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Humanizing Technology

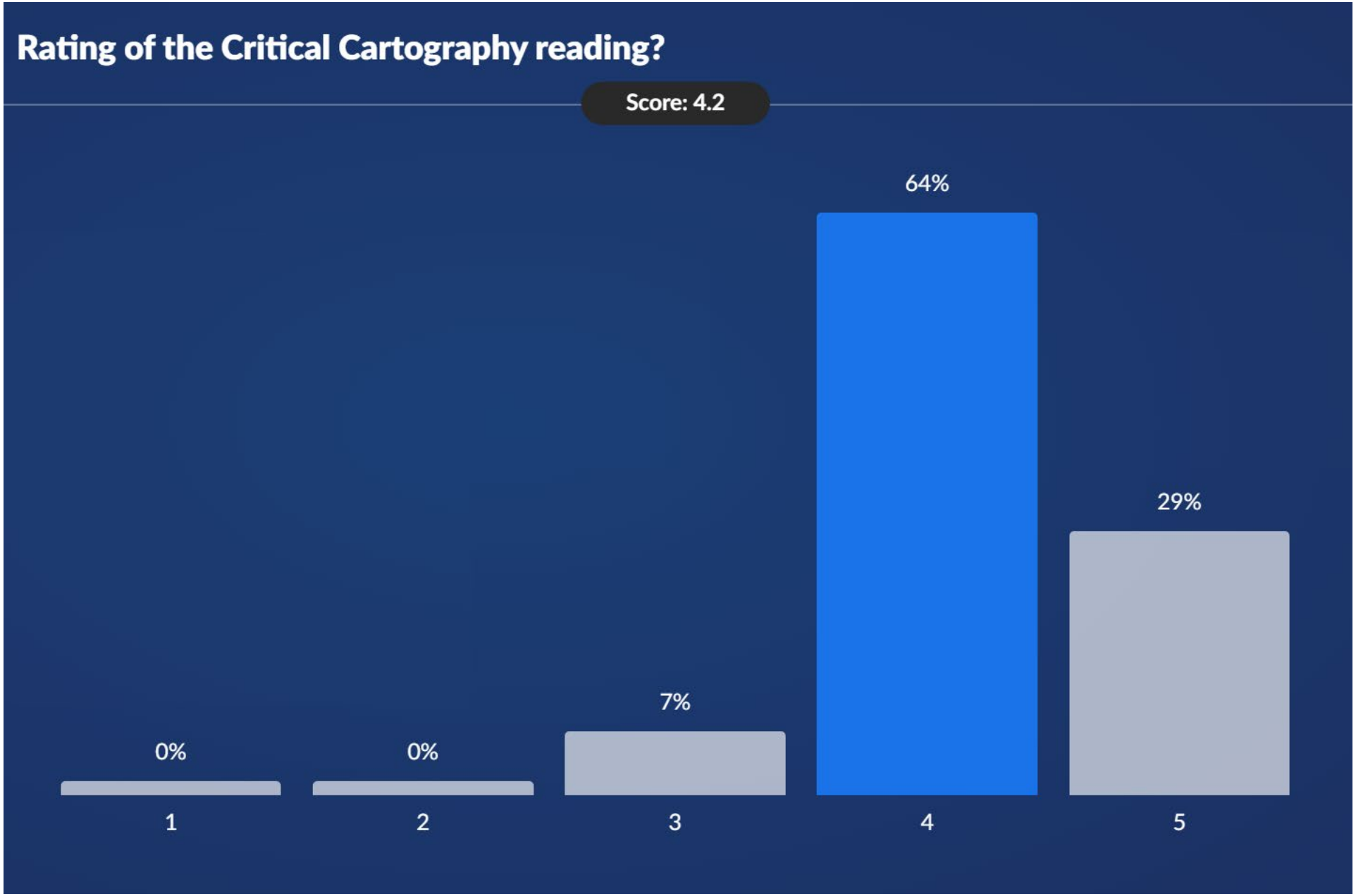
Critical Cartography and Civil Society

Albert S. Kochaphum

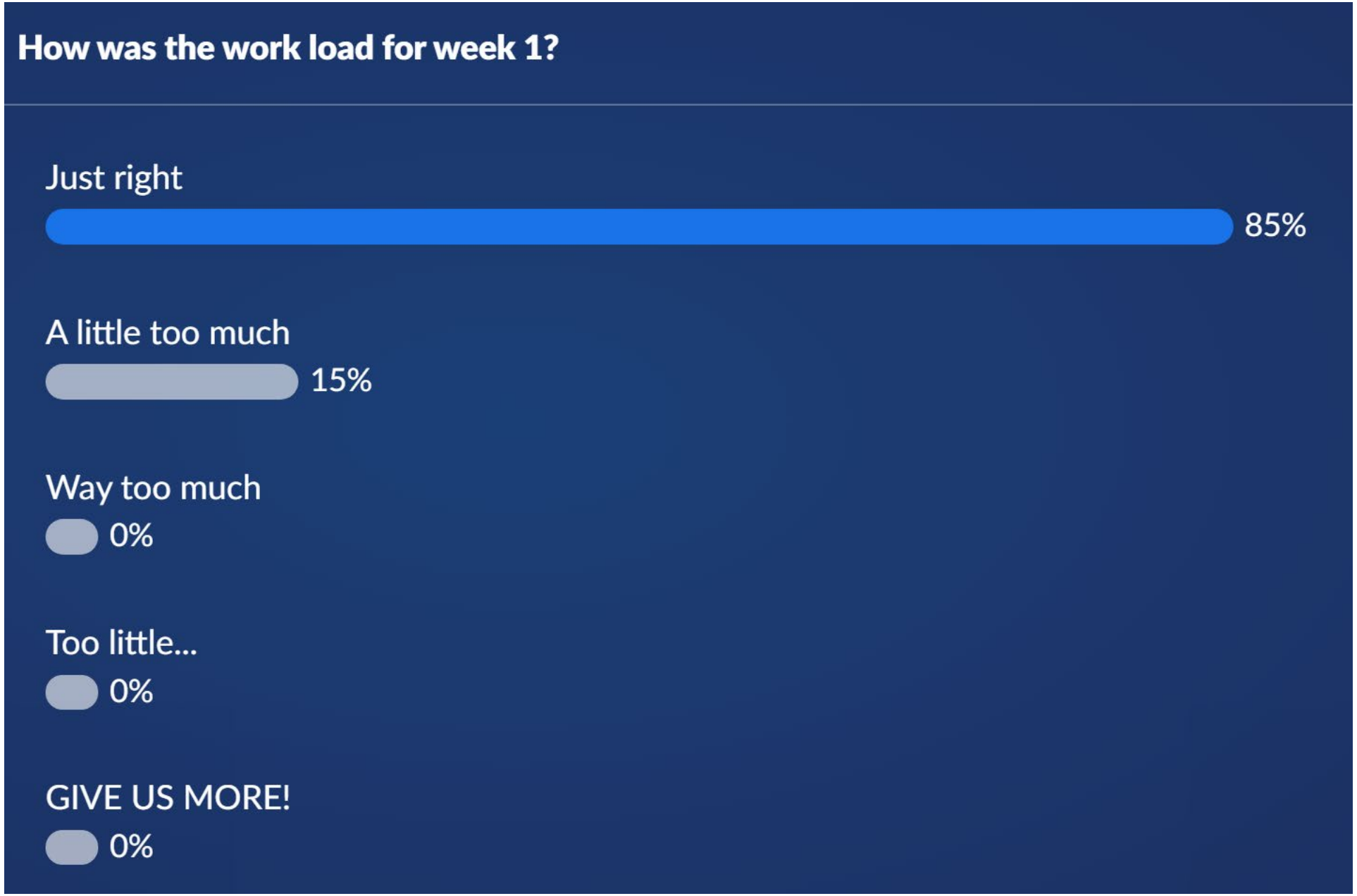
Week 2 | April 4th, 2022

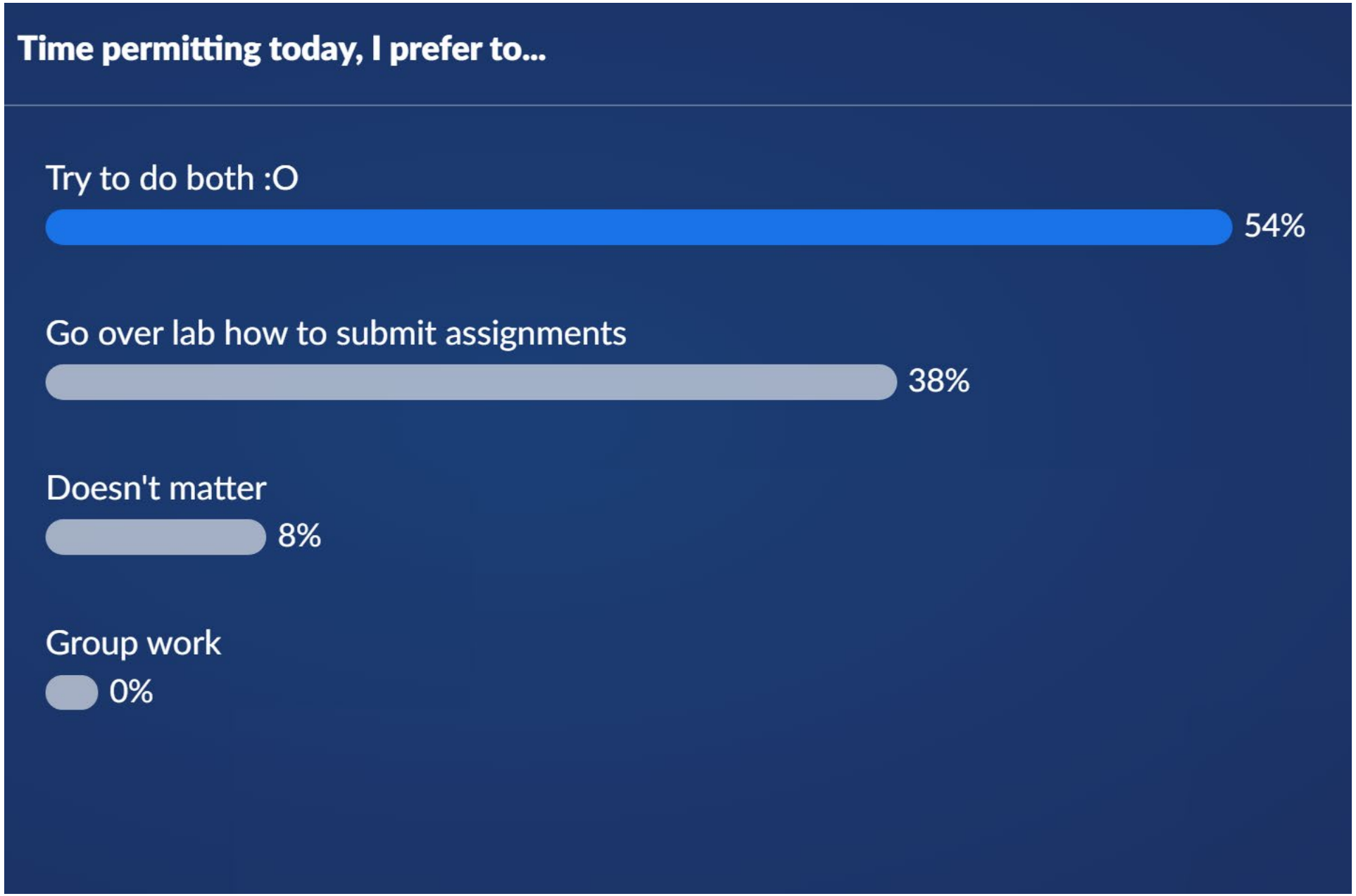
How are you feeling?

Thoughts on the Critical Cartography reading?

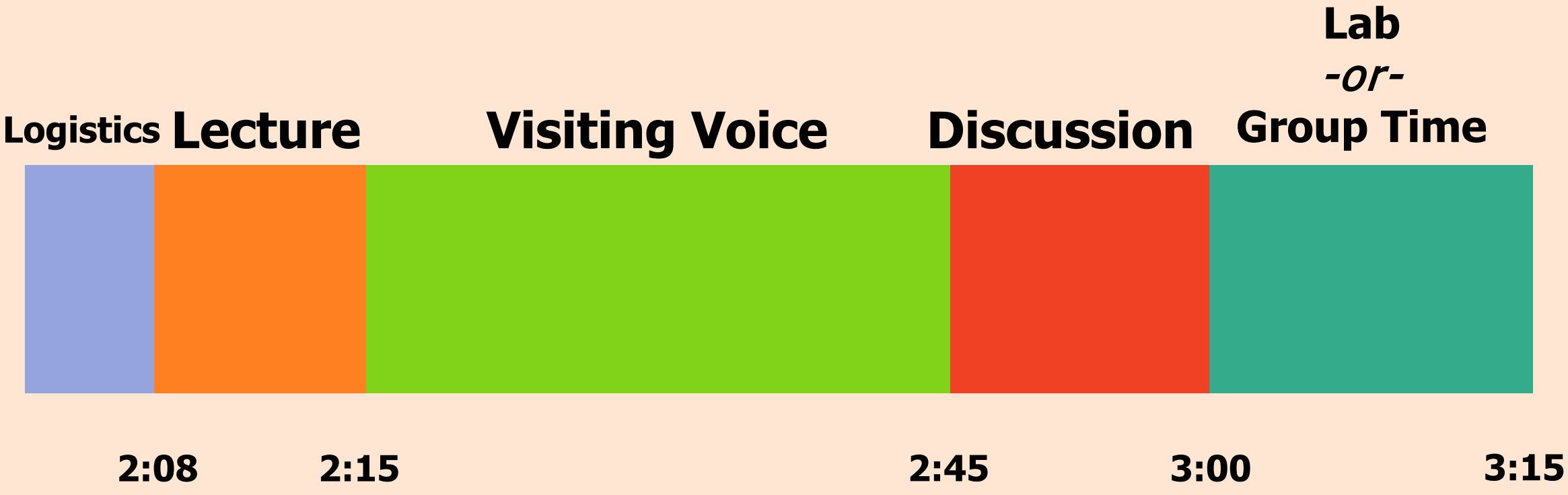

Rating of the Critical Cartography reading?
Score: 4.2
64%
29%
7%
0%
0%
1
2
3
4
5

How was the work load for week 1?




Time permitting today, I prefer to...
Try to do both :O
54%
Go over lab how to submit assignments
38%
Doesn't matter
8%
Group work
0%

Today's Agenda



Week 1 ALwards

Refreshing Commints ALwards

- https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2495479
- https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2458475

- https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2495705
- https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2489176

- https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2495425

- https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2493846

- https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2490044
- https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2467499

- https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2488420
- https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2474160

- https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2483536
- https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2495704

ALwards from Week 1

Ngoc Tran

"Our representation of others with labels, numbers, and color-coding likely does not represent the full breadth of life people experience daily…there can also be pressure to use data or GIS in ways that fit with dominantly scholarly discourse to make scholarship more acceptable to reviewers at the expense of the communities involved in the study"

https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2495479

Nish Krishnan

"For example, many countries make use of facial recognition data and geolocation data to monitor and track data of their citizens…our data itself can be biased due to systemic issues…oftentimes less data collected on communities of color.."

https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2458475

ALwards from Week 1

Most encouraging comments

Angeline Eow

I strongly agree with you on how many countries would often overlook marginalized groups and it becomes problematic, especially in the government sector. Just like you mentioned about facial recognition, I have read articles about people from communities of color who are caught wrongly using AI due to a lack of data collection in the communities…. I love your response! Keep it up! :)

https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2495705

Daisuke Saitou

"You're right that data and GIS are very useful and have the ability to empower communities in need, which indicates that these tools have significant power and can foster social changes. However, as you said, the users of these powerful tools must understand what they are capable of doing with them and must not abuse their power or use them for wrong/unethical reasons. Great post!"

