



ENTANGLED CARTOGRAPHIES

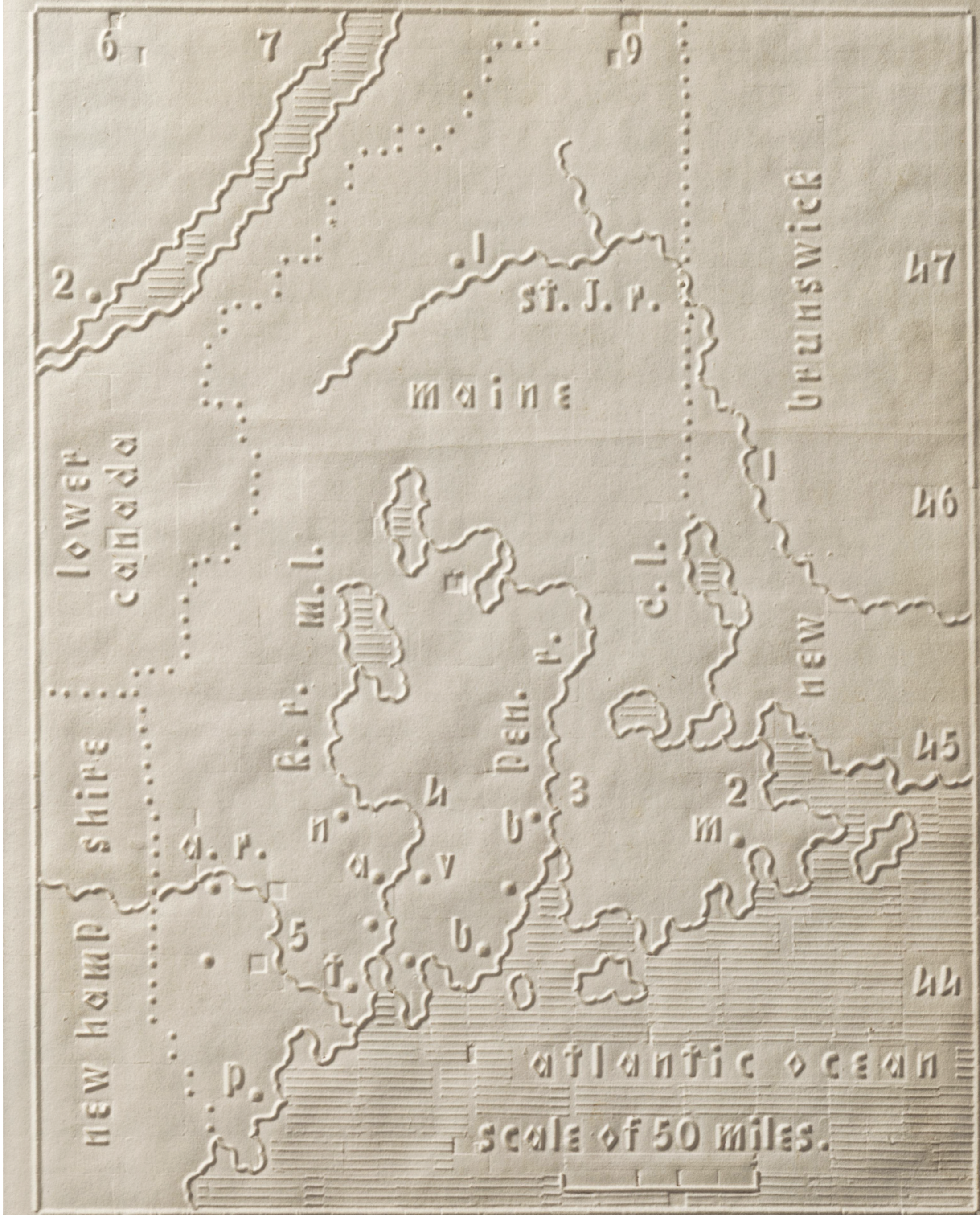
Image Credit
Map for the Blind, 1837

2025.11.6-7

*I have rivers but no water; forests but no trees; cities but no buildings. What am I?
A map. (origins of riddle unknown)*

In his 1931 paper "A Non-Aristotelian System and Its Necessity for Rigor in Mathematics and Physics", Polish American scientist and philosopher Alfred Korzybski introduced the now-iconic phrase, "a map is not the territory." While Korzybski's original focus was on general semantics, the metaphor he coined has since gained far greater reach, prompting deeper reflections on the relationship between representation and reality. This question, which has occupied thinkers throughout history—from Plato's allegory of the cave to Jean Baudrillard's concept of simulation and simulacra—remains central in understanding our entanglements with the world.

