



# ISHMap

International Society for the History of the Map



Environs de Paris. Dessinée... chez A. Compan. 1862.

Source: gallica.bnf.fr / BnF

## Workshop

July 8-9, 2025

Archives nationales (AN), Paris  
Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF), Paris  
Campus Condorcet, Aubervilliers



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## WORKSHOP PROGRAM 8-9 JULY 2025

### DAY 1: July 8, 2025

#### MORNING, Venue: National Archives

- **9:00-10:00 - Introduction** (M. Altic) – overall presentation of the workshop's topic; self-introduce of the participants and their current projects. Note that each participant will contribute one slide to a shared slideshow and introduce themselves (3 minutes).
- **10:00-13:00 – Session I “Maps and Materiality”**, by Camille Serchuk (Southern Connecticut State University) and Nadine Gastaldi (Archives nationales) with assistance of Bertrand Sainte-Marthe, head of Restauration Department of Archives nationales
- **13:00-14:00 - lunch** (served in the Archives)
- **14:00-14:30 - walk** from Archives nationales to BnF (20 mins walk)

#### AFTERNOON, Venue: Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF), Richelieu Site

- **14:30-17:30 – Session II “Deconstruction the Colonial Map”**, by Kory Olson (Stockton University) and Olivier Loiseaux (BnF)

### DAY 2: July 9, 2025, Venue: Campus Condorcet Conference Center (*Centre de Colloques*)

- **9:00-10:00 - Meeting of participants with workshops leaders**, mentoring of the participants, feedback on their projects (3rd floor lecture room)
- **10:00-13:00 – Session III "East and South-East Asia as a Mapping Crossroads: Examples from the BnF Map Collection"** by Paola Calanca (EHESS) and Vera Dorofeeva-Lichtmann (EHESS) with contributing guests
- **13:00-14:00 lunch** (catering) served at Condorcet venue
- **14:00-17:00 – Session IV “Curating Born Digital Maps”** by Martin Davis (Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford) and Pierre Bonneau (BnF)
- **18:00-20:00 – BnF, Opening ceremony of the ISHMap Symposium with keynote** (Salle des conférences, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor), reception will be offered at Salle Emilie du Châtelet (ground floor)

For details about access to the workshop locations and technical requirements of certain sessions, see description of the sessions

## WORKSHOP AND SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZATION

The Workshop and Symposium are convened by the Trustees of the International Society for the History of the Map (ISHMap). They are organized by:

Mirela ALTIC, Professor of History, University of Zagreb, Chair, ISHMap Trustees. Her research and teaching interests include social history of maps, cross-cultural knowledge change and early modern encounter. Her latest book is *Encounters in the New World: Jesuit Cartography of the Americas* (Chicago University Press, 2022).

Juliette DUMASY-RABINEAU, Associate Professor of Medieval History at the University of Orléans, France. She was co-curator of the exhibition *Quand les artistes dessinaient les cartes. Vues et figures de l'espace français, Moyen Âge et Renaissance*, at the Archives Nationales in Paris in 2019. She published, with Camille Serchuk and Emmanuelle Vagnon, *Towards a History of Local Maps in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, Paris, Le Passage, 2022.

Nadine GASTALDI, has spent her entire career as an archivist at the Archives nationales de France. In 2011 she was appointed head of the Maps, Plans and Photographs Section. In this role, she focuses on the fields of cartography and architecture. She was co-curator of the exhibition “When artists drew maps” (Archives nationales, 2019).

Eve NETCHINE, Director of the Maps department of the Bibliothèque nationale de France since 2017, devotes her research to the history of books under the Ancien Régime and to the history of reading and libraries. She also conducts research on the history of cartography and history of the Bibliothèque nationale under the Occupation ("Octobre 42 à la Bibliothèque nationale : Des faits de collaboration par les livres", *Les Temps Modernes* (2017), pp. 147-162; "Un nouveau département de la géographie et ses collections : héritages et refondation, Enrichir les collections, *L'Occupation à l'œuvre à la Bibliothèque nationale*, forthcoming, CNRS Éditions).

## WORKSHOP LEADERS AND ASSOCIATES:

Patrick Beillevaire, UMR8173 Chine-Corée-Japon, CNRS-EHESS; beillev@ehess.fr

Pierre Bonneau, Curator at the Department of Maps (BnF); pierre.bonneau@bnf.fr

Paola Calanca, UMR8173 Chine-Corée-Japon, CNRS-EHESS

Martin Davis (Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford), martin.davis@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

Vera Dorofeeva-Lichtmann, UMR8173 Chine-Corée-Japon, CNRS-EHESS ; vera.dorofeeva-lichtmann@ehess.fr

Nadine Gastaldi, Curator of Maps and Plans, Collections Department, National Archives; nadine.gastaldi@culture.gouv.fr

Martin Hofmann, Heidelberg University; hofmann@hcts.uni-heidelberg.de

Diana Lange, Humboldt University, Berlin; diana.lange@hu-berlin.de

Olivier Loiseaux, Chief Curator at the Department of Maps, BnF; olivier.loiseaux@bnf.fr

Max Moerman, Columbia University; dmoerman@barnard.edu

Kory Olson, Stockton University, US; Kory.Olson@stockton.edu

Richard Pegg, MacLean Collection, Chicago; rpegg@macleancollection.com

Camille Serchuk, Professor of Art History, Southern Connecticut State University (US), serchukc1@southernct.edu

## SESSION I: MAPS AND MATERIALITY



Image credit: Plan of Picauville, Archives nationales, N/III/Manche/2, 18th century.

**8 July 2025, Archives nationales, Paris**  
**CARAN - Centre de Recherches des Archives nationales**  
**11 rue des Quatre-Fils, 75003 Paris**  
**Phone : + 33 (0)1 75 47 20 00**

### Access:

- Métro: Hôtel de Ville (ligne 1), Rambuteau (ligne 11), Arts et Métiers (ligne 3).
- Bus: lines 29 et 75, stop Archives-Haudriettes or Archives-Rambuteau.
- You can also enter by crossing the gardens of the Hôtel de Soubise, 60 rue des Francs-Bourgeois, 75003 Paris.
- Please store your personal belongings in a locker before joining the group.

### Workshop leaders:

Nadine Gastaldi, Curator of Maps and Plans, Collections Department, National Archives

Camille Serchuk, Professor of Art History, Southern Connecticut State University (US).

This workshop will consider how the material character of the map – be it the support on which it was made, the media used to make it, the techniques by means of which the map was established, the way it was displayed or stored, and the marks of ownership or classification on its surface – add meaning and context to its presentation of information. Materials can help to localize where a map was made; they can reveal details of its production methods or context; they can demonstrate provenance or purpose. This workshop, which will invite participants to closely examine and discuss a variety of map materialities, will highlight the importance of the form and format of the map as instruments for interpretation.

**Schedule:**

Archives nationales, Salle Multimédia

**9:00-10:00** – General introduction to Workshop by Mirela Altic

Archives nationales, Location: CARAN reading room (2nd floor)

**10:10-10:45** – Introduction to different types of map materialities, including materials, media, techniques processes, display, classifying tags, and other features.

**10:45-12:05** – Small groups: each group (4-5 people) will have 1 or 2 maps to examine and discuss; each small group will present their examples to the entire group and discuss with all of the participants.

Break

**12:15-12:45** – Visit to the conservation lab for a presentation and discussion of map conservation techniques and challenges and concluding remarks.