https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2489176

ALwards from Week 1

Good Ricolalecting last week's material

Steven Tran

The reading "An Introduction to Critical Cartography" gave me more knowledge on a subject that I had very little knowledge about. Critical cartography is political by nature… The notorious example is redlining…This transitions to how maps can hurt communities because many Indigenous communities in America have been stripped of their native lands because the U.S. is the one who is making the maps.

https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2495425

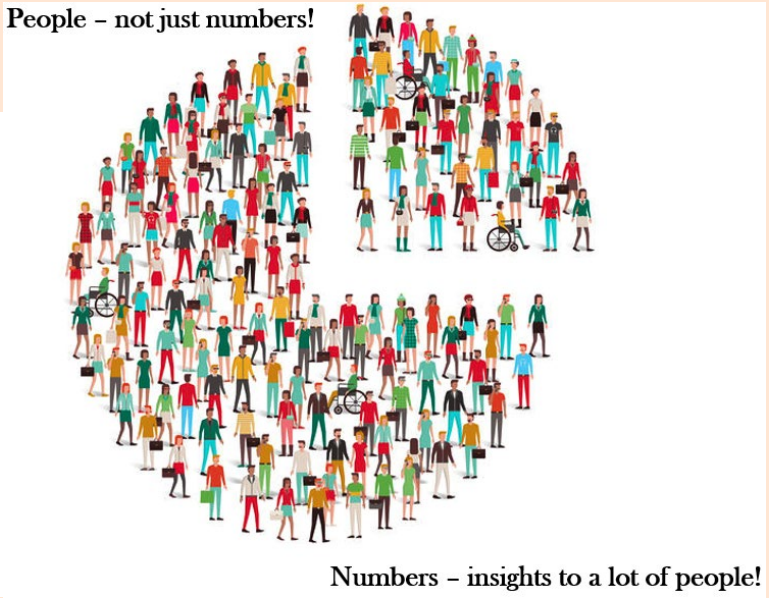
ALwards from Week 1

Out of

attachment

Anthony Lin

Furthermore, because there exists a common misconception that visualizations of data are scientific and unbiased, viewers may spend far too little time considering their validity and reliability and entirely too much time absorbing the information presented as fact, which also thereby depersonalizes and dehumanizes the individuals that constitute the data: people are not numbers.



https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2493846

ALccolades from Week 1

GREAT CAUTIONING ABOUT

NATIVE FACTS

Diana Tran

"…many maps may not be a reflection of the truth, but rather a reflection of what a small group of people wants us to see… the lack of media literacy leads to what Assistant Professor Robinsion describes as a false reliance on maps "because we're so used to trusting them as fact." Not only does this allow for certain dominant political structures to push a false narrative…"

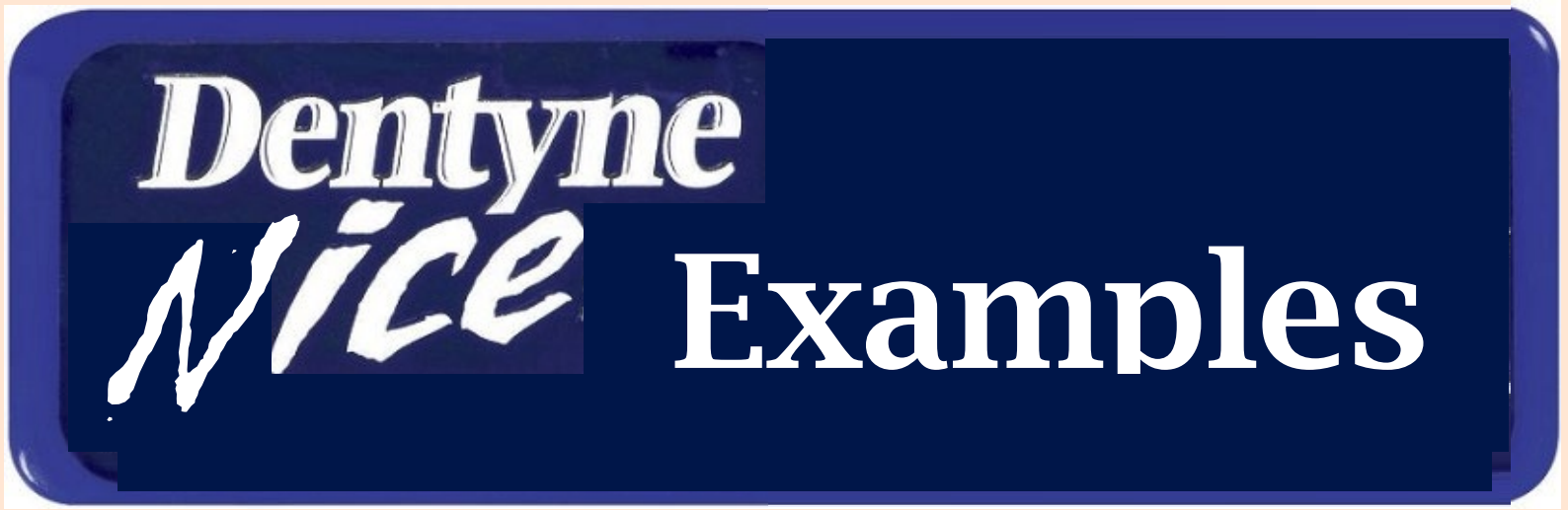
https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2490044

Emma Hanson

"data and GIS can be misused often to further disadvantage marginalized groups and benefit those in positions of power…premodern times would draw their nation as the center, often bigger or presented in a more "grandiose" manner to elevate their country's status…it was easy to turn this map into an asset for a nation"

https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2467499

ALwards from Week 1



Willa Kurland

"maps are political in nature and "make reality as much as they represent it…This article discusses how misleading maps can be. Often rural areas are shown to represent a critical mass of voters when in reality urban areas often hold far more voters…they rarely come with the important disclaimer that land doesn't vote" (Bloomberg, 2020).

https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2488420

Subhram Gupta

"maps are intrinsically political and inscribe power to the nation-state rather than the communities themselves…the drawing of borders implies that land can be possessed and owned (which in and of itself is a neoliberal conception)…ignores how … boundaries are constantly being contested in areas like Kashmir, Jammu, and Ladakh"

https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2474160

ALwards from Week 1

Ashley Lu

"With the addition of the United States growing interested in the Middle East's potential for oil, the US and GB essentially used GIS to create this construct that exists in our perceptions…Though some might treat cartography as wholly a science as described in Critical Cartography, it is very much subjective and influenced by political motivations… Otherwise, we continue to perpetuate the power imbalances established centuries ago.

