

Practices of Abstraction: The View from Cartography and Geography

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Reflective analyses and actual protocols of abstraction and concretization in cartography and GIS (Geographic Information Systems) provide a rich repository for philosophical analyses of the promises and perils of abstraction practices across the sciences. Practices of making and using abstractions, rather than static world-abstraction representation relations, are highlighted via the map analogy, *viz.*, a scientific theory is a map of the world. As models of how human knowledge is generated and functions cartography and geography thus explode with insight. Perhaps this is why the map analogy pervades practice-oriented philosophy of science?

Relevant author readings:

“Mapping Kinds in GIS and Cartography,” (forthcoming) in Katie Kendig (editor), *Natural Kinds After the Practice-Turn*, London: Pickering & Chatto.

<http://philpapers.org/archive/WINMKI.pdf>

“Practice,” Chapter 3 of *When Maps Become the World. Abstraction and Analogy in Science and Philosophy*. (University of Chicago Press, under contract). Available upon request.