**13:00-14:00** - Lunch in the gardens or the entry hall of the AN, depending on weather.

**14:00-14.30** - walk from Archives nationales to BnF (20 mins walk)

## SESSION II: DECONSTRUCTING THE COLONIAL MAP

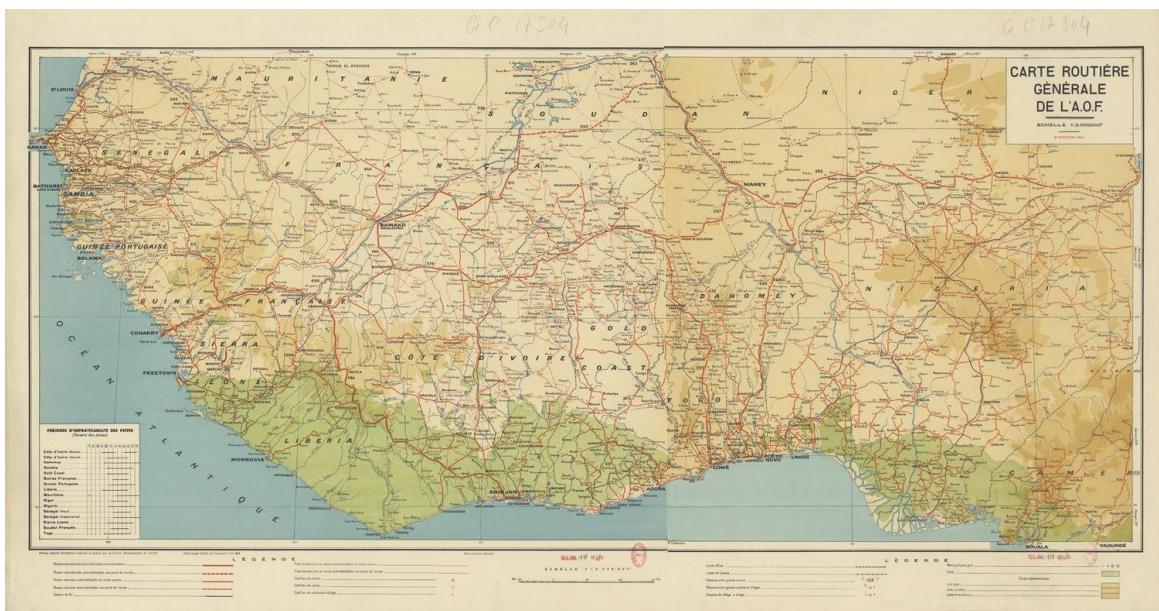


Image credit: Carte routière générale de l'A. O. F. Service Géographique de l'A. O. F. (Dakar), 1947. BnF, département Cartes et plans, GE C-17304

8 July 2025, Bibliothèque nationales de France (BnF)  
Richelieu Site, Salle Emilie du Châtelet (ground floor lecture room from courtyard side)  
Entrance: 5, rue Vivienne 75002

## Access by Métro:

- Lignes 3 (Bourse), 1 and 7 (Palais-Royal-Musée du Louvre), 7 and 14 (Pyramides)

## Workshop leaders:

Kory Olson, Stockton University, US

Olivier Loiseaux, Chief Curator at the Department of Maps, BnF

This workshop will investigate how a western society (France) mapped and viewed its colonial possessions in Africa. The afternoon will start with cartographic presentations of French (African) colonial space from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We will discuss how Europeans appropriated large swaths of territory and claimed them, at first on paper, as their own. The eventual “conquering” of desert, jungles, and indigenous peoples provided Paris with on-the-ground knowledge and more accurate maps – but from a western point of view. Our first exercise will examine up close various examples of these maps and how the land is presented for an audience back home. We will look at the map properties (size, form, function), cartographic discourse (language, shapes, colors, symbols), and the subject matter (full colonies, large cities, game reserves). The second portion of the workshop will focus on commercial and tourist maps of African territories. Colonial governments hoped to improve their economic prospects by bringing

in visitors and potential new colonists. Maps showed an exotic continent, with big game, abundant resources, and ways to cross regions in personal automobiles. The second activity will follow the same format as the first, and allow participants to look at road maps and guidebook maps for how they hoped to draw more western visitors to a stereotypical dangerous, but exotic place.

**Schedule:**

**14:30-14:45 – Introduction** to the French colonial presence in Africa (Kory Olson and Olivier Loiseaux)

**14:45-15:15 – French Colonial Cartography – presentation** on French produced cartography in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We will show examples of how French explorers, (French) Geographical Societies, French Cartographic Services as well as French Colonial ones drew and mapped French possessions in Africa. We will also look at the newly-independent cartographic agencies. (Olivier Loiseaux)

**15:15-16:00 – activity** – in groups of 3-4, participants will examine maps created to document French colonial Africa. We will look at how the land, indigenous peoples, and resources are presented to a western audience back home.

**16:00-16:15 – coffee break**

**16:15-16:45 – Commercial/Tourist Cartography – presentation** on commercial and touristic maps (Michelin, Shell, Baedeker, Hachette, etc.) and how western publishers presented the African continent as a place of exotic play and exploration – both before and after independence. (Kory Olson)

**16:45-17:30 – activity** – in groups of 3-4, participants will examine road maps and guidebook cartography to see how it compares to the examples of more official cartography in the first half of the workshop.

## SESSION III: EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA MAS A MAPPING CROSSROADS: EXAMPLES FROM THE BNF MAP COLLECTION

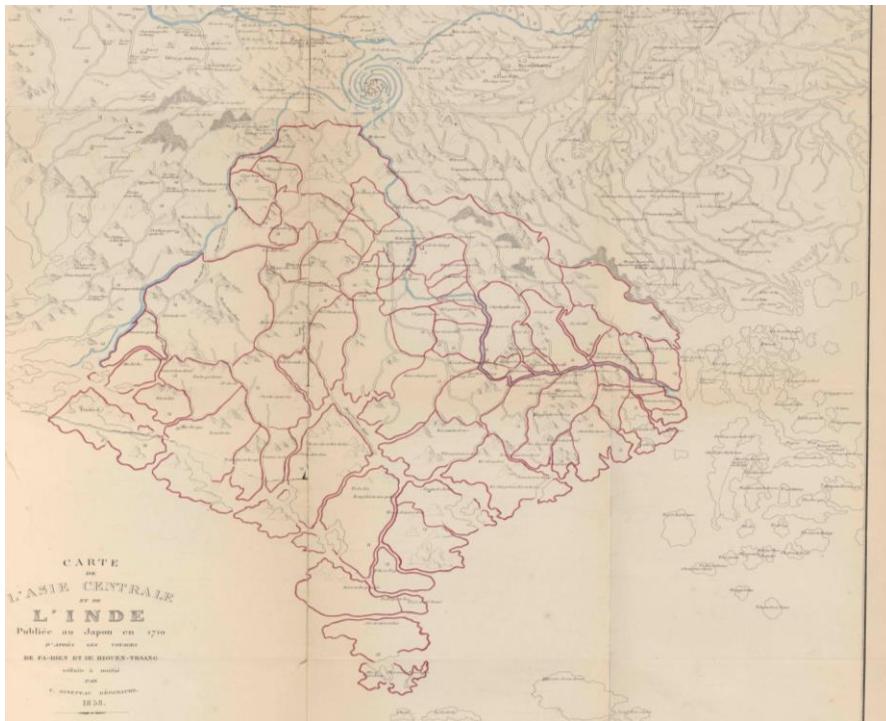


Image credit: Carte de L'Asie Centrale et de L'Inde. Publiée au Japon en 1710, d'après les voyages de Fa-hien et de Hiouenthsang réduite à moitié par P. Bineteau, 1858. Colombia University Libraries

**9 July 2025, Campus Condorcet, Aubervilliers  
Conference Centre (*Centre de Colloques*), Front Populaire, (3rd floor lecture room)**

### Access by Métro:

The Conference Centre (*Centre de Colloques*) of the Campus Condorcet at the Aubervilliers is located just off the Front Populaire metro station on the Metro line 12.