https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2483536

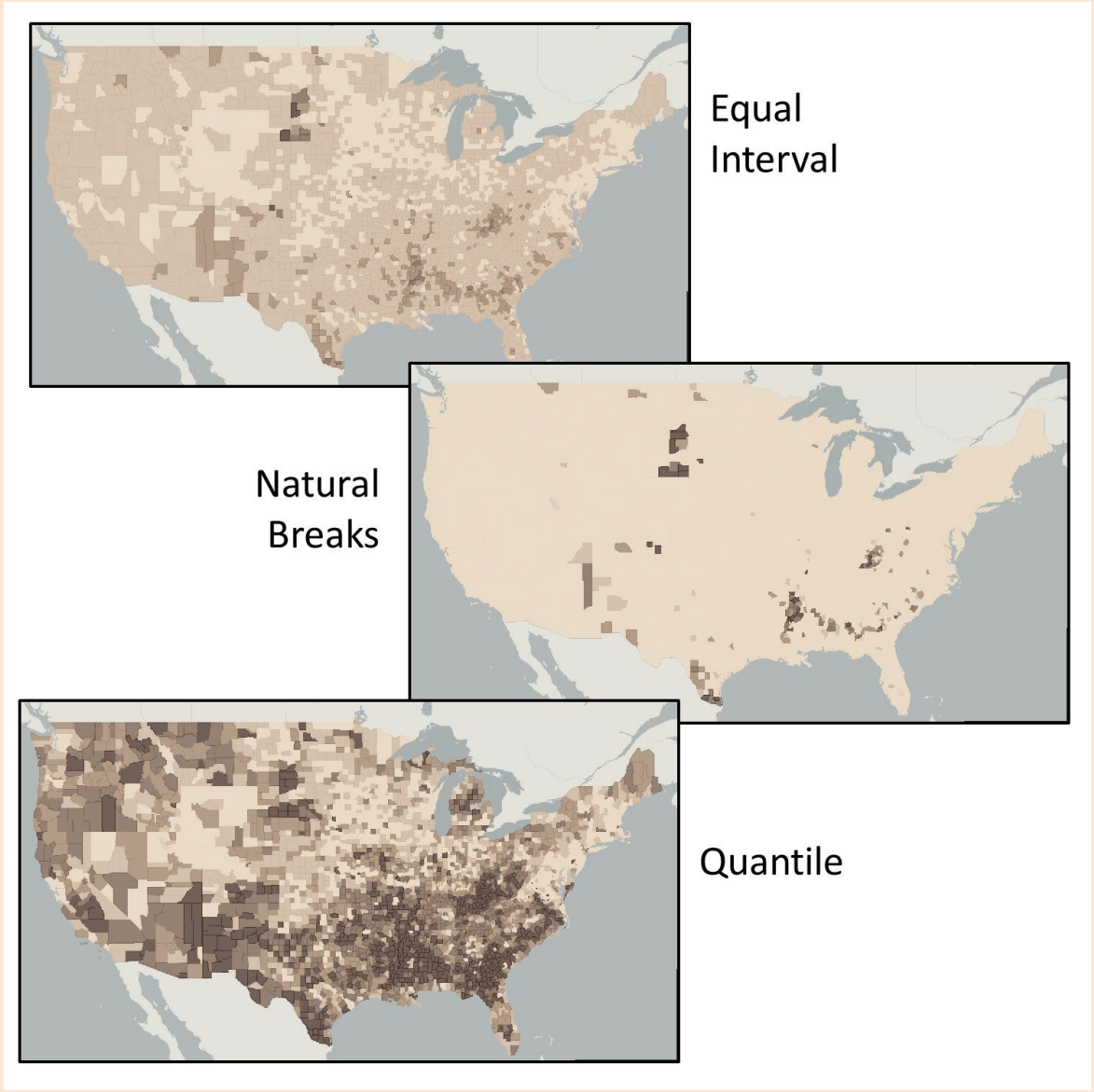
Jenny Lu

"the way a lot of maps and country borders are portrayed could be problematic as the "mainstream" map is usually upheld by the dominant/"ruling" communities which could be used to marginalize other groups. When thinking of the Israel/Palestine conflict, we can see that their borders and the maps of those regions are actively being redrawn, and we can also relate it back to colonial times when settlers began drawing maps of their colonies and claiming indigenous land as their own"

https://github.com/albertkun/22S-ASIAAM-191A/discussions/1#discussioncomment-2495704

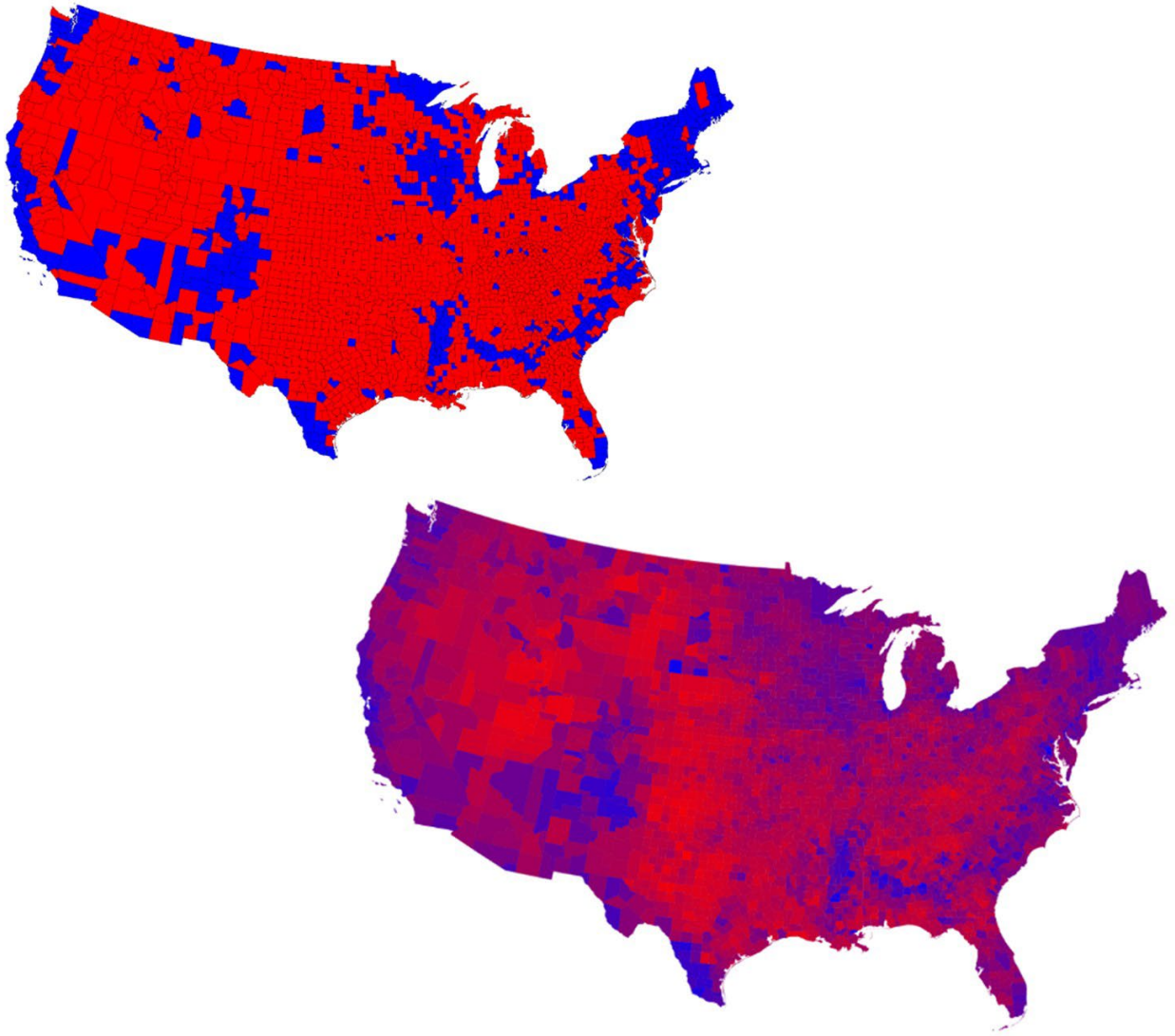
Other Feedback

- **Harder to get awards next time**
- **Try to reference what was covered in the reading in your responses**
- **Connect your own experiences**



https://open.lib.umn.edu/mapping/chapter/7-lying-with-maps/

US Presidential Election Results by County (2012)



United States
Govind Pashu
National Park
Dharali
Bhaironghati
Gaurikand
Nanda Devi
Biosphere
Reserve
Vikasnagar
Okhimath
India
Govind Pashu
National Park
Dharali
Bhaironghati
Gaurikand
Nanda Devi
Biosphere
Reserve
Vikasnagar
Okhimath
Dehradun
A
Rishikesh
Uttarakhand
Haridwar
Jim Corbett
National Park
Kashipur
Haldwani
Meerut

