

An online lecture series
on mapping the earth from inside



We are not above

STADTLABOR
— M Ü N S T E R —

DIGITAL
GEOGRAPHY

ORANGOTANGO

The back-to-front version of the This-Is-Not-an-Atlas world map strives to dismiss the from-above view of the original logo, prioritizing the cartographers condition of being-in-the-world. // The background is not a starry, but a cross-section of a yellow beet, refined with a few pixel speckles.

From **April to July 2025** kollektiv orangotango, Digital Geography Working Group (University Halle) and StadtLabor (University Münster) realize the collaborative **This Is Not an Atlas-Online Lecture Series** focusing, in this first edition, on critical mapping practices related to “Mapping earth from inside”.

In this era marked by multiple crises—pandemics, climate breakdown, soil degradation, etc.—the Earth transcends its role as a mere stage; it has evolved into – indeed, it always was – an active participant, challenging, thus, the conventional perception of the world as “around us”. It is imperative that we **reimagine the Earth in the context of our (co)existence**. To achieve this, a fundamental shift in orientation is necessary. We have to reposition ourselves within the critical zone¹ and cultivate awareness of the interconnected, more-than-human relationships within the planetary web of life. Mapping a planet under multi-crises condition demands critical cartographers to develop sensitivity, along with ecological affectivity and transcultural tact.

This **experimental and collaborative lecture series** presents and discusses alternative, pluriversal, and speculative approaches to representing the planet we live on. It highlights the shift from classical (from-above) cartographies to a sensitive perspective of “being-in-the-world.” At its core, it attempts to conceptually go beyond our current satellite images, projections, or critical cartographies. The lecture series revolves around approaches such as **Sensorial Mapping, Pluriversal Mapping, Body Mapping, Indigenous Mapping, Deep Mapping and Speculative Mapping**, among others, from fields like art, activism, architecture and geography. Our objective is to imagine, and potentially illustrate collectively the Earth from the ground, or simply as a part of us.

Join the lectures on zoom [here](#).

The lectures are always Tuesdays
16:00 – 18:00 CEST, UTC+02:00

More information [here](#).

¹ The Earth system science concept of the “critical zone,” which extends from the vegetation layer to the groundwater table, refers to a living, breathing, constantly evolving boundary layer in which rocks, soils, water, air, and living organisms interact. It is considered “critical” because its functions can collapse completely under stress. We aim to map a way out of the Anthropocene and towards a regenerative, more-than-human future within the critical zone. This lecture series is inspired by Bruno Latour’s work on the Critical Zone and his question “Where am I?” as well as by indigenous cosmovisions from Latin America and other non-western “sentipensamientos”.



Program

- 22.4. 16:00 – 18:00 CEST, UTC+02:00
Opening Lecture
“We are not above – Mapping from below”
kollektiv orangotango
- 6.5. 16:00 – 18:00 CEST, UTC+02:00
“Sensibility Mapping”
Dr. Élise Olmedo (CNRS)
Prof. Sébastien Caquard (Concordia University Montreal)
- 20.5. 16:00 – 18:00 CEST, UTC+02:00
“Between indigenous anti-mining struggles, bodymapping and cosmovisions – A school of territorial resistance”
Dr. Manuel Bayón Jiménez (Colectivo de Geografía Crítica de Ecuador)
- 3.6. 16:00 – 18:00 CEST, UTC+02:00
“Sensorial cartography applied to embodied ecologies – Mapping territories as we experience it, from our body to the toxicity of our living spaces”
Dr. Philippe Rekacewicz (Visionscarto)
Mariana Rios Sandoval (University of Wageningen)
- 24.6. 16:00 – 18:00 CEST, UTC+02:00
“Experimental Pluriversal Mapping of Spacetime in Spiral – Insights into speculative cartography exercises”
Dr. Pablo Mansilla (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso)
- 8.7. 16:00 – 18:00 CEST, UTC+02:00
“Terra Forma – Speculative Mapping”
Dr. Alexandra Arènes (Société d’Objets cartographiques)