### Workshop leaders:

Paola Calanca, EFEO - UMR8173 Chine-Corée-Japon, CNRS-EHESS

Vera Dorofeeva-Lichtmann, UMR8173 Chine-Corée-Japon, CNRS-EHESS

### Guest contributors (alphabetically):

Mirela Altic, University of Zagreb, ISHMap Chair; Patrick Beillevaire, UMR8173 Chine-Corée-Japon, CNRS-EHESS; Martin Hofmann, Heidelberg University; Diana Lange, Humboldt University, Berlin; Max Moerman, Columbia University; Richard Pegg, MacLean Collection, Chicago

The goal of the proposed workshop session, taking the history of mapping of East and South-East Asia as an example, is to serve as a demonstration to a selected group of early career scholars in the history of cartography, hereafter “students”, a case of a distinct area of mapping activity where several autochthonous cartographical traditions interact, and at the same time, cope with the diffusion of modern Western cartography. The “students” will be asked to provide short typologically similar examples from their areas of competence. East and South-East Asia has long been a crossroads for complex and multi-directional exchanges of geographical knowledge and cartographical practices. The core of this area of cartographical interactions is constituted by four congener cartographical traditions, the so-called “sinographic” cartographies, namely, those using Chinese characters (Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Vietnamese) and relying on the same system of basic spatial concepts.

The workshop session will have two focuses. The first is cartographical representations of the coasts of East and South-East Asia as an area of especially intensive interactions of mapping practices. The second is the hybridisation of cartographical representations, with special attention to maps, which results from the interaction of more than two cartographical traditions, as, for instance, the Selden Map. The “students” will be taught to distinguish the specific characteristics of East Asian and South-East Asian traditional maps, beginning with their material properties (e.g. media, printing technics, layouts etc.), thus highlighting their difference and similarities to the modern Western maps of this geographical region, as well as mutual influences between traditional and modern Western cartographies.

The workshop leaders will choose a selection of digitised maps of East and South-East Asia from the extraordinarily rich collections of the BnF, and discuss them with the “students”, while always making sure to highlight the material characteristics of the originals. The great majority of the maps of East and South-East Asia possessed by the BnF have been digitised or are in the process of being digitised as part of a project currently pursued by the BnF: «LA CARTOGRAPHIE DE L’EXTRÊME-ORIENT À LA BNF: construction et composition d’une collection nationale (XVIIe-XXe siècle), 2024-2027» co-directed by Eve Netchine, *département des Cartes et plans, directrice*; Catherine Hofmann, *département des Cartes et plans, cheffe du service des fonds patrimoniaux et du dépôt legal*, Julie Garel-Grislin, *département des Cartes et plans, cheffe du service Conservation et communication*). The UMR8173 Chine-Corée-Japon (CNRS-EHESS), the affiliation of the workshop session co-organisers and moderators, Paola Calanca and Vera Dorofeeva-Lichtmann, is one of the main institutional collaborators in the project. The proposed workshop session will provide the “students” with a unique opportunity to contribute to this on-going research project of reinvestigating the maps of East and South-East Asia in the BnF collection.

### Schedule:

#### **10:00 – 11:00. - Workshop guest’ presentations, focus 1: Cartographical representations of the Coast of the East and the South-East Asia**

- Martin Hofmann: a manuscript sketch by d’Anville of a map of ancient China, its relation to the printed map of ancient China by Brion (1778) and Chinese sources – why the southern sea-coast is missing? (15 mins);
- Richard Pegg: The “Blue” map version of the BnF. Chinese cartographical tradition and its way of incorporating expanded knowledge of the world, representation of the East Asian coastal area in the “Blue” Maps (15 mins);

- Mirela Altic: Jesuit maps of Vietnam in comparison with traditional Vietnamese maps (15 mins);
- Tasks for collective reflection: incorporation of Vietnam into the general maps of the Chinese imperial realm (15 mins)

**11:00 – 11:45 - Workshop guest's presentations, focus 2: hybrid maps:**

- Diana Lange: Tibet between three cartographical traditions (15 mins);
- Max Moerman: The use of Hōtan's world map (1710+) by Klaproth, Rémusat and Julien; (15 mins);
- Patrick Beillevaire: Mapping Okinawa as a crossroads of cartographic traditions (15 mins)

**11:45-12:00** - Coffee break

**12:00 – 13:00** - short presentations of “students”: typologically similar examples of cartographical interactions (ca. 3-4 mins per person)

**- 13:00-14:00** - lunch served at Condorcet venue (EHESS building, covered garden area, across the street from Centre de Colloques)

## SESSION IV: CURATING BORN-DIGITAL MAPS



Image credit: The UK Legal Deposit Library electronic map viewer, displaying Ordnance Survey vector data.

### 9 July 2025, Campus Condorcet, Aubervilliers Conference Centre, Front Populaire, (3rd floor lecture room)

#### Access by Métro:

The Aubervilliers Campus Condorcet is located just off the Front Populaire metro station on the Metro line 12.

#### Workshop leaders:

Martin Davis (Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford)

Pierre Bonneau, Curator at the Department of Maps (BnF)

*\*Participants will need a laptop and access to the internet during the exercises.*

#### Schedule:

**14:00-14:45 – Presentation:** Curating born digital maps: challenges and opportunities (Martin Davis)

**14:45-15:30 – Exercise 1:** Exploring the value of born-digital maps\*

**15:30-15:45 – Break**

**15:45-16:15 – Presentation:** Innovations in preserving digital maps at the BnF (Pierre Bonneau)

**16:15-16:50 – Exercise 2:** Using IIIF for map images and metadata\*

**16:50-17:00 – Concluding remarks**

This workshop aims to give an overview of the challenges and possible solutions associated with curating born-digital maps. The afternoon will start with an introductory presentation by Martin Davis (Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford) which, after discussing what we mean when referring to 'born-digital maps', will explain why preserving them is important to future research.

We will then examine some of the challenges with curating born-digital maps, including technological and legal obstacles, identifying how these have hindered progress in this field. We will also take a look at some examples of libraries and archives which have made progress towards overcoming these challenges. Our first practical exercise will give participants the opportunity to work in small groups to identify born-digital map content online, and discuss its potential usefulness to future research, and the potential challenges with archiving it. The group will then produce some metadata for the resource, which would help users to find and understand the archived content.

After a short break, we will hear from Pierre Bonneau (Bibliothèque nationale de France) who will explain some of the innovative methods being used at the BNF in relation to digital maps. Pierre will show how the change in format from floppy disks and CD-ROMs toward online content has presented new challenges for the library. The second exercise will provide an opportunity to learn more about the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF), including how its high-resolution capabilities and metadata standards make it well-suited to map content. There will be opportunity to use some IIIF viewers, discuss issues within small groups, and ask questions.

