

**Animation of Public Space through the Arts: Innovation and Sustainability
International Symposium (and Workshops)**

30 SEPTEMBER 2011

10:00 – 18:30

Workshop:

CULTURAL MAPPING: EXPLORING CONNECTIONS AMONG PLACE, CREATIVITY AND CULTURE

Interpretative Centre of the Mosteiro de Santa Clara-a-Velha de Coimbra

Cultural mapping is a way of telling about places.¹ Cultural mapping has a personal dimension. But it also explores themes like community, history and nature through idioms of place.

Cultural mapping creates bridges between academic disciplines. It also helps academics and community members work together towards common goals.

This workshop has been organized by a team that includes practicing artists, a sociologist, soundscape researchers and a language specialist. Participants in the workshop will be introduced to basic methods of cultural mapping. They will have opportunities to engage in 'hands on' mapping activities. They will benefit from lively discussions of the ideas and theoretical principles that inform cultural mapping.

By the end of the workshop participants will be familiar with the rich potential of cultural mapping as an artistic, ethnographic and political endeavour.

Workshop Leaders: **David MacLennan** (Sociology), **Donald Lawrence** (Visual Arts), **Doug Buis** (Visual Arts), **Emily Hope** (Visual Arts), and **Will Garrett-Petts** (Critical Theory), Thompson Rivers University, Canada; **Manuela Gervasi** (CES), **Luís Gomes da Costa** (Binaural/Nodar), Portugal

20 participants maximum

Registration fee: 35€

Lunch is included



binaural©nodar



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

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sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

¹ To borrow Howard Becker's phrase from *Telling About Society*.

30 SEPTEMBER 2011**Workshop:****CULTURAL MAPPING: EXPLORING CONNECTIONS AMONG PLACE, CREATIVITY AND CULTURE**

Begins at the Interpretative Centre of the Mosteiro de Santa Clara-a-Velha de Coimbra

<p>10:00 – 12:00</p> <p>Interpretative Centre of the Mosteiro de Santa Clara-a-Velha de Coimbra</p>	<p>PART 1</p> <p>Introduction to Cultural Mapping</p> <p>Cultural mapping is a way of exploring the meanings of place. It starts from the assumption that meaning is grounded in human physicality and emotionality, and that to explore this embodied dimension of meaning special methods are required.</p> <p>Participants will be introduced to cultural mapping approaches, first, via a multimedia presentation. The presentation will illustrate processes and outcomes of storymapping, memory mapping, diagram art, cognitive and mental mapping. Participants will be asked to engage in some preliminary mapping activities.</p> <p>At this point, participants will also be introduced to three artistic inquiry activities:</p> <p>The first employs a portable tent-form camera obscura. The camera obscura will be used during the workshop as a means of enhancing participants' observations of the natural and built environments. The camera obscura will also serve as a catalyst for discussion about how artistic works and technology more generally have mediated individuals' and societies' responses to 'landscapes' and 'cityscapes', both historically and in contemporary practice.</p> <p>The second form of artistic inquiry involves creating a number of small, site specific diorama-based interventions, placed at various important points along a prescribed walk. The artworks will create a map of sorts, with points of concentrated attention similar to the photographic insets one might find on a traditional map. The dioramas may be inspired by either the physical or demographic aspects of the location, or a historical narrative relating to the site.</p> <p>The third form of artistic inquiry involves soundscape research and mapping. The organization Binaural/Nodar and Manuela Gervasi (CES) will present some recent soundscape projects in Portugal and discuss how this type of research is conducted, differences in urban and rural approaches to soundscape research, means of community engagement through this work, the importance of soundscapes to place history and character, and the power of sound to evoke memories. http://www.binauralmedia.org/</p>
<p>12:00 – 13:30</p> <p>Areas near the Mondego River</p>	<p>PART 2</p> <p>In past research, we have discovered that development in its many forms entails both a loss of certain kinds of place and a loss of the sensibilities grounded in a deep knowledge of place. In Part 2 of the workshop, we will walk to places where meanings are ambiguous or contested. We are particularly interested in places where nature or history ('cultural memory') appear threatened by patterns of urban growth and development.</p>
<p>13:30 – 15:00</p>	<p>Lunch – prearranged at a restaurant in the Baixa</p>

<p>15:00 – 17:30</p> <p>Two or three locations</p>	<p>PART 3</p> <p>Making & Doing:</p> <p>Participants, including members of the local community, will have the opportunity to engage in various cultural mapping activities.</p> <p>Possible locations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baixa 2. Dr. Manuel Braga Park (or Parque da Cidade), Mondego River 3. Parque Verde do Mondego – just beyond the restaurants 4. On pedestrian bridge, or on Santa Clara side of the river <p>Participants can spread out a bit in each area. Selection of locations will be discussed at lunch (a few areas of particular interest may have been identified during the earlier walk).</p>
<p>17:30 – 18:30</p> <p>Interpretative Centre of the Mosteiro de Santa Clara-a-Velha de Coimbra</p>	<p>PART 4</p> <p>Conclusion: The challenges and potential of cultural mapping</p> <p>Participants will be invited to reflect on how arts-based inquiry might complement and enhance other approaches to the investigation of place.</p>

Participants should bring with them:

- Cameras
- Digital recorders

Other materials and supplies will be provided.

19:00 –

PUBLIC THEATRE PRESENTATION ON ‘ANIMATING THE USE OF PUBLIC SPACE’

Developed by Utrecht and Coimbra theatre students during a week-long workshop in Coimbra (26-30 September 2011)