

Cartography

A Theory through the Reconciliation of its Epistemic Conflicts



by **MIHIR DESAI**

This thesis observes changes in map conceptions which splits cartography into three epistemic counterparts i.e., Positivism, Deconstructivism & Hermeneutics. This split is considered to be the epistemic conflict in cartography.

While the (+) Positivists appear to have a dominant hold over the epistemic space, the (-) Deconstructivists and (∞) Hermeneuticians struggle to recapture it. Whereas (+) and (-) identities try to secure map conceptions and ethics of cartographic representation amidst dilemmas of objectivity and subjectivity, (∞) identities tend to escape the tension by declaring that maps have no secure conceptions and contend that cartography is best seen as a processual science to study events surrounding the creation, circulation and worldly effects of mapping. This sets a novel premise to rethink the cartographer as a jurist who maps and reconciles the epistemic conflicts which are based on arguments concerning map authority, author bias, empirical objectivity and research agendas.

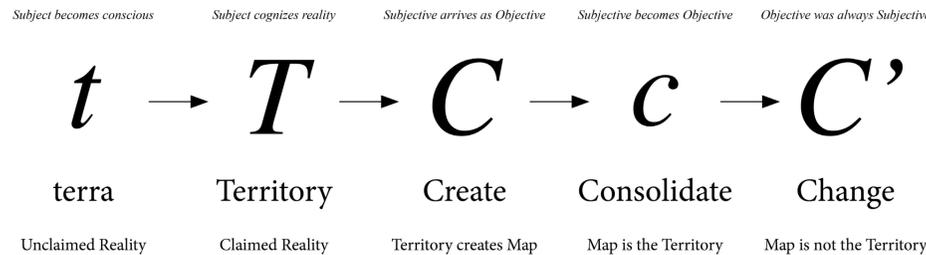
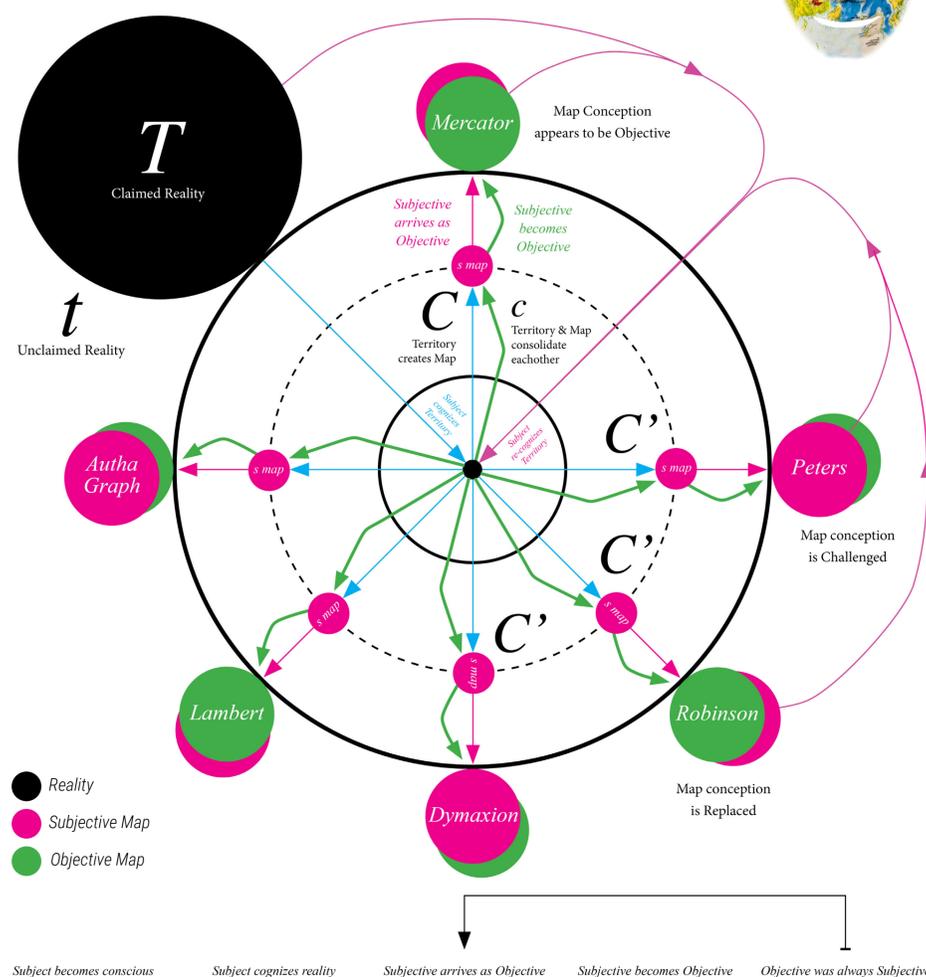
The thesis also reveals an epistemic fallacy of cartography wherein map epistemology is misunderstood as map ontology due to the anthropocentric bias of empiricism. It shows how this fallacy releases the epistemic space for marginalized identities and another hidden identity which arrives from a non-human position. A theory of shifts in the embodied use of maps is used to contextualize the new identities. Thus, a theory of cartography is presented which reconciles map conceptions produced by human & non-human identities.

The Reconciliation Compass which shows that all cartographic enterprises are Hermeneutic; that cartography is best seen as a smooth aggregation of its epistemologies.

A model of the Reconciliation Theory shows the process in which map conceptions get created, consolidated and changed. The model uses the case of World Map Projection Controversy.

1st Law of Theoretical Cartography: No matter how subjective a map is, it always appears to be objective

2nd Law of Theoretical Cartography: A map conception will change even if it appears to be objective



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Hermeneutic							Trans Hermeneutic
Human			Human as Map	Human Map	Human and Human Map with Non Human Map		Non-Human Map
Post Hermeneutic Normative	Post Hermeneutic Reactionary	Post Hermeneutic Critical				Post Hermeneutic Realist	Trans Hermeneutic Machine Realist
Positivism	Processual Practice	Processual Production	Deconstructivism	Prosopopoeia	Chremamorphism	Reconciliation	Anthropomorphism



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