## Participants (by alphabetical order)

### Historical-Colonial Atlases of Brazil and the Visual Narrative of the State

Camila Alves Ávila, São Paulo State University (UNESP), School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Franca

**Abstract:** This project is part of a scientific initiation research dedicated to identifying and investigating the textual and visual sources that supported the creation of the "Livro que dá Razão do Estado do Brasil" (Book that Explains the State of Brazil), attributed to Sergeant-Major Diogo de Campos Moreno. This book was produced between 1612 and 1627 and is one of the carto-textual sources of Brazilian history that underwent several reproductions, alterations, including additions and removals of cartographic images. It is also a frequently cited yet understudied source by historians. The atlas that comprises it forms the first visual narrative of the territory of Brazil. The aim of this project is to determine whether the cartographic images in the "Livro que dá Razão do Estado do Brasil" served as a guide for navigation and accessibility along the southern coast.

**Key words:** Imperial State; Sovereignty; Colonialism; Nautical Science; Atlas; Cartography.

**Bio:** Graduating in History from the University of São Paulo "Júlio de Mesquita Filho" (UNESP). Currently a FAPESP scholarship holder - Scientific Initiation in History at UNESP/Franca. Graduated in Law from the University of Franca (UNIFRAN), Postgraduate in Notarial and Registration Law.



### The Land of Many Names: Cartography and Territoriality

Zeinab Azarbadeegan, University of Oxford

**Abstract:** Starting by problematizing the narratives of "inventedness" of Iraq exemplified by the Sykes-Picot Map, I examine how the various placenames for the space of Ottoman Iraq were used in geographical knowledge production. Conducting a chronological survey of maps and cartographic representations, as well as textual knowledge in geographical dictionaries, I argue that each empire appropriated the history of a set of certain placenames for Ottoman Iraq to assert their own imperial sovereignty in the region. The Ottomans were interested in prioritizing their own administrative divisions in referring to space. They had to contend with both European conceptions of Ottoman Iraq as Mesopotamia and Qajar conception of Ottoman Iraq as one of two Iraqs, Iraq-i Arab and Iraq-i Ajam, the latter of which referred to central Iranian heartland Methodologically, the chapter examines three technologies of territoriality

(naming, mapping, governing) to demonstrate how cartography was employed in service of assertion of sovereignty.

**Bio:** Zeinab Azarbadeegan is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at University of Oxford. She will join Yale University as an Assistant Professor of 19th C Middle East in July 2025. She is currently working on her first monograph, "Knowledge Empires: Science and Contested Sovereignty in Nineteenth Century Ottoman Iraq," investigates the relationship between scientific knowledge production and contested claims to imperial sovereignty by the Ottomans, the Iranians and the Europeans in Ottoman Iraq. Her doctoral thesis has won the Howard and Natalie Shawn Prize for the best dissertation (modern period) in the Department of History at Columbia University. Her work has appeared in the Journal of Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association, Philological Encounters, and Jerusalem Quarterly.

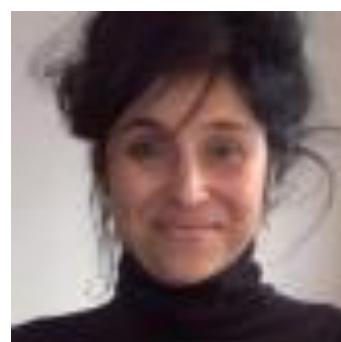
### **Writing History with Maps: Border Areas of Northern New Spain (15th to 18th Centuries / Mexico-USA 19th Century)**

Amaia Cabranes Rubio, Sorbonne Université

Whereas it has been widely agreed that maps are an essential source for historians, there is no doubt that cartographic representations also constitute a means and a medium for writing history. In this sense, I intend to explore to what extent and how cartography has contributed to the writing of the history of the border spaces of the north of New Spain (16th-18th Centuries), later crystallized in the Mexican-USA border (19th Century). What stories do the maps of these "marginal" spaces tell? How are they told? By whom and for what purpose? What role did cartography play in the construction of the notion of "border" - long before it became a separating line between the two States - as well as the process of colonial, and later state, territorialization of these regions. Are there any counter-mapping? Individual and / or collective memories of the borders recorded in maps? In the context of spectacular development of digital humanities in recent decades – which has transformed our working methods-, working in situ, at the David Rumsey Map Center consulting maps in-person, is essential; all the more that this research project aims to highlight the importance of maps as material objects, to question their functions, circulation, modes of production and reception, as well as those who made them.

**Bio:** 2024 David Rumsey Map Center of Stanford Fellowship; 2022 Associate Professor of Latin American History, Institute of Iberian and Latino-American Studies at University of Sorbonne. Paris. 2018-2022 Associate Professor of Latin American History at Iberian and Iberian-American Studies Department. Bordeaux Montaigne University. 2016-2018 Temporary Lecturer. Spanish Department at University of Versailles Saint-Quentin en Yvelines. 2012-2016 High School teacher at

Collège Honoré de Balzac & Lycée Dorien. Paris.



## Coding Empires: Cartography and Forms of Knowledge in Nineteenth Century China

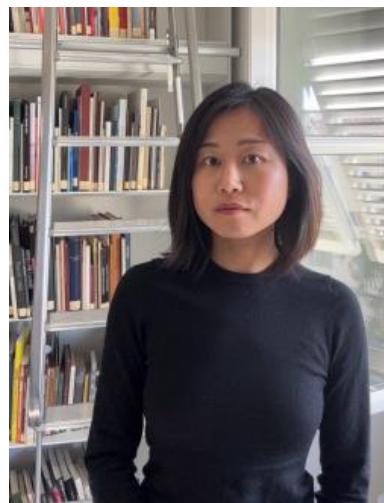
Mimi Cheng, Newberry Library Fellow

**Abstract:** This project examines connections between imperialism, visuality, and technical knowledge in modern Sino-foreign relations. It centers the production, circulation, and reception of cartographic images and objects—geographic maps, territorial surveys, and observational drawings—created by Chinese, British, and Germans, and analyzes them in relation to notions of empiricism and territoriality in the last decades of the Qing empire (1644 -c.1911). The project proceeds along two lines of inquiry. First, it examines maps as both a transhistorical and transcultural category of analysis. Second, it considers the material and political processes that are embedded within them. Maps reside at the intersection of epistemology and representation, form and function. The geographic data contained within them is often only extractable by considering culturally relative modes of perception and interpretation. Materiality and making also play an important role. In addition to maps created through woodblock, lithography, and copperplate, others take the form of aesthetic objects that invite contemplation and bodily engagement.

This project is situated in nineteenth-century China because it was a pivotal moment of cultural confluence and political tumult. The cultural techniques that developed in the process were informed by overlapping spheres of imperialism and concepts of modernity. Taken together, Coding Empires aspires to construct a visual epistemology, one that connects imperial science with aesthetic production in the nineteenth century.

**Bio:** Mimi Cheng is a cultural historian of the global nineteenth century with research interests in three overlapping areas: transnational visual culture between Europe and East Asia, comparative histories of cartography and the built environment, and the relationship between knowledge and imperialism. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher with the Lise Meitner Group ‘Coded Objects,’ where she is completing her first book manuscript. Prior to joining the KHI, Mimi was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at the Newberry Library in Chicago. Her research has recently appeared in the *Journal of Historical Geography* and has been supported by American Council for Learned Societies, Social Science Research Council, German Historical Institute Washington,

and the Forschungzentrum Gotha at the Universität Erfurt, among others. She received her doctorate from the University of Rochester in 2022.



