

# EVENT ATLAS

by

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## Selected interviews after the ICC 2017



Dresden  
2017

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# 1. Preamble

Our new project "Selected interviews after the ICC 2017" includes diverse conceptions of the event- and/or photoatlases with interview-related format. The interviews include 4-6 (short) questions to selected participants of the International Cartographic Conference 2017 in Washington, DC.

The first issue has a subtitle "ICA and ICC 2017". We plan to publish further thematical issues entitled "Digital generation" and "Gender".

What is the purpose of these event atlases with interview-related format?

It is our personal initiative to discuss diverse cartographic, geoinformatic and semiotic themes in interview-format after the ICC 2017. The results of these interviews are event atlases as ubiquitous documents which collected diverse opinions of selected participants of the ICC 2017. Our atlases are conceived and created as "atlases for everyone" and reflected new challenge trajectories in the neo-cartographic and semiotic (text-map-image) thinking.

Alexander and Carmen Wolodtschenko

July, 2017

## 2.1. D. R. Fraser Taylor (Canada)

***1. How many times you have visited the ICC?***

At least 15 times and probably more. Since the Madrid meetings I have only missed two ICC meetings.

***2. Which conference themes were most interesting to you at the ICC 2017?***

The sessions dealing with indigenous knowledge.

***3. Since 1961, the ICA has traditionally been headed by men. Do women have a chance to become president in the ICA in the next 10 years (2019-2029)?***

One of my first actions as President was to establish a Working Group on the role of women in the ICA. There is no reason why a woman should not become President of ICA and I hope to see one nominated in the near future.

***4. The Commission on Theoretical Cartography was not proposed for the period 2015-2019. What wishes for the revival of this COM at the ICC 2019 in Tokyo you can do?***

I am not aware of the background of the decision not to continue the Commission on Theoretical Cartography but I would be very surprised if this was because of any thinking that this was not an important topic. The need for renewed theory has never been greater and in many of the Commissions and Working Groups this is receiving some attention. There can be no good cartographic practise without good theory in my view.



## 2.2. Temenoujka Bandrova (Bulgaria)

### ***1. How many times you have visited the ICC?***

I have visited the ICC from 1999. So, in Washington, it was my 10th Conference. The best organized conference was in A Coruna.

### ***2. Which conference themes were most interesting to you at the ICC 2017?***

T03 (Virtual reality...), T09 (Children and cartography) and T37 (Early warning risk reduction, and crisis management using maps...)

### ***3. Since 1961, the ICA has traditionally been headed by men. Do women have a chance to become president in the ICA in the next 10 years (2019-2029)?***

Yes, definitely, a woman-president will make our organization better, more visible and attractive.

### ***4. The ICA remains an administrative organization/construct: anyone can participate at the ICC but only National Committees and “VIO” (“Very Important Organizations”) or affiliate ones are members of the ICA? What do you say about this situation?***

We need to be more open to everybody who works, loves and uses cartography. The individual membership should be helpful to our organization, especially for countries with the risky democracy. The rights of individual membership could not be the same as national, affiliate or “VIO”.



## 2.3. Giedre Beconyte (Lithuania)



**1. How many times you have visited the ICC?**

Five times: 2003, 2005, 2007, 2011 and 2013.

**2. Since 1961, the ICA has traditionally been headed by men. Do women have a chance to become president in the ICA in the next 10 years (2019-2029)?**

I do know women in the ICA who could make it. But I think gender aspect in this context is the least important.

**3. The ICA remains an administrative organization/construct: anyone can participate at the ICC but only National Committees and “VIO” (“Very Important Organizations”) or affiliate ones are members of the ICA? What do you say about this situation?**

As a national representative, I have supported the current order. There's no such status as “VIO”.

**4. The Commission on Theoretical Cartography was not proposed for the period 2015-2019. What wishes for the revival of this COM at the ICC 2019 in Tokyo can you do?**

I would like to see functioning Commission on Theoretical Cartography and participate in its activities as much as my workload allows. On the other hand, I am against formal Commissions. Any Commission during the period of its mandate must create value for the global community (publicly available Internet resources, research reports, guidelines or other products). Otherwise I would prefer to have none.