Fox

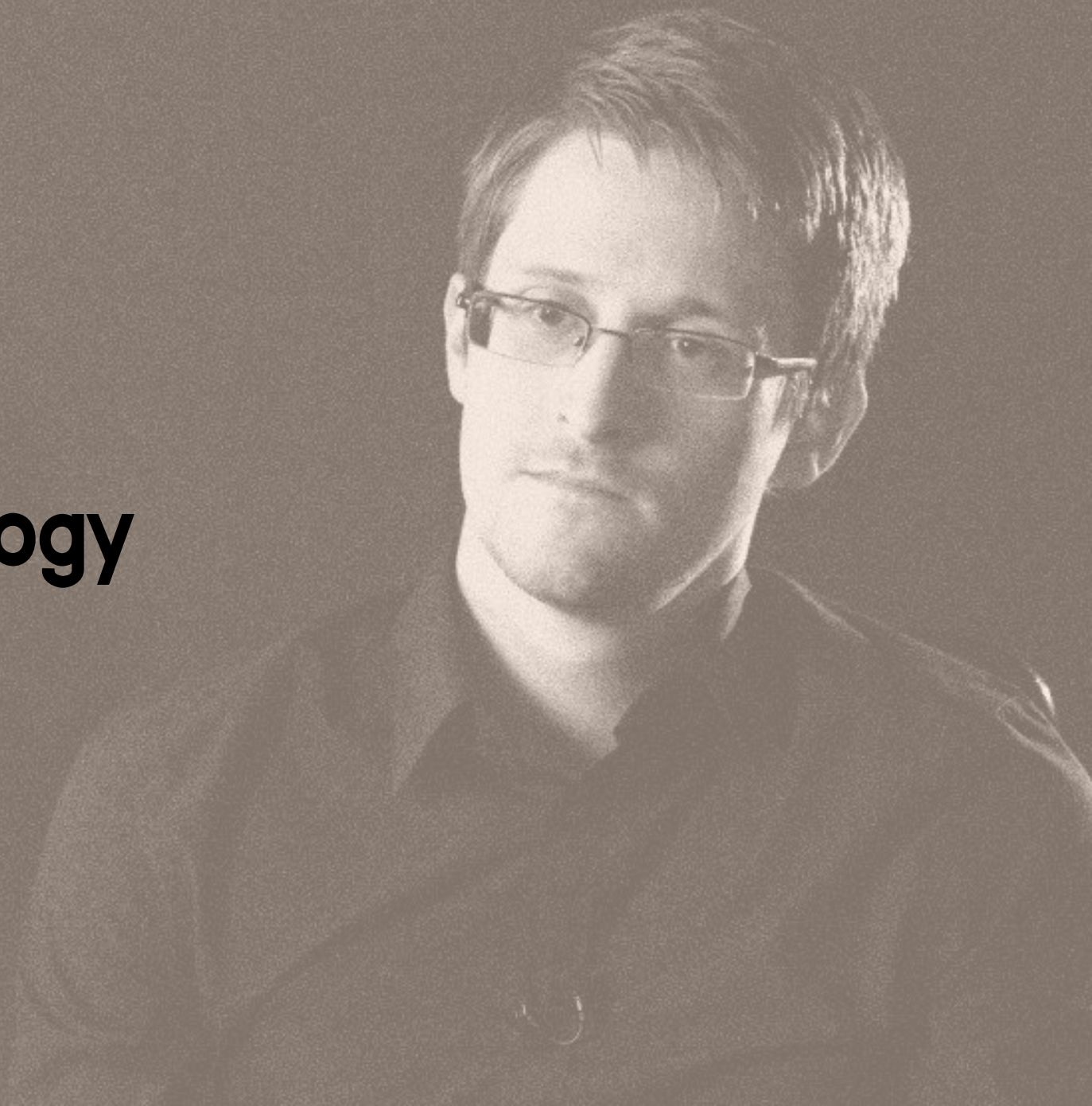
BBC

CNN

https://open.lib.umn.edu/mapping/chapter/7-lying-with-maps/

Onto Week 2 Lecture!