In the context of today's rapidly shifting landscapes—shaped by advancements in digital technology, ecological crises, and societal transformations—*Entangled Cartographies* takes this relationship between map and territory as a jumping off point to investigate fluctuating and transmutative topographies. The conference puts forward topics of *sentience*, *society*, *reality*, and *cosmology*, where cartography, both literal and metaphorical, could serve as a critical tool for navigating and untangling these new converging spaces.



CONFERENCE
SCHEDULE

2025.11.6-7

THU. 11.6

Keynote One

Boris Debackere

Artist, Head of Production, V2_Lab for the Unstable Media
Location / Time: IB Lecture Hall / 6:00-7:00pm

FRI. 11.7

Keynote Two

Victoria Szabo

Research Professor of Visual and Media Studies, Duke University
Location / Time: IB Lecture Hall / 9:00-10:00am

Networked Societies Track

Chair: Benjamin Bacon
Location / Time: AB1079 / 10:15-12:15pm

Synthetic Cartographics: Constructing Landscape Demographic Data
Jia Zhang, Columbia University (online) 10:15-10:45am

Historical documents, interviews, and objects as holders of memories across generations.
Daniela Torres Medina, Duke Kunshan University 10:45-11:15am

Gathering the Cracks: Poetic Counter-Mapping of Informal Networks in Bacheng
Zhiyuan Ma (and collaborators), Duke Kunshan University 11:15-11:45am

Entangled Intimacies: How VTuber Avatars Redraw the Cartographies of Networked Societies
Huiwei Wen, New York University Shanghai 11:45-12:15pm

Environments & Realities Track

Chair: Rui Hu
Location / Time: AB2103 / 10:15-11:45am

On Performative Foraging as a Form of Sensory Cartography
Ishraki Kazi, New York University Shanghai 10:15-10:45am

A Journey to the Left: Directionality and Cartographic Perspectives in the Visual Culture of Xiyou Ji
Chengjin Su, Zhejiang University 10:45-11:15am

Navigating Commercial Media Monopolies with Embodied Mediation
Asha Sophea Janardhan, Duke Kunshan University 11:15-11:45am

Keynote Three

Ionat Zurr

Artist, Associate Professor of Fine Arts, University of Western Australia
Location / Time: IB Lecture Hall / 1:30-2:30pm

Ambient Intelligence Track

Chair: Daniel Weissglass
Location / Time: AB1079 / 3:00-4:30pm

Conceptual Cartography: LLMs as Conceptual Maps
Daniel Weissglass, Duke Kunshan University 3:00-3:30pm

Disembodied Reflection: The AI that is its Own Map
Xinyu (Kiri) Tian, New York University Shanghai 3:30-4:00pm

Reimagining web typology by drawing on the decentralized, adaptive intelligence of slime mold from a posthuman perspective.
Yanrui (Linda) Shao, Delft University of Technology (online) 4:00-4:30pm

Techno-Ontologies & Cosmologies Track

Chair: Vivian Xu
Location / Time: AB2103 / 3:00-4:30pm

Weird World: The Networked Eco-horrors of Globalization, Translation, and “World Literature” in Pola Oloixarac’s Mona
Julia Irion Martins, New York University Shanghai 3:00-3:30pm

Nomadic Intelligence as Distributed Sentience in Central Asia
Kymbat Altybay, Duke Kunshan University 3:30-4:00pm

Female bodies, land and resistance: cuerpo-territorio as counter-cartography in resource extraction in Latin America
Qianying (Yelena) Ye, New York University Shanghai 4:00-4:30pm