**5. Do we need to reform/or combine the ICA commissions in 4-5 main domains (e.g. ISPRS)?**

Yes, I think the list of Commissions would benefit from some optimization.

**6. Does cartography need GEO-CARTO-ATLAS Semiotics and such research centers?**

Maybe, as departments of more general research centres. Still there's so much to do in the field of general map/space semiotics.

## 2.4. Yaïves Ferland (Canada)

### ***1. How many times you have visited the ICC?***

I participated to ICA/ACI conferences (ICC) eight times since 1997.

### ***2. Which (three) conference themes were most interesting to you at the ICC 2017?***

Toponymy, Education and Training, Cognitive Visualization.

### ***3. Since 1961, the ICA has traditionally been headed by men. Do women have a chance to become president in the ICA in the next 10 years (2019-2029)?***

It is not a question of chance, but of willpower by the member organization delegations, representative of countries, to be led by a woman willing to accept to engage on the Executive Committee. Thus, possibility before ten years is credible.

### ***4. Do we need the second generation of Sémiologie graphique?***

Of course, Cartography needs Semiotics to go forward from perception of visual variables toward cognitive representation and comprehension by map reader/user, what one can call: “cartology” (fashion to make maps speaking); my opinion is that such a second generation must encompass interests on visualization, visual analytics, multiple representation, ubiquitous...

### ***5. The Commission on Theoretical Cartography was not proposed for the period 2015-2019. What wishes for the revival of this COM at the ICC 2019 in Tokyo can you do?***

A new COM must not be restricted the semiotics matters (although their fundamental interest; the suggested second generation challenge may be a good backbone project). We have to find younger interested colleagues to engage and lead such commission and define new substantial terms of reference. I may suggest to prepare and held a provisional-commission meeting on that point next year in Québec (city) during, but aside the IGU/UGI regional conference (in August 2018).



## 2.5. Menno-Jan Kraak (The Netherlands)

**1. *How many times you have visited the ICC?***

14 (all since 1989 Budapest)

**2. *Which ICA commissions were most interesting to you at the ICC 2017?***

As president not really time to concentrate/ did attend Use, Geovis and Cognition because my student presented.

**3. *The ICC 2017 passed without a conference motto. Why?***

No idea

**4. *The Commission on Theoretical Cartography was not proposed for the period 2015-2019. What wishes for the revival of this COM at the ICC 2019 in Tokyo can you do?***

We will stimulate countries to come forward with proposals and good chair.

**5. *Since 1961, the ICA has traditionally been headed by men. Do women have a chance to become president in the ICA in the next 10 years (2019-2029)***

Of course.

**6. *Four years between General Assemblies is a long time. What was the purpose of the extraordinary General Assamble in Washington?***



## 2.6. Sara Fabrikant (Switzerland)



**1. How many times you have visited the ICC?**

2001, 2005, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017

**2. Which (three) conference themes were most interesting to you at the ICC 2017?**

CogVis, VisualAnalytics, UUI (including the Bertin theme that was cross-listed)

**3. Since 1961, the ICA has traditionally been headed by men. Do women have a chance to become president in the ICA in the next 10 years (2019-2029)?**

As a community we must have representation from both halves of humanity. The question is not whether it happens, but when.

**4. The Commission on Theoretical Cartography was not proposed for the period 2015-2019. What wishes for the revival of this COM at the ICC 2019 in Tokyo can you do?**

I would try to attract young members (PhD students) who are with interdisciplinary backgrounds, e.g., geography, GIScience, linguistics, spatial cognition, etc. Also people in CS working with ontologies and semantics should be attracted to this commission. With the Web 2.0 I would assume there are many interesting semantic issues in Big Data to be solved that need rigorous theoretical approaches, and thus there are plenty of opportunities for theoretical work now and in the future.

**5. Do we need the second generation of Sémiologie graphique? Why?**

Yes, we do, because our maps have moved beyond the static map printed on white paper. Paper maps are still used and useful, but we now also use responsive interactive smart devices in rapidly changing, collaborative contexts, hololenses and real-time augmented mobile map displays on glasses, watches, fitness trackers, increasingly responding to human psychophysiological states, etc.