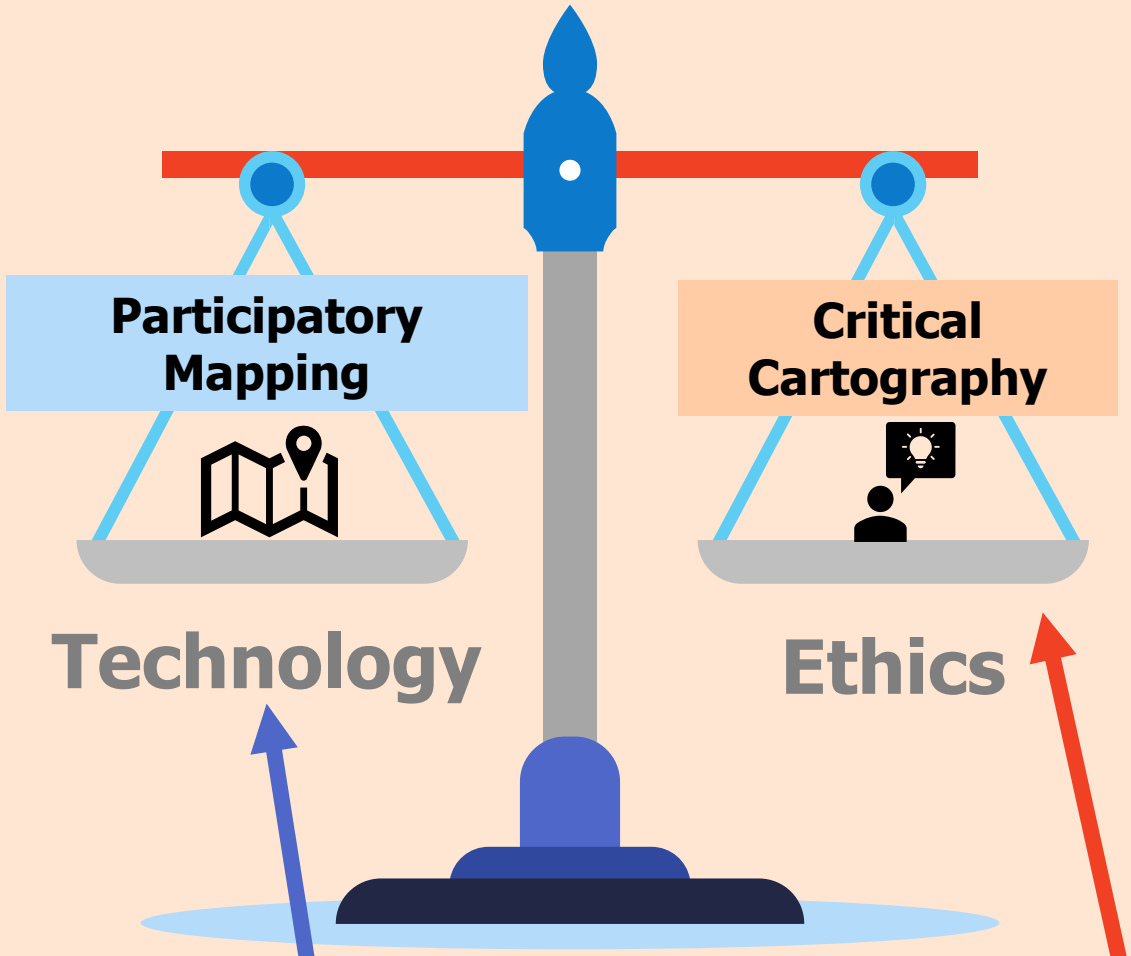
Humanizing Technology



Theme of the week

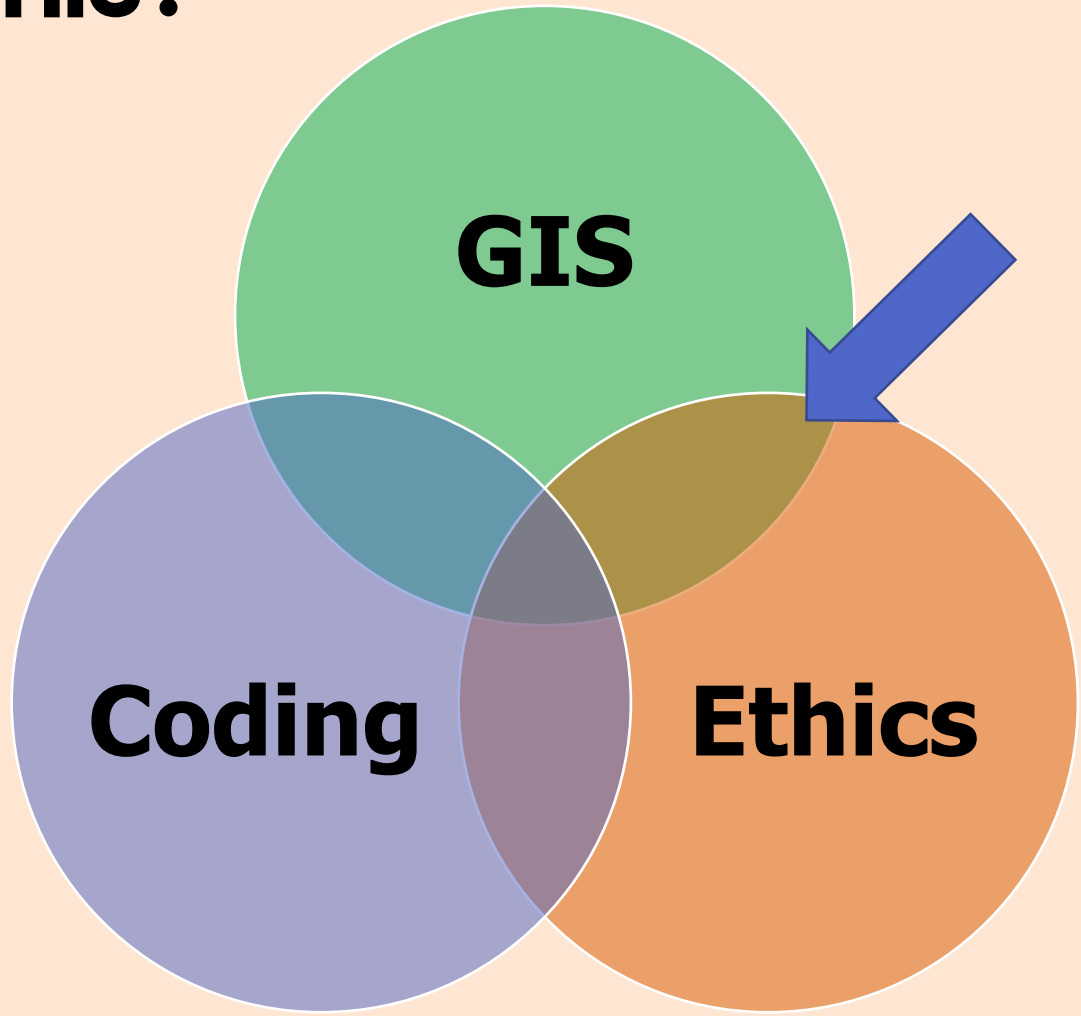
Balancing critical tools with critical thinking

Theme of the week



Balancing **critical tools** with **critical thinking**

Remember this?



Where was Critical Cartography?

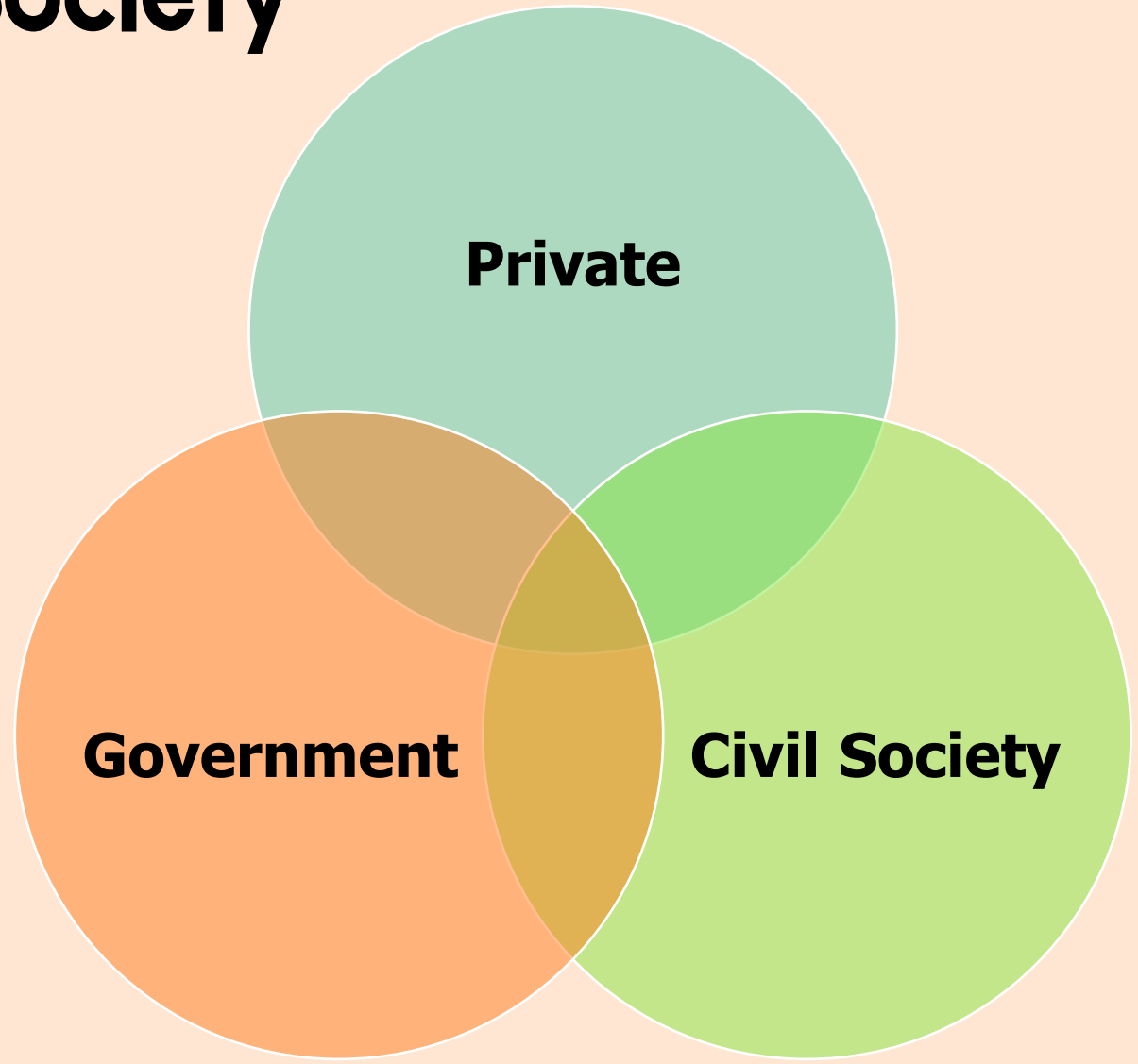
Venn (will you stop showing us) diagrams?