## **Historical Cartography and Processes of Racialization: The Case of the Mural Maps by Longchamps and Janvier (1754)**

Milena Natividade da Cruz, São Paulo State University (UNESP)

**Abstract:** This article aims to present general considerations derived from the master's research entitled Black geographies: cartographies evidence for a history of racism in the Enlightenment (1685-1777). The research aimed to reconstruct the contexts that preceded the creation of the mural map series published in 1754 in Paris by geographers Sébastien-G. Longchamps and Jean Janvier. Through an internal analysis of the sources, representation patterns were identified, and their interpretation suggests intriguing clues for understanding the processes of racialization, which were in full development from the eighteenth century onwards. This interpretation was further enriched by cross-referencing with other documentary types, such as travel accounts, geographical memoirs, literary works, and natural history texts. In light of this problematization, the present text seeks to highlight some key threads that guided the analyses conducted.

**Bio:** Milena Natividade da Cruz holds a master's degree in Social History from the University of São Paulo (DH-FFLCH) in 2023, where she conducted her thesis entitled "Geografias negreiras: indícios cartográficos para uma história do racismo no Século das Luzes (1685-1777)". She obtained her bachelor's degree from the same Institution in 2018. Currently, she serves as a research assistant at the Laboratório de Estudos de Cartografia Histórica (LECH-USP), supervised by Professor Iris Kantor. In addition to her

academic pursuits, she is engaged as a teacher in public middle school.



## **The macro regionalism tourist in Mexico. A look from the theory of Panregions**

Jonathan Gómora Alarcón, University of Groningen

**Abstract:** This chapter aims to develop the regional tourism of Southeastern Mexico by utilising both theoretical and cartographic elements of geopolitics in the context of the "Mayan Train" megaproject. To achieve this aim, we start by acknowledging the contributions of critical thinking in geopolitics, examining how the concept of "regional," formulated by Karl Haushofer in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, has been redefined within the framework of critical geopolitics in the 21st century. This involves reviewing the contributions of various authors from both Anglo-Saxon and Latin American schools, focusing on the construction, deconstruction, and reconstruction of the concept of region as it applies to Southeast Mexico. Moreover, we explore the intrinsic relationship between the regional and the behaviour of the State, emphasising the characterization of the Mexican Southeast in tourist terms and how the State has reinforced the notion of regionalism in this context. Additionally, we integrate the cartographic method of

diatopos, developed by Yves Lacoste, which enables the consolidation of the pan-regional proposal for Southeast Mexico through multi-scalar analysis and the use of cartography, underscoring its significance in the development of the Mayan Train.

**Bio:** Jonathan Gómora is pursuing his PhD in Social and Political Sciences with a mention in International Relations at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and a double degree at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. In addition, He is a geographer for UNAM and has a master's degree from Instituto de Investigaciones Dr José María Luis Mora; he has a diploma in the Economic history of Mexico from Museo Interactivo de Economía. He has completed his specialisation studies in negotiating and managing political and social conflicts at UNAM. He has dedicated his life to academia, teaching secondary, high school, and university courses in Geography, economic geography, ecotourism, research methodology, and sustainable development. He specialises in geopolitics, tourism, resources,

and sustainable development from a critical perspective and in studies of borders, territories, and regions.



## Map Encounters in the Early Modern Dutch Republic

Marissa Griffioen, University of Amsterdam

**Abstract:** This PhD project examines map encounters, focusing on cartographic experiences documented in early modern textual and visual sources. Traditionally, historians have concentrated on the content of maps and their makers. More recently, however, scholarship has shifted towards materiality and the material culture of maps (e.g., Dillon 2007; Carlton 2015; Brückner 2017; Rossetto 2019). This project explores a new encounter-oriented approach to maps. By analysing the spaces where maps were kept and used, the people involved, and the (sensory) experiences associated with these encounters, the project sheds new light on the circulation and use of maps in the past. The central research question is: how common and widespread were cartographic objects in early modern society? To answer this question, the project focuses on the Dutch Republic – one of the European centres for maps in the early modern period. By tracing, collecting, and analysing these in visual and textual sources – including paintings, prints, travel journals, inventories, advertisements, and other records of map encounters – the project analyses what happened to cartographic objects after they were produced. How and why were they used? By whom, and in what ways? Addressing these questions will contribute to a deeper understanding of the cultural history and societal significance of cartographic objects in early modern Dutch society.

**Bio:** I studied History at Leiden University and completed my MA in Book Studies at the University of Amsterdam in 2019, specialising in historical cartography. After graduating, I

worked as a Brill Fellow (Scaliger Institute/Leiden University Library) on map annotations in the Bodel Nijenhuis Map Collection and the Maps in Context project – a searchable and relational web database. My research is object-oriented, with a particular interest in the material culture and cultural history of early modern maps, as well as the interaction between cartographic objects and their users. Currently, I am working on my PhD project Map Encounters in the Early Modern Dutch Republic at the University of Amsterdam. The project explores the phenomenon of “map encounters” – everyday cartographic experiences documented in early modern textual and visual sources. My project aims to demonstrate how descriptions and representations of people encountering and using maps provide new insights into the circulation and use of maps in early modern Dutch society. I received the Best Paper Award for the paper I presented on this project at the ISHMap Symposium in 2023 in Berlin.

## **Cartographic Continuities und Socialist Scales: The VEB Hermann Haack Gotha in the 1950s**

Dominic Keyßner, Centre for Transcultural Studies, University of Erfurt

**Abstract:** The history of the publishing house Justus Perthes Gotha, especially in the 20th century, was marked by various political upheavals and the tensions. The location of the publishing house in the GDR ultimately led to expropriation in 1953 and subsequent communization, which had far-reaching consequences. Despite its long tradition, the publishing house was restructured as a state-owned enterprise (Volkseigener Betrieb), which also led to a reconfiguration of its cartography in the light of socialist political ideology. However, this raises the question: how was cartography reshaped under socialism? My project addresses this question through the cartographic knowledge production of VEB Hermann Haack, examining how political interests influenced the modes and contents of mapping and mapmaking. This also raises the question of what type of cartography was developed under socialism and the Cold War and how it positioned itself within international contexts.

**Bio:** Dominic Keyßner, M.A., is a doctoral candidate at the Chair of Global History at the University of Erfurt. He also serves as the research coordinator at the Centre for Transcultural Studies / Perthes Collection at the Gotha Research Campus of Erfurt University. Keyßner studied Art History and Cultural History at the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena and holds an M.A. in Collection-Based History of Knowledge and Culture from the University of Erfurt. He is a participant in the graduate school “History of Knowledge.” His ongoing research, titled “The Socialist Scale: The Cartographic Production of VEB Hermann Haack, 1955–1989,” investigates the political influences on the cartographic production of the East German state-owned publisher VEB Hermann Haack in the second half of the 20th century, exploring how socialist ideologies shaped the field of cartography.

## Decolonising art

Ellie King, National Library of Wales

**Abstract:** The National Library of Wales's Decolonising Art project began in 2023. Four artists – Joshua Donkor, Jasmine Violet, Mfikela Jean Samuel and Dr Adéolá Dewis – have received a commission to create new works of art in response to the library's collections, while facing some difficult or challenging aspects of history. The result is new works of art which are now part of the library's permanent collections, contributing to the library's work to improve the diversity of the collection so that it can be a better reflection of Wales. Two of the four Decolonising Art projects were based on items from the map collection. The new work by Mfikela Jean Samuel – which responds to 1940s British Government publicity maps of Britain's West African possessions – draws attention to what was omitted from the map and looks at how maps influence our perception of the world. Jasmine Violet has based her work on maps, images and architectural drawings relating to a sugar plantation in Jamaica, and the estate in south Wales that was bought from the proceeds.

