

Space, places and « hypermaps »,

Study on network spatiality and information geography

At a time when networks (technical and human) define new topological/topographical and geographical guides of our contemporary world, what is the "relevance" of our representations of space, places, describing centralized and territorial organizations which adjust "calculations" of distance and peripheral proximity? What becomes of our own relation (phenomenological, subjective and existential) with space? Is it possible to consider a contemporary network spatiality authorizing connexion "points" between these two realities: a first one in which places are located, determined, solidified and a second one in which places are connected, inter-connected, distributed?

This thesis aims to examine these questions within the framework of the study of a new cartographic representation system (developed jointly with the appearance of new paradigms): the "hypermap". The purpose will be to understand its functional specificities and characteristics – which distinguish it from a "traditional" map – to analyse its modalities of exploration and navigation, of reading and data processing and also its conceptual and theoretical bases and methods which underlie its realization.

Keywords : "hypermap", space, place, network, experience, schema, representation, system.