina" (1539) and in Ortelius *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (1570) will be compared to maps published after Cook's second voyage of exploration [i.e. "A chart of the southern hemisphere, according to the latest discoveries: with the tracks of the Resolution, capn. Cook; and the Adventure, capn. Furneaux; from 1772, to 1775" (1777); "Map of the world on a globular projection exhibiting particularly, the nautical researches of Capn. James Cook, F.R.S. with all the recent discoveries to the present time" (1794-99), and the *Atlas du troisième voyage de Cook ou Voyage à l'Océan Pacifique, exécuté sous la direction des capitaines Cook, Clerke et Gore sur les vaisseaux La Résolution et la Découverte, de 1776 à 1780 etc.* (1784)]. Special attention will be paid to the of the maps' production. The references to Thule in Pierre D'Ailly's 1410 *Imago Mundi* will contribute to explain how the island was perceived in the early 15th century. Likewise, Louis-Antoine de Bougainville's comparison of Thule to the Malouine Islands in his *Voyage autour du monde* (1771) and Antoine-Joseph Pernety's metaphorical use of the Thule toponym in *Histoire d'un voyage aux Isles Malouines, fait en 1763 & 1764* (1770) serve as evidence of the many meanings the name acquired in the context of overseas expansion.

Carolina Martínez is a researcher at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) in Argentina. In 2014 she obtained her PhD in Modern History at the University of Paris 7 – Denis Diderot (France) and the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina) and is currently an Assistant Professor both at the History Department of the University of Buenos Aires and the School of Humanities at the Universidad Nacional de San Martín (UNSAM). Her workplace is the *Laboratorio de Investigación en Ciencias Humanas* (LICH) at the UNSAM, where she conducts research on cultural history and the impact of travel narratives in the shaping of a modern *imago mundi* in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Over the past years she has presented the results of her ongoing research in national and international scientific venues on the subject (Santiago de Chile, 2016; Belo Horizonte, 2017; Amsterdam, 2019, etc.) and has written papers and articles on these topics. Her latest works include the publication of *Mundos perfectos y extraños en los confines del Orbis Terrarum. Utopía y expansión ultramarina en la modernidad temprana (siglos XVI-XVIII)* (Miño y Dávila Editores, 2019), and the forthcoming *El Renacimiento. La vida cultural europea entre los siglos XIV y XVII*, which she co-edited for the *Facultad de Filosofía y Letras* of the University of Buenos Aires. From its inauguration in 2019, she is a list-editor of the H-Maps digital forum.

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