**Bio:** I have been Assistant Map Curator at the National Library of Wales (NLW) in Aberystwyth since 2019. I recently curated the exhibition Wales to the World for the National Library's satellite gallery at the Riverside in Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire (on display October 2023-March 2024), and am currently working on recataloging NLW's overseas mapping and digitising our extensive collection of 1st edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch maps. I am part of the organising committee for the annual Wales map symposium Carto Cymru, held online and in person at NLW each May, and have spoken about NLW's maps on BBC Radio Cymru's Dei Tomos and Aled Hughes programmes. I recently appeared on Welsh-language TV channel S4C as part of Cyfrinachau'r Llyfrgell [Secrets of the Library]. Before joining NLW, I worked on

the Hebrew Manuscripts Digitisation Project at the British Library and as a digitisation photographer for Bespoke Archive Digitisation, photographing collections from the Royal Society, the British Library, the Wellcome Collection, the Arcadian Library, and various private collections. I have an MA in Information and Library Studies, an MSc in Museum Studies, and a BA in Archaeology.



## Maps of Asia - Digital Collection

Madeline Lowry, University of Texas at Arlington

**Abstract:** The Cartographic Collections at the University of Texas at Arlington mainly focus on documenting the discovery, exploration, and mapping of Texas and the American Southwest, but we also collect to tell the broader history of cartography and mapmaking as a whole. Our

international geographic representation has increased over the years, but we still have gaps in non-European cartographic perspectives. Our new focus is to acquire and digitize maps that highlight the cartographic traditions of the East. Our first step is to complete a large-scale inventory of our maps as we need to regain physical and intellectual control of the collections. We will use this data to inform collection development policies and identify the gaps we need to fill. Next, we will research Asian mapmaking history and identify maps we can purchase that will best serve our researchers and patrons. Once we have curated our collection of Asian maps, we will work with our Digitization Services team to scan the maps, create metadata, and make these maps available online.

**Bio:** Madeline Lowry is the current Cartographic Archivist for Special Collections at the University of Texas at Arlington. She is a certified archivist through the Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA) and has experience working in special and academic libraries with a focus on rare books and print history. Her background extends across the areas of collection management, cataloguing, archival processing, exhibit design, digitization, reference, and outreach. She first gained her passion for material culture and research after receiving her BA in English and Anthropology from Texas A&M University. She then went on to pursue her MLIS from the University of North Texas. Ms. Lowry has used her skills at various library, archive, and museum settings to increase the accessibility of historic artifacts and collections. While working for the Idaho State Archives, she reorganized the rare book collection to follow preservation best practices, created

physical and digital exhibits during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to continue serving patrons virtually, and taught classes to the community on specialized research skills. In 2024 she received her MA in the History of the Book from the University of London's School of Advanced Study where she studied the evolution of book production and manuscript culture. She is currently applying this knowledge to the cartographic collections at UTA and hopes to continue focusing on open access and innovative collecting strategies.



### **Atlas of Empire: knowledge and its contingency through correspondences, and draft-information on maps published by Petermanns Geographischen Mitteilungen in Gotha by scholars in the Pacific**

Christian Lemuel Magaling, Bonn International Graduate School-Oriental and Asian Studies

**Abstract:** This research project is about the previously unpublished correspondence, and complementary materials studied by Otto Finsch on the Pacific Islands and Ferdinand Blumentritt on the Philippine archipelago that were submitted to the Petermanns Geographischen Mitteilungen (PGM henceforth) in Gotha, Germany. Study of scholarly production and politics of knowledge during the late 19th century usually interprets from

published, heavily edited papers issued in various journals that could range from varying degrees of disciplinary or ideological focus. This research on the unpublished supplementary drafts of Finsch and Blumentritt's works aim to reflect on the incompleteness of knowledge, its contingency, that can be discerned in its foundational form by reconstructing them through manuscripts submitted to the PGM by selected authors who worked on the Pacific in the 19th century. By doing so, this could acquaint readers to a scholarly manuscript's life in different stages of production. But it will also highlight the different aspects of cooperation, and other mechanisms such as translation, interpretation, information gathering that involved non-scientific actors who assisted scientists in their quest to formalise knowledge, while editing their sources that may intentionally or unintentionally silenced, redacted valuable pieces of information in the process of scholarly output when looked at from historical perspective.

**Keywords:** Pacific, Otto Finsch, Ferdinand Blumentritt, Gotha, Petermanns Geographischen Mitteilungen

**Bio:** Christian Lemuel Magaling is a Filipino researcher and translator currently writing his dissertation at the Bonn International Graduate School-Oriental & Asian Studies. He is a 2024 holder of the Herzog-Ernst Scholarship at the Gotha Research Center in Erfurt, Germany, and was also a fellow of the Pour une Histoire Européenne du Droit des Affaires (PHEDRA) in La Rábida, Spain last summer of 2024. Currently, he is part of the Global Archive Online graduate school by the Humanistiska fakultetens forskarskola where he participates in discussions and workshops concerning digital access to transnational archival materials. His research includes labour studies,

intellectual history, European scientific expeditions, and private aspects of long-distance trade in Maritime Southeast Asia and the West Pacific.



## **Early English maps of Asia in the context of the East India Company's formative years (1590s-1620s)**

Louise McCarthy, Université Paris Cité

**Abstract:** The aim of my doctoral research is to identify the specificities of British cartography in the context of Britain's early long-distance commercial ventures overseas (1580s-1620s). I seek to understand how cartographic discourse about the "East Indies" (where the English established "factories") and "Virginia" (the site of one of England's first American colonies) became inflected by a corporate culture centred on profits, and by the rhetoric of the trading companies' promotional campaigns.

My thesis mostly builds on the detailed first-hand analysis of the maps which have shaped England's early geo-economic imagination, comparing the visual rhetoric of these documents with textual material of a promotional nature. These documents include such discursive forms as sermons delivered to future investors, court masques, travel literature, travel compendia, etc. My analyses rest on a double comparative approach as I examine maps and texts conjointly, and study material relating to east Asia or North America. My research focuses on the formative and experimental years of two joint-stock companies, the Virginia Company of London (VC), and the English East India Company (EIC), from their immediate pre-history (1580s) to their genesis (early 1600s) and their first ventures (1610s).

**Keywords:** early modern maps, Elizabethan and Jacobean eras, joint-stock companies, promotional literature, rhetoric, trade, colonisation

**Bio:** I am a French-British 4th-year PhD candidate at Université Paris Cité, working under the supervision of Professor Ladan Niayesh. My doctoral thesis is entitled “Visualising Abundance: the promotional cartography and literature of the Virginia Company and the East India Company, 1600-1626”. It is due to be submitted and defended later this year (2025). I have received a master’s degree in early modern studies from Université Paris Cité (formerly, Université de Paris) in 2021. My master’s dissertation entitled “Treasure Maps: Cartography in the Hands of the Virginia Company and the East India Company, 1600-1625” laid the groundwork for my ongoing doctoral thesis, and received the prizes for best MA dissertation from the SEAA1718 (Société d’Etudes Anglo-Américaines des XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles) and from the French Shakespeare Society in 2022. I have also been a teaching

assistant at Université Paris Cité for four years, and have supervised in French at Queens’ College, Cambridge. I currently teach French undergraduates anglophone literature (which includes a module on maps and literature), as well as translation and English language classes.



