

Maps are used in the media, politics, and academia. In conflicts over territory (such as recently in the Ukraine), they may become a powerful instrument. Through maps, European and Russian media showed (or conjured up) a Ukraine divided linguistically, ethnically, religiously, and/or historically. Politicians draw lines on maps to legitimize geostrategic claims, e.g. during the annexation of the Crimea by Russia or in propagating spatial images such as Novorossiya.

It is no coincidence that such representations and perceptions were already applied after 1989 during the wars in Yugoslavia. For the first time in decades, people in Yugoslavia as well as in Western Europe were confronted with what seemed like an outmoded remnant of the 19th century: linguistic, ethnographic, and other maps legitimizing the formation of ethnically homogeneous territories.

One of our major questions is how maps actually acquire persuasive power. Although social scientists know that maps can misleadingly essentialize their content and are never neutral, they are nevertheless perceived by the public as evidence of objective 'truth'.

The 14th Blankensee Colloquium addresses the role of maps in the aforementioned conflicts comparatively, examining how maps are designed, used, and applied. The aim is to debate maps across disciplines in order to understand what makes them so convincing, and to discuss how to design, read, and install maps in ways that make them less susceptible to manipulation and better able to impart the complex realities that lay behind them.

Scientific Coordination:

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Due to the limited number of places in the conference room, we ask for registration until 7 March 2016 by e-mail (roos@cmb.hu-berlin.de)

A Conference of:



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In cooperation with:



From Phantom Maps to Real Boundaries

Comparison of the post-Soviet and post-Yugoslav context



10 - 11 March 2016

Venues

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

14th Blankensee Colloquium

Thursday, 10 March, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin,
Unter den Linden 6, Room 2103

9:30 - 10:00 Introduction

Sabine v. Löwis (CMB Berlin), **Nenad Stefanov** (HU Berlin):
From Phantom Maps to Real Boundaries.
Comparison of the post-Soviet and post-
Yugoslav context

10:00 - 11:00 Keynote 1

Peter Haslinger (Herder-Institute Marburg):
Are Maps Phantoms? Are Borders Real?

Chair: **Nenad Stefanov** (HU Berlin)

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 - 13:00 Panel: Visualisation,
Cartography and Space – Theoretical
Reflections

Chair: **Peter Haslinger** (Herder-Institute Marburg)

Antje Schlottmann (Goethe University Frankfurt/Main):
Visual geographies: On the Role of Images
in the Discursive Construction of Space,
Borders and Identities

Eric Losang (Leibniz-Institute for Regional Geography
Leipzig):
Bordering and Ordering – The Line as
Cartographic Imperative

Discussant: **Vadim Oswald** (Justus-Liebig-University
Giessen)

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 - 16:00 Panel: Dynamics of Conflicts
and Maps in the post-Yugoslav Space

Chair: **Christian Voß** (HU Berlin)

Nenad Stefanov (HU Berlin):
Cartography and Political Power. Develop-
ments since the 19th Century in the Balkans

Program

Wolfgang Höpken (Leipzig University):
Maps in the Wars in Yugoslavia

Discussant: **Diana Mishkova** (Center for Advanced Study,
Sofia)

16:00 - 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 - 18:00 Panel: Dynamics of Conflicts and
Maps in the post-Soviet Space

Chair: **Yvonne Kleinmann** (Aleksander Brückner Center for
Polish Studies, Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg)

Steven Seegel (University of Northern Colorado):
Ethnic Maps as Geospatial Battleground:
Cartography, Identity Politics, and the History
of Russian-Ukrainian Conflict

Guido Hausmann (LMU München):
Novorossiya Old and New: Cartography as
Politics

Discussant: **Sabine v. Löwis** (CMB)

Panel Discussion (in German)

**Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and
Humanities, Einstein Hall, Jägerstraße 22-23, 10117 Berlin**

19:00 - 21:00 Karten im Krieg: Die Konflikte
in der Ukraine und Jugoslawien im Vergleich

Marieluise Beck (MP, Alliance '90/The Greens)
Yevgenia Belorusets (Photographer, Kiev)
Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Höpken (Leipzig University)
Prof. Dr. Vadim Oswald (Justus-Liebig-University Giessen)
Prof. em. Dr. Karl Schlögel (Fellow Carl-Friedrich-von-
Siemens-Stiftung)

Moderation: **Thomas Franke** (Journalist, Berlin/Moscow)

Friday, 11 March, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin,
Unter den Linden 6, Room 2103

9:30 - 10:30 Keynote 2

Philippe Rekacewicz (Contributor to the Swiss journal La
Cité and co-editor of Visionscarto.net):
Mapping Conflict and Geopolitical Changes in
the Media: Somewhere Between Imaginary
and Reality

Chair: **Sabine v. Löwis** (CMB)

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 - 13:15 Panel: The post-Yugoslav
and post-Soviet Space - Visualisations of
Complex Socio-Cultural Phenomena and
History

Chair: **Sabine v. Löwis** (CMB Berlin)

Nadiya Kravets (Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute):
Politics of Mapping Ukrainian Identity during
Crisis and War

Ulrich Schmid (University of St. Gallen):
Two- or Three-dimensional Maps? New
Forms of Visualisations of Cultural
Heterogeneity in Ukraine

Srdjan Radovic (Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts,
Belgrade):
Popular Cartographic Imagery and Practices.
Meaning of Maps in the Post-Yugoslav Space

Discussant: **Tanja Petrovic** (Slovenian Academy of
Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana)

13:15 - 14:45 Lunch Break

14:45 - 16:45 Roundtable: Comparison and
Perspectives of Cartographic Representation
of Complex Socio-Cultural Phenomena

Chair: **Sabine v. Löwis** (CMB Berlin) / **Nenad Stefanov** (HU
Berlin)

Discussant: **Denis Eckert** (CNRS Toulouse)

16:45 - 17:30 Conclusions