## 2.7. Peter Jordan (Austria)



**1. How many times you have visited the ICC?**

12 times. My first attendance was Budapest 1989.

**2. Which (three) conference themes were most interesting to you at the ICC 2017?**

Toponymy, atlases, theoretical cartography

**3. Since 1961, the ICA has traditionally been headed by men. Do women have a chance to become president in the ICA in the next 10 years (2019-2029)?**

Certainly! We have several able women in the Executive Board, among commission chairs and beyond. My impression is that women appreciate a fair work/life balance more than men, and it is true that an exposed function absorbs all energies for some time.

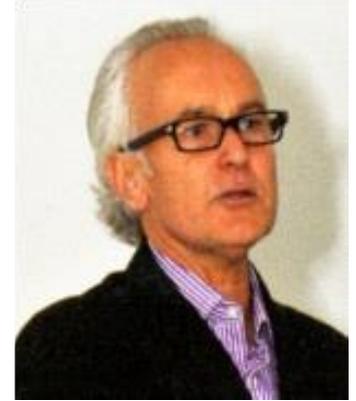
**4. The Commission on Theoretical Cartography was not proposed for the period 2015-2019. What wishes for the revival of this COM TC at the ICC 2019 in Tokyo can you do?**

A commission on theoretical cartography would be very necessary. Also at ICC Washington it could be observed that the awareness (not to say 'knowledge') of basic relations between the language of cartography, the system of concepts and objective reality is missing and that in several papers cartographic solutions were proposed that contradict basic rules of cartographic methodology. Right the global umbrella organisation of a science is the forum to promote basics and the theoretical foundations of a science. It would perhaps be the best to motivate (initiated by the president) three to four well-known theoretical cartographers to co-chair a new COM TC.

**5. Do we need to reform/or combine the ICA commissions in 4-5 main clusters (e.g. in ISPRS)?**

Yes, I think this would be helpful, since the number of commissions is already very large and could be confusing especially in external communication. The domains could be shaped according to current responsibilities in the Executive Board, which anyway reflect thematic clusters.

## 2.8. William Cartwright (Australia)



### ***1. How many times you have visited the ICC?***

My first ICC was in 1984, in Perth, Australia. Since then I have attended every ICC.

### ***2. Which (three) conference themes were most interesting to you at the ICC 2017?***

Art and Cartography, Design and Cognitive Issues.

### ***3. Since 1961, the ICA has traditionally been headed by men. Do women have a chance to become president in the ICA in the next 10 years (2019-2029)?***

Yes. The ICA community has extremely talented women in its membership. I would welcome our first female President.

### ***4. Do we need to reform/or combine the ICA commissions in 4-5 main clusters (e.g. in ISPRS)?***

The ICA is unique, insofar that it is a 'ground-up' organisation. The number of Commissions is determined by the interest from those who contribute to the work of ICA - the Commission Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Commission members. Perhaps Commissions could be 'clustered' so that they could undertake joint, related activities (which is already the case for joint meetings and workshops).

### ***5. The Commission on Theoretical Cartography was not proposed for the period 2015-2019. What wishes for the revival of this COM TC at the ICC 2019 in Tokyo can you do?***

The revival of a Theoretical Cartography Commission requires a core group of researchers, that would form an international core group. This group would propose, through a member nation, the formation of a Commission on Theoretical Cartography.

## 2.9. Mark Denil (USA)



### ***1. How many times you have visited the ICC?***

I have attended the ICC four times: Ottawa 1999, La Coruna 2005, Moscow 2007, and Washington 2017

### ***2. Which (three) conference themes were most interesting to you at the ICC 2017?***

Commission on Map Design, Commission on Ubiquitous Mapping, Commission on Art and Cartography.

### ***3. Since 1961, the ICA has traditionally been headed by men. Do women have a chance to become president in the ICA in the next 10 years (2019-2029)?***

I am not well informed on gender-related issues at the ICA leadership level, but know of no justification for categorical exclusions.

