

## Preface

This book is the outcome of the work of contributors who participated in the workshop “Mapping Different Geographies (MDG)” in February 2010, held in Puchberg am Schneeberg, Austria. This meeting brought together cartographers, artists and geoscientists who research and practice in applications that focus on enhancing one-to-one communication or develop and evaluate methodologies that provide innovative methods for sharing information. The main intention of the workshop was to investigate how ‘different’ geographies are being mapped and the possibilities for developing new theories and techniques for information design and transfer based on place or location.

So as to communicate these concepts it was important to appreciate the many contrasting meanings of ‘mapping’ that were held by workshop participants. Also, the many (and varied) viewpoints of what different geographies are, were elaborated upon and discussed.

Therefore, as the focus on space and time was embedded within everyone’s fields of investigation, this was addressed during the workshop. This resulted in very engaging discourse, which, in some cases, exposed the restrictions that certain approaches need to consider. For participants, this proved to be most useful, as this allowed them to appreciate the limits and restrictions of their own approach to understanding and representing different geographies. As well, the workshop also was most helpful as a vehicle for demonstrating the common ground of interest held by the very diverse areas of endeavour that the workshop participants work within.

The focus of this publication is to give the reader an overview on the topic of Mapping Different Geographies from a conceptual-theoretical, as well as practical cartographic perspective. The list of contributors to this book reflects the many disciplines that contributed to the workshop and their heterogeneous approach to the topic.

The relevance and significance of the workshop, and this subsequent publication is seen as a starting point for further research and development. It also provides the stimulus for organizing further events that will explore this extremely interesting topic.

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