Please, let me just:

venone mo Diagram

to you

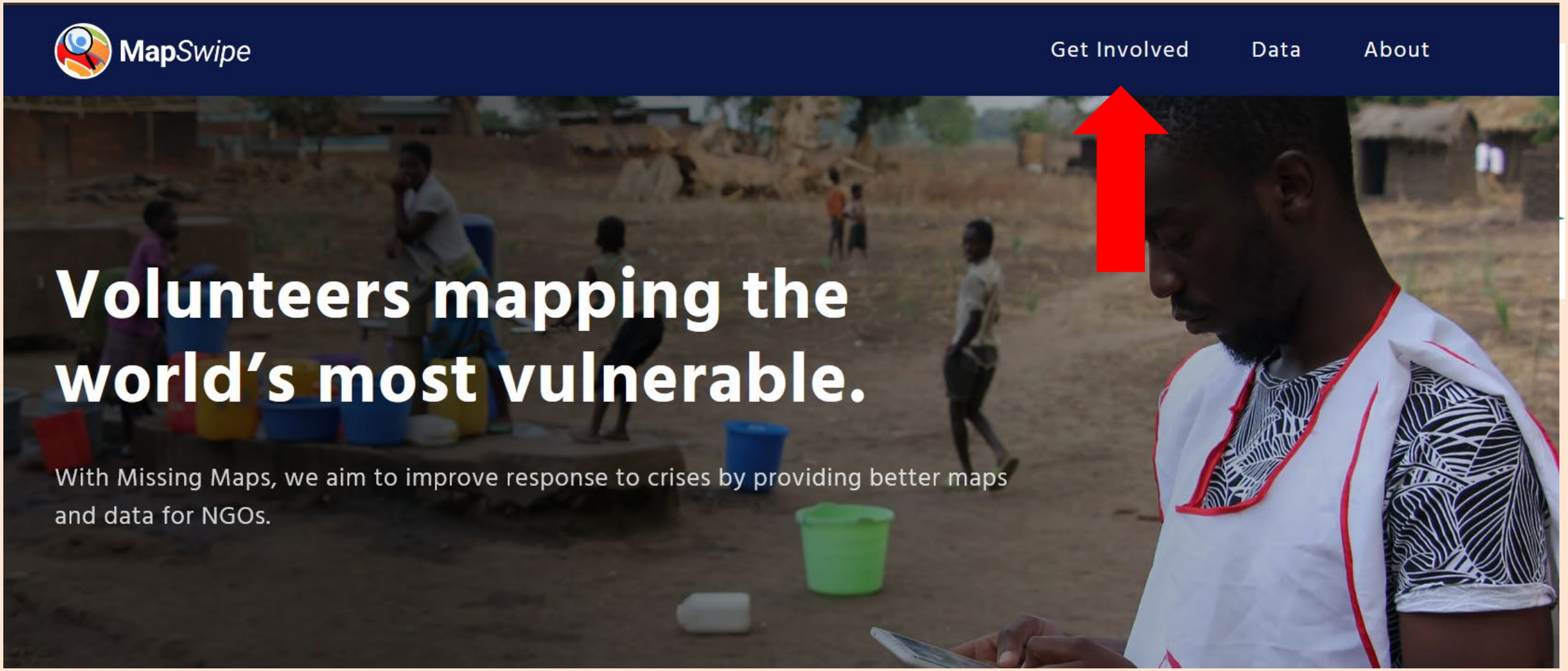
Sectors of Society



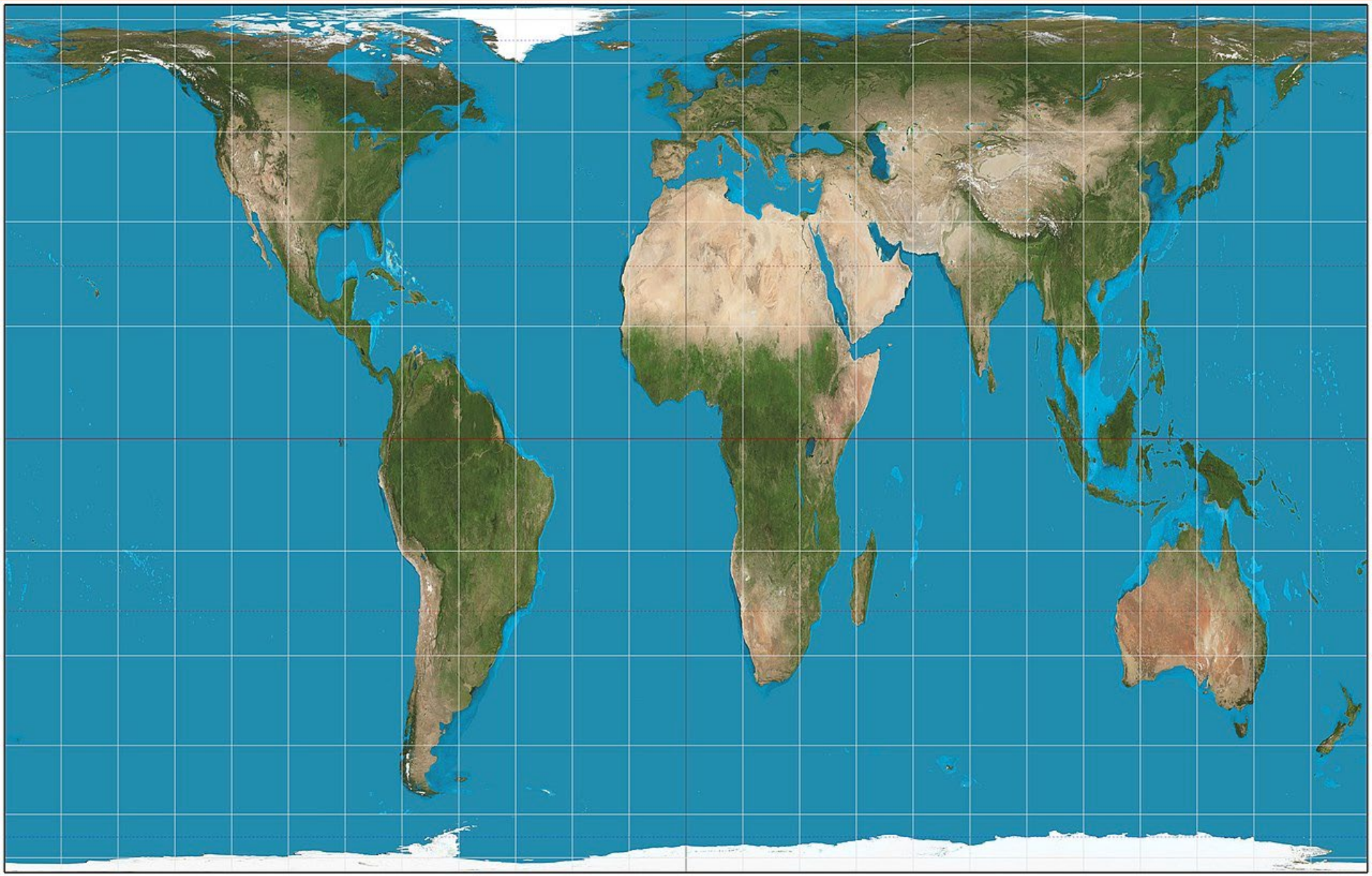
Civil Society

Civil Society in mapping

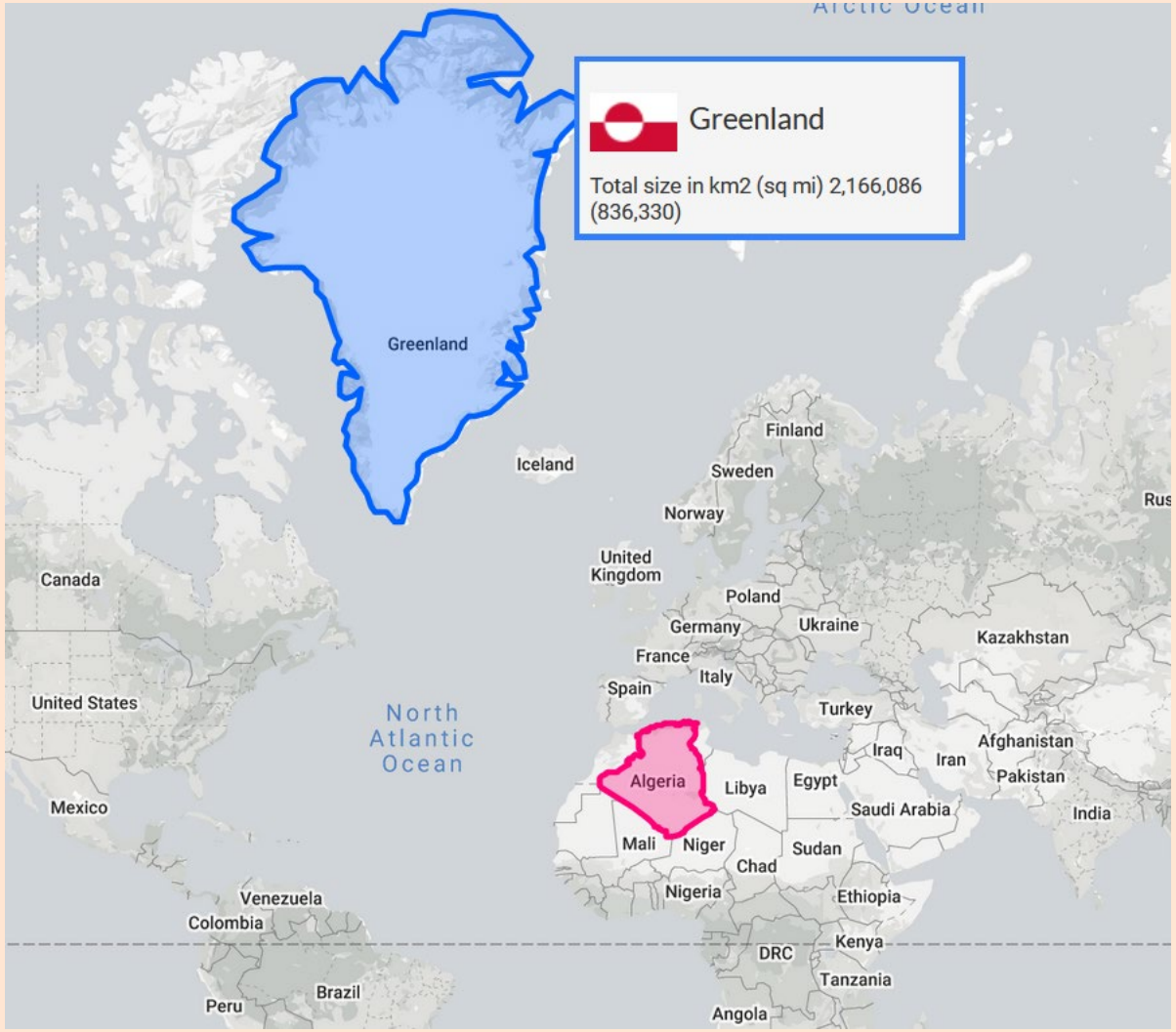
Civil Society and Critical Cartography



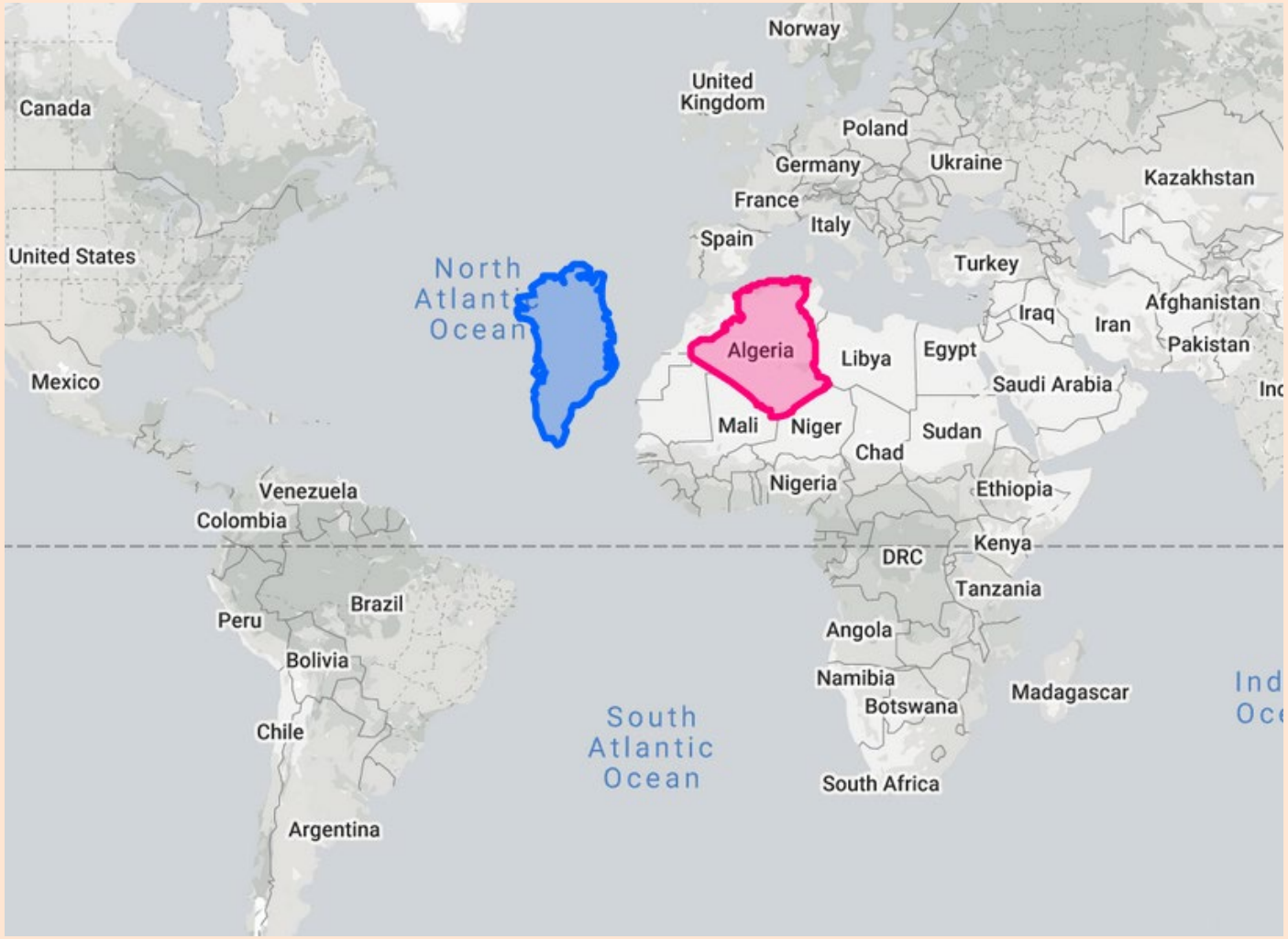
“Critique is about the politics of knowledge”



Undisciplining Cartography



Undisciplining Cartography



https://thetruesize.com

Undisciplining Cartography

Visiting Voice: Mariah Tso

Visiting Voice: Mariah Tso

Mariah Tso is a Diné woman, artist, and GIS Specialist for the Ralph J. Bunche Center and the Million Dollar Hoods Project.

slido

Audience Q&A Session

ⓘ Start presenting to display the audience questions on this slide.

Discussion

Discussion #1

1. **Get into groups based on this Google Doc: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WJRh2p7DQoJlEDYP-Agpw-Y8bXjr9D-qaiiqf0oXTpY/copy**

2. **Discuss the questions together**

3. **Take notes**

4. **Pick 1-2 representatives to share back to the larger group**

Q1. How do we increase awareness of critical cartography? Should we?

Q2. “Oppression” seems to be a running theme of cartography, how do we avoid it?

Q3. We will be “map hacking” ourselves, but what do you think about “map artists”?

Thinking Cap for the week:

How can participatory mapping and critical cartography be improved?

Assignments

Due Wednesday 4/6:

1. **Lab Assignment #1**
2. **Group Assignment #1**
3. **Pre-Lab**

Lab vs. Group time

Lab – How to publish to GitHub Pages

vs.

Group Time – Authoring content in markdown

EPIC DEMO BATTLES OF CLASSTIME

Group Time

Group Time

- **Explain the Group Assignment #1:**
  - https://albertkun.github.io/22S-ASIAAM-191A/assignments/week1/group_assignment/