### ***4. The Commission on Theoretical Cartography was not proposed for the period 2015-2019. What wishes for the revival of this COM TC at the ICC 2019 in Tokyo can you do?***

An active ICA Commission on Theoretical Cartography is highly desirable and critically necessary in the current dynamic situation in cartography. Both technological and social changes in cartographic practice, in both map making and map use, require the supporting framework of sound theoretical grounding to ensure practical, meaningful, and informed practice. Practitioners naturally focus on immediate issues pertinent to their project(s), but often then conflate contingent concerns with broader matters: in effect infiltrating cartographic theory with individual maps. An ICA Commission on Theoretical Cartography could work with and alongside most other ICA Commissions to provide a broadly applicable theoretical framework that can be shared across the cartographic community.

## 2.10. Lynn Usery (USA)

**1. How many times you have visited the ICC?**

Five

**2. Which (three) ICA commissions were most interesting to you at the conference 2017?**

Topographic Mapping, Map Projections, Mountain Cartography

**3. Which (three) conference themes were most interesting to you at the conference 2017?**

T26 Spatial semantics ..., T30 Topographic mapping... T29

Projections, coordinate systems...

**4. The ICC 2017 passed without a conference motto. Why?**

The Local Organizing Committee decided the motto is never used and topics in the conference do not align with the motto. Thus, we adopted a no motto model to allow the content of the conference to be the theme.

**5. Do we need to reform/or combine the ICA commissions in 4-5 main clusters (e.g. ISPRS)?**

Yes, it would be easier to manage 4-8 Commissions with Special Interest Groups (SIGs) or Working Groups in an hierarchical system and would allow the Commissions an umbrella area for topical subjects. For example, we might have a Commission on Theoretical Cartography with SIGs in Spatial Cognition, Data Models, Semantics, Map Projections, Planetary Cartography. Other examples could be a Commission on Analytical Cartography which would include SIGS in Visual Analytics, Generalization, Spatial Analysis and Modeling; a Commission on Practical Cartography with SIGS on Cartography and Children, Cartography in Early Warning and Crisis Management, Map Design, Maps and Graphics for Blind and Partially Sighted People.



## 2.11. Milan Konecny (Czech Republic)

### ***1. How many times you have visited the ICC?***

17 times, from Warszawa (1982) to Washington (2017). La Coruna was the best.

### ***2. Which (three) conference themes were most interesting to you at the ICC 2017?***

Joint ICA-GEO workshop about Disaster Management, Early Warning..., Emergency Management, and Cartography and Children.

### ***3. Since 1961, the ICA has traditionally been headed by men. Do women have a chance to become president in the ICA in the next 10 years (2019-2029)?***

This is provocative and sensitive question. Clear answer is Yes, I wish it.

Women are more rational, better psychologists, can look by more sensitive way for people and their style, character and ability to cooperate and achieve the goals. I see successful female cartographers influencing perceiving of cartography and its role in their countries, including education curricula. They propagate ideas of ICA but it is a question if ICA supports and help them enough. So, I want to experience the time when the ICA president will be a woman but I am also afraid if above mentioned type of ladies will find it as their primary preference.

### ***4. Do we need to reform/or combine the ICA commissions in 4-5 main clusters (e.g. ISPRS)?***

Many of members of ICA are academicians with tendencies to design logical schema. At this moment ICA is not in the same situation as ISPRS, and should use mainly best practices from countries where cartography is very successful (e.g. China and Malaysia). ICA needs concentrate to the potentials to solve specific problems of societies by smart ways and with higher quality, and cartography should offer them. U.N.-GGIM and U.N. DRR are good start but not enough. Clusters are definitely not the core problem solving situation and position of contemporary cartography.



## 2.12. Georg Gartner (Austria)



### ***1. How many times you have visited the ICC?***

Since Cologne 1993 I have visited all ICCs and found them always exciting and rewarding.

### ***2. Which (three) conference themes were most interesting to you at the ICC 2017?***

The renaissance of cartography become clearly visible to me in terms of the many colleagues reporting on their research on a useful cartographic interface to big data as done so in LBS, in GeoVisualisation, in Generalisation etc. I also found it remarkable that aesthetics and design seems to be in the focus of many (again) and finally I am as always fascinated by the attempts to generate more insights in our cartographic heritage.

