S-5 – Critical, radical and postcolonial geographies and cartographies from early approaches to present-day debates

Commission on the History of Geography

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Abstract:
In the last 50 years or so, geographers have done a great work in addressing the history of their discipline under a critical perspective, highlighting the past role of geography and mapping in state building and in contributing to European colonial endeavors. Since the 1960s and 1970s, critical and radical geographies acquired an increasing importance in the international scene of the discipline, questioning the former achievements of geographers at the service of states and warfare. In the following years, with the raising of postmodern and poststructuralist tendencies, a number of new critical approaches characterized the contributions which many geographers gave to postcolonial, subaltern and de-colonial studies, including also feminism, gender and queer theory, relational and non-representational geographies, critical mapping, geographies of exclusion and cultural difference etc. Nevertheless, recent research has highlighted the importance of early critical and unorthodox voices in the history of geography, e.g. the international network of the anarchist geographers inspired by the work of Elisée Reclus and Pëtr Kropotkin, as well as of the historical relevance of geographies of peace and anti-colonialism. For this session, we welcome contribution on all this range of topics, as well as analysis on any argument related to the history of geography and mapping or to historical geographies, treated through the lenses of a critical, radical or postcolonial approach.
We expect especially papers on:
• Radical, critical, subaltern and postcolonial geographies from early authors to present-day critical tendencies in the discipline
• Historical geographies of social movements in European and non-European countries
• Geographies of solidarity, anti-racist, anti-colonialist and anarchist geographies
• Geographies of minorities and exclusion
• Critical and postcolonial approaches to the history of geography and cartography or to issues in historical geography
• Imperial cartographies, de-construction of maps and critical mappings
• De-colonilatity, coloniality and modernity, social movements and indigenous knowledge
• Feminist, queer and LGTB approaches
• Intersectionality and critique of powers
• Geographies of peace
• Critical approaches to nation-building
• Critical readings of critical, radical and postcolonial geographies
• We also welcome proposals of additional topics to be incorporated into the final program.

**Keywords:** Postcolonial and subaltern studies – Critical geographies – Social movements – Critical mapping – Geographies of solidarity.

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