## **Geography Triumphant: Maps, Cartographic Truths, and Imperial Frontier-Making in Tibet in the Long Nineteenth Century**

Sayantani Mukherjee, Ashoka University

**Abstract:** Geography Triumphant explores the intersection of two powerful, transnational discourses—scientific geography and imperial statecraft. Drawing on research in archives across Taiwan and China, including Tibet, India, and England, the book offers an entangled history of imperial map-making in and of the Himalayas, drawing on late nineteenth and early twentieth century Qing Chinese and British Indian geographical policies and practice. With a

unique focus on Tibetan, Indian, and Chinese subaltern agents moving through and past the Himalayas, I write a history of the complex, interconnected processes that transformed vibrant pre-colonial geographies into the “peripheries” of empires. Arguing that that imperial mapping practices did not center a systematic mapping of territory, I explore the tensions present in the construction of a “universal” lexicon of map reading and knowledge in the discourses of empirical scientific practice in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

**Bio:** I am a historian of science and empire who specializes in modern Chinese history, South Asian history, and labor history. I currently hold the position of Assistant Professor jointly at the Department of History and Centre for China Studies at Ashoka University, India. I received my Ph.D. in History from Columbia University in 2021, and am currently working on my first book manuscript, tentatively titled “Geography Triumphant: Maps, Cartographic Truths, and Imperial Frontier-Making in Tibet in the Long Nineteenth Century”. Drawing on archival research in multiple languages and sites across India, England, Taiwan and China, including Tibet, my book foregrounds the coercive

socio-technological discourses employed by British India and Qing China in exploring, identifying, and spatially constituting Tibet.



## Founding the Song dynasty through Pacification: The case of the Lidai dili zhizhang tu 历代地理指掌图 (Handy Geographical Maps Through the Ages)

Silvio Lorenzo Ruberto, Leiden University & Utrecht University

This draft article has been forming slowly as a side project to my master’s theses in Utrecht and Leiden through the following stages: audit of a course on geographic sources in imperial China at the Ca’ Foscari University of Venice (summer 2022), the translation of parts of the atlas as part of a course of Advanced Classical Chinese at Leiden University (fall 2023), and a Summer School in Comparative Philosophy about Peace at the Hong Kong Baptist University (summer 2024). However, as it will be apparent in the draft below, it still lacks the analysis of the strictly visual parts of the atlas due to my limited training in art history, which I hope to develop thanks to the upcoming ISHMap Workshop – 2025 “Mapping the Cultural Crossroads”, Campus Condorcet (Aubervilliers), Paris, France, July 8-9.

Main Argument: The atlas legitimizes the unification of many Chinese polities under the leadership of the Song dynasty and its first two emperors through the idea of a peaceful transition of power, as shown by Hilde de Weerdt (*Imago Mundi*, 2009, vol. 61, no. 2). This narrative was propagated, among others, through this handy atlas, which was to be used by the candidates for the civil service examination throughout the empire. I want to explore this

argument further by focusing on the historicizing ideas of harmony, peace, and pacification in this atlas.

**Bio:** Silvio Ruberto, called by most Lorenzo, is a Research Master's student in Medieval Studies at Utrecht University (GPA: 8.7) and a Master's student in Asian Studies at Leiden University (GPA: 8.1) interested in comparative middle-period history, with a focus on space in Norman Sicily (conference presentations at the Italian Centre for the Late Middle Ages (full grant), Dutch Royal Institute in Rome during a residential scholarship, Utrecht, Durham (full grant), 2023 Leeds Medieval International Conference, Harvard with grant from the Medieval Academy of America) and Song dynasty China (conference at Cambridge (partial grant), Hong Kong Baptist University (full grant)).

He also has experience with sources from the early medieval period (Winner of The 2023 Sherry L. Reames Graduate Student Travel Award for Hagiographical Studies, 17th International Conference of the Australian Early Medieval Association, Dutch National Medieval Studies' Day).



## Coastal Cartographies in the Bay of Bengal 1630-1830: Contexts, Connections, Networks

Oyndrila Sarkar, Presidency University, Kolkata

**Abstract:** This project explores the Bengal-Arakan coastal network through maps, displays, and panoramas between 1800-1850. Chittagong was one of the earliest, richest and busiest of the European ports in the Bengal-Arakan coastal region, and has a long history of conquest and colonization which can be traced to diverse sources like Portuguese chronicles, Mughal accounts, travel writing and surveyor reports. While Calcutta was on a rise, Chittagong's importance diminished slightly, but the coast remained in prominent focus on maps, displays, and panoramas. How did such representations shape narratives of mapmaking for empires, and for locals at this very fluid, cosmopolitan and dynamic 'frontier' between the various political powers in Bengal, Chittagong, Arakan, and Ava? And how can they offer frames of understanding for a history of the intersections of land and sea? Recent scholarship has driven our attention to exploring both 'contextual as well as situational influences' which shape the life and circulation of a map (Brückner, 2017) and towards more inclusive processual understandings of 'how people have acted with maps' (Edney, 2024). Such approaches on map use and processual histories will inform this research in order to make sense of the material attributes of the maps and map-like displays, and their many lives and usages.

**Bio:** Oyndrila Sarkar has a BA and MA degrees in History at Presidency College Calcutta, and the University of Calcutta. She received the University Grants Commission Junior Research Fellowship MPhil at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

where her dissertation 'Cartographic conquests: Men, Machines, and Methods, 1830-1870' revisited the histories of the trigonometrical surveys in India, survey instruments, and the active role of Indian employees in the Survey of India. She was recipient of the DGF fellowship for

her doctoral studies at the Graduate Programme for Transcultural Studies as part of the Cluster of Excellence, Asia and Europe in a Global Context, at the University of Heidelberg. She is currently teaching at Presidency University Kolkata, and working on her first monograph on survey histories, practices, and the production of cartographic knowledge at the north-east frontier of India. Her intervention tries to contribute to earlier scholarship by locating connections between texts, surveying instruments and technology, methods of mapping, collaboration, techniques of mapmakers, products of mapmaking, and the creation of spaces in the diverse ethnicities of the north-

east states. She is currently working on the administrative cartographies in South Asia and eighteenth-nineteenth century land and sea intersections in maps and atlases.



## **Johannes Tiberius Bodel Nijenhuis & 19th Century Map Collecting Culture**

Martijn Storms, Leiden University

**Abstract:** Johannes Tiberius Bodel Nijenhuis (1797-1872) is one of the greatest private map collectors of all time. He bequeathed his collection to Leiden University Libraries. In the PhD research the collecting strategies of Bodel Nijenhuis will be analyzed. In short, four main forms of collecting can be subdivided: receiving (maps as gifts, donations), buying (at auctions and print dealers), cutting (from books and atlases as well as the cutting up of sheets with more than one image) and copying (of maps that are kept in other collections or archives). For decades, research in the history of cartography mainly focused on the production of maps. In recent years more and more attention is paid to the reception and use of maps. Collecting of maps can be regarded as a kind of use as well. Studies on private map collecting mainly focus on the 'who' and 'what' of individual collectors. In this research the focus will mainly be on the 'how' of collecting. The central question is: What collecting strategies were used by Bodel Nijenhuis for achieving his map collection and to what extent did that make him exemplary or exceptional for a nineteenth-century collector.

**Bio:** Martijn Storms MA is curator of maps and atlases at Leiden University Libraries. Besides, he is project coordinator for Koeman's Atlantes Neerlandici at Brill publishers. He studied human geography and planning at Utrecht University, where he specialized in GIS and cartography. In 2022 his book *Maps That Made History: 1000 Years of World History in 100 Old Maps* was published. In 2025 *Enduring Encounters. Maps of Japan from Leiden*

University Libraries was published, which he co-edited together with Radu Leca.



