Visualizations, Representations and Drawings:
Artifacts for Understanding Different Geographies

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In a series of articles in The Age magazine Good Weekend the best of everything from the last millenium was covered. 'Top of the list' was the humble threaded screw, which, according to journalist Witold Rybczynski (1999) changed the world. He expounded that "Without screws, entire fields of science would have languished, navigation would have languished, navigation would have remained primitive and naval warfare as well as routine maritime commerce in the 18th and 19th centuries would have not been possible. Without screws, there would have been no machine tools, hence no industrial products and no Industrial Revolution" (op cit., p. 33). Included in the series of articles and included in the 'best of the last 1000 years' was the map. Battista Agnese's paper map of the world, produced in Venice in the mid-16th century was described by Johnson (1999, p. 26) as something more than a beautiful and precise document, but also "a topography of the European mind in transition". The map illustrated the new information gleaned from voyages of discovery by Columbus and Magellan, and was able to depict it more accurately due to the application of new scientific and mathematical advances and to make it more widely available with new tools provided by the newly available technologies. It was an illustration of human endeavour and revolutions in knowledge acquisition and depiction.

These precise scientific documents provide the tools for exploration and discovery, accurate tools of warfare, records of new lands and settlements, depictions of communications and national development and artifacts for tourists and conveyances for armchair travellers. They are useful, accurate and powerful information provision tools.

This series of readings will develop the concept of 'the map', and provide information about why maps 'work' as representations of Space and Time.

Thu 17 November 2011, 14.30–16.00, Department of Art History Seminar Room 2
Place and Space

Tue 22 November 2011, 12.00–13.30, Department of Art History Seminar Room 2
Map concepts – Representing Space and Place

Fri 25 November 2011, 10.00–12.00, Austrian National Library Oratorium (Josefsplatz)
With Professor Eugene Y. Wang (Harvard University, Department of History of Art and Architecture)
Matteo Ricci's Chinese World Map (1602) - Representing the Known World

Thu 1 December 2011, 14.30–16.00, Department of Art History Seminar Room 2
Artefacts for representing geography – Drawing Space and Place: Maps or Diagrams? Beck's London Underground Map

William Cartwright is Professor of Cartography and Geographical Visualization in the School of Mathematical and Geospatial Sciences at RMIT University, Australia. He joined the University after spending a number of years in both the government and private sectors of the mapping industry. He is Chair of the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies and Immediate Past-President of the International Cartographic Association. He is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, a Fellow of the British Cartographic Society, an Honorary Fellow of the Mapping Sciences Institute Australia and an Honorary Fellow of the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Melbourne and a Doctor of Education from RMIT University. He has six other university qualifications – in the fields of cartography, applied science, education, media studies, information and communication technology and graphic design. His major research interest is the application of integrated media to cartography and the exploration of different metaphorical approaches to the depiction of geographical information.

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Literature to the readings: www.univie.ac.at/cirdis

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