### ***3. The Commission on Theoretical Cartography was not proposed for the period 2015-2019. What wishes for the revival of this COM TC at the ICC 2019 in Tokyo can you do?***

A theoretical underpinning of our discipline is of key interest to all of us. It would be most welcome and important to have a lively and functioning commission in this area. In order to develop this it needs a critical group of persons willing to put effort, time and work in achieving visible aims.

### ***4. Do we need to reform/or combine the ICA commissions in 4-5 main domains (e.g. ISPRS)?***

No. I think ICA's approach of being a bottom-up organization has proven to be successful, with all eventual shortcomings one can note.

### 3. List of selected questions

1. How many times you have visited the ICC?
2. Which (three) ICA commissions were most interesting to you at the conference 2017?
3. Which (three) conference themes were most interesting to you at the conference 2017?
4. The ICC 2017 passed without a conference motto. Why?
5. The Commission on Theoretical Cartography (COM TC) was not proposed for the period 2015-2019. What wishes for the revival of the COM TC at the ICC 2019 in Tokyo you can do?
6. Since 1961, the ICA has traditionally been headed by men. Do women have a chance to become president in the ICA in the next 10 years (2019-2029)?
7. The ICA remains an administrative organization/construct: anyone can participate at the ICC but only National Committees and “VIO” (Very Important Organizations ) or affiliate ones are members of the ICA? What do you say about this situation?
8. Four years between General Assemblies is a long time. What was the purpose of the extraordinary General Assembly of the ICA in Washington?
9. Do we need the second generation of Sémiologie graphique? Yes, but why?
10. Do we need to reform/or combine the ICA commissions in 4-5 main clusters (e.g. in ISPRS)?
11. Does cartography need GEO-CARTO-ATLAS Semiotics and such research centers?

## 4. Participants of the interviews (in chronological order)

1. D. R. Fraser Taylor (Canada)
2. Temenoujka Bandrova (Bulgaria)
3. Giedre Beconyte (Lithuania)
4. Yaïves Ferland (Canada)
5. Menno-Jan Kraak (The Netherlands)
6. Sara Fabrikant (Switzerland)
7. Peter Jordan (Austria)
8. William Cartwright (Australia)
9. Mark Denil (USA)
10. Lynn Usery (USA)
11. Milan Konecny (Czech Republic)
12. Georg Gartner (Austria)

## 5. Fazit

Our event atlas includes 12 interviews of participants of the ICC 2017 from 9 countries. Some interviews are in progress. The first interview was sent by Fraser Taylor on July 14.

The proposed questions and opinions do not reflect all problems of cartography and geoinformatics within the framework of the ICA. One can highlight the problems of cartography within the ICA and problems that go beyond the ICA.

The philosophy of modern cartography based on only map-related digital technologies leads to one way development. The theory and semiotization is not yet in high esteem in the modern cartography. But a new theory-technology thinking in cartography has an integrate semiotic basis. Unlike cartography, the semiotics was not divided by digital technologies in classical and GIS one.

The modern creator and user need competent knowledge of languages (map language, atlas language, infographics language etc.). But where can one study these languages?

The transformation of the grapho-semiotics into meta-carto-atlas-semiotics (map design semiotics, semiotics of navigation, semiotics of atlases, semiotics of infographics, semiotics of ubiquitous und multiple representation, semiotics of mapping and atlassing, semiotics of user/language, qualification, behaviour etc./) is a long process.

The modern cartography is ready for evolutions in theory and technology in the next years.

## 6. About authors of the event atlas

**Alexander Wolodtschenko**,  
Dr. Dr.h.c., former assistant  
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phy, TU Dresden (1979 –  
2014). ERASMUS-Dozent,  
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Co-editor, e-journals: meta-  
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geocontext.  
Ex-Chiar, ICA Commission  
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(1999 – 2011).

**Carmen Wolodtschenko**,  
Dr., journalist



## 7. Impressum

Wolodtschenko, A., Wolodtschenko, C.

**Selected interviews after the ICC 2017.** Event atlas.

(1st issue: ICA and ICC 2017).

Dresden 2017, 20 S.

This event atlas presents selected interviews of participants of the International Cartographic Conference 2017 in Washington, DC.

It is aimed at cartographers, geographers, specialists of geoinformatics etc., in particular those who are interested to modern cartography and its problems.

Dresden  
2017