## The Material Culture of the World Maps in Cihânnümâ

Işın Taylan Cakmak, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

**Abstract:** This paper examines the material culture of the world maps in Kâtib Çelebi's and İbrahim Müteferrika Cihânnümâ, and focuses on the shape and form of the maps, their titles, accompanying texts, and visual elements. The seventeenth-century Ottoman bibliophile Kâtib Çelebi wrote Cihânnümâ, a cosmographical treatise, which he then revised after studying European atlases. The newly improved Cihânnümâ was later edited by İbrahim Müteferrika and was published as one of the first books printed by the official Ottoman press in 1732. Numerous manuscripts and printed editions of Kâtib Çelebi's Cihânnümâ began to circulate in the Ottoman Empire. This paper examines the manuscript and printed copies of Cihânnümâ, focusing on aspects such as map shapes, structures, titles, accompanying texts, and visual elements. Here, "materiality" refers to the book's physical characteristics—namely, the layout of text and images and the strategic use of visuals, particularly the world map. This study also incorporates a conceptual element, examining how Latin terms related to "earth" and "world," such as *orbis terrarum* and *orbis imago*, were translated and adapted into Ottoman Turkish. This includes examining the synoptic view of the terrestrial world and its representation of the continental division, shedding light on how geographical vocabulary and perspectives on the world were articulated within the Ottoman cultural context.

**Bio:** İşın Taylan is a Mellon Postdoctoral fellow at the Rijksmuseum. Previously, she worked at Yale University as a lecturer in the spring of 2023. She completed her Ph.D. dissertation in the Department of History at Yale University in 2022. Her dissertation, "A History of the Ottoman Atlas: The Material Culture of Geographical Knowledge in the Ottoman Empire," examined material manifestations of scientific changes in Ottoman atlases. Her article in *Imago Mundi: The International Journal for the History of Cartography* introduces early Ottoman atlases as a source for the history of cartography, and a book chapter entitled "Rethinking Form in Ottoman Geographical Works" demonstrates the variety of forms Ottomans employed to convey geographical

knowledge. Her research interests include the history of science, geography, and diplomacy, with a special focus on material culture and practices from the early modern to the modern period.



## Coordinates for knowledge New perspectives on the history and heritage of the A. E. Nordenskiöld Collection

Anna Vuolanto, National Library of Finland – University of Helsinki

**Abstract:** The A.E. Nordenskiöld Collection is a rich source for scholars of the history of cartography and of explorations and travel, as also for example for research on book history. It was listed in UNESCO Memory of the World register in 1997. However, only approximately 3/4 of the collection is catalogued in the library database and is searchable through the library's search service. We, an interdisciplinary group of researchers and librarians, have a research project plan Coordinates for knowledge. New perspectives on the history and heritage of the A. E. Nordenskiöld Collection. In this project, the objective is on the one hand to inventory and describe all works in the collection in a digital catalogue, focusing on recording the provenance information. Moreover, A.E. Nordenskiöld is renowned by his systematic way of documenting his acquisitions and their provenance.

Therefore, at the other hand, by studying Nordenskiöld's own documentation, such as his correspondence, bookseller' invoices, and the antiquarian catalogues which he annotated, new scientific research will be conducted on the contexts in which the collection was accumulated. The In this workshop, my focus is on cataloguing provenance of books including maps. I will introduce material including in the collection, and to discuss the numerous questions that arise when conducting the bibliographical description of early printed materials. The cataloguing produces information for the needs of this research project, but it will facilitate future research on the subject as well. I will also outline the research project which I will also present in the poster session at the symposium.

**Bio:** Since the early 2021, I have been working in the National Library of Finland as an information specialist. Historically, the Library is part of the University of Helsinki, and the scientific collection is the largest accumulating collection of the research literature on arts and humanities in Finland. The Library has several Special Collections. One of these is the A.E. Nordenskiöld Collection of early maps and books, which I am responsible for. As a curator of the Nordenskiöld Collection, I have planned and conducted the digitization project of the Ptolemy atlases, including the descriptive cataloguing of the items. I have presented the digital collection in ICHC 2024 conference, and I also gave a talk on the Spatial Humanities conference in September 2024. In the Library, my duties also include the acquisition of new research

literature of the history of printed book, and the history of cartography. I participate in the project on digital cultural heritage data, conducted by the National Library. It aims at high quality descriptive bibliographical metadata created from the digital collections and make it available also as data. I have also worked among the National Library's Rare books collections as well as the archival collections.



## Gimmicks of War

Adrien Zakar, University of Toronto

**Abstract:** This essay examines three pivotal instances where late Ottoman maps served as “gimmicks of war.” Forgotten and reactivated, these visual artifacts gained renewed political significance years after their production on battlefields. The analysis focuses on three maps: an 1878 map of Eastern Anatolia delineating six Armenian provinces, a wall map of Palestine featured at the Second Zionist Congress in 1898, and a map of Lebanon that facilitated the proclamation of the state of Greater Lebanon in 1920. Each instance reveals a shared tactic: staging the authority of old maps to underpin territorial claims in the present. Though tied to specific historical moments, these maps weren’t just traces of a bygone moment; they embodied an ongoing relationship with an aesthetic form, functioning as gimmicks that transcended their original contexts while retaining the empirical authority they had conveyed. The actors at play did not passively deploy these maps as fixed, inert objects. Instead, they breathed new political life into relational and increasingly commodified artifacts with a unique affective intensity, mobilizing them to produce new facts on the ground. As gimmicks, these artifacts constituted a temporally sensitive form that surfaced at decisive moments, staged on negotiation tables and the walls of political assemblies.

**Bio:** Adrien Zakar is a historian of technology with expertise in visual instruments, military ways of seeing, trans-imperial circulation, and histories of disaster. In 2021, I joined the University of Toronto as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations and the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology. Previously, I received a Ph.D. in History from Columbia University in 2018 and subsequently worked as a Mellon Postdoctoral Scholar at the Stanford Humanities Center and a lecturer in the Department of History at the same institution. Broadly, my research concerns late imperial modes of governance and knowledge production as grounded in the materiality of technological failure, mapping geo-epistemologies, and military labor regimes. Using a new range of archival sources in Arabic, Ottoman

Turkish, Armenian, Hebrew, French, and German, my first monograph, *Deadly Triangulations: Vision and the Instruments of Empire (1828–1948)*, examines the proliferation of maps, atlases, and aerial photographs during the Eastern Question and the transition from empires to nation-states in the Middle East.



## Heaven, Earth, and Man: The Surveying and Mapping Practices of Qing Dynasty Astronomers and Mathematicians

Jiajing Zhang, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences

**Abstract:** This study explores the intricate relationship between astronomy, calendrical calculations, and surveying and mapping in the Qing Dynasty, aiming to unveil aspects of the Qing tradition of “quantitative cartography.” The research focuses on a specific group of Qing Dynasty Astronomers and mathematicians, who meet two criteria: first, their inclusion in Chouren Zhuan ( 疇人傳 ,Biographies of Astronomers and Mathematicians) and its supplements; second, their engagement in surveying and mapping research or practical activities. This study examines three key aspects of these Qing scholars: their motivations for conducting surveying and mapping, their methods and processes of measurement and cartographic representation, and the ways in which their surveys and maps were expressed in their writings.

**Bio:** Jiajing Zhang 张佳静 is an Associate Professor of the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences. She received her PhD in 2013 from the Institute for the History of Natural Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Her research focuses on the history of the geographical, measuremental, and cartographic sciences in late imperial and modern China as well as the impact of Western science and technology on those fields.

