London South Bank University

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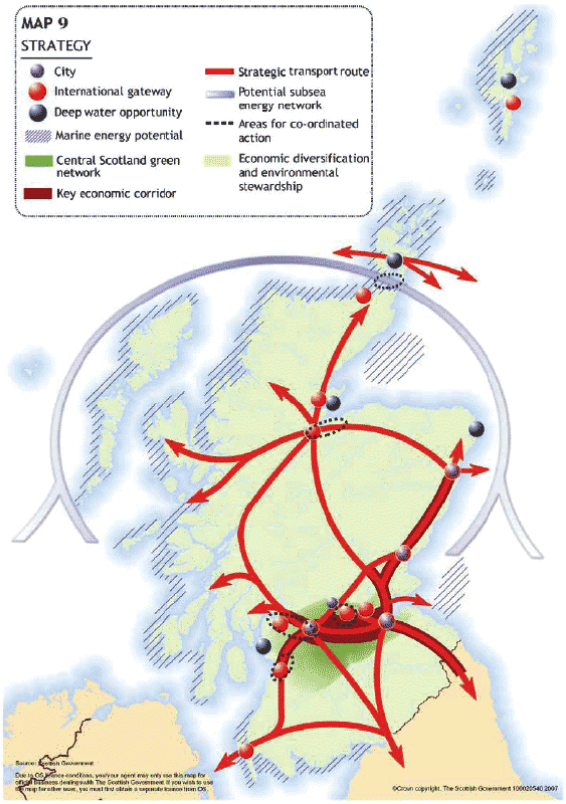
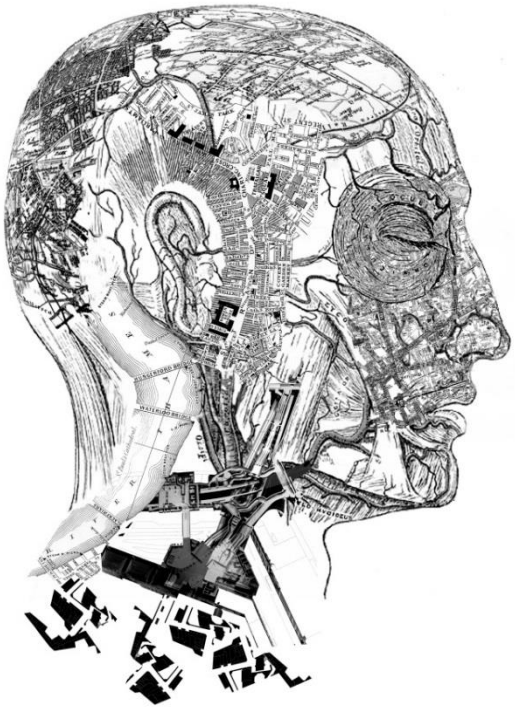
Geographical Investigations

UEL_4_GIN

School of Law and Social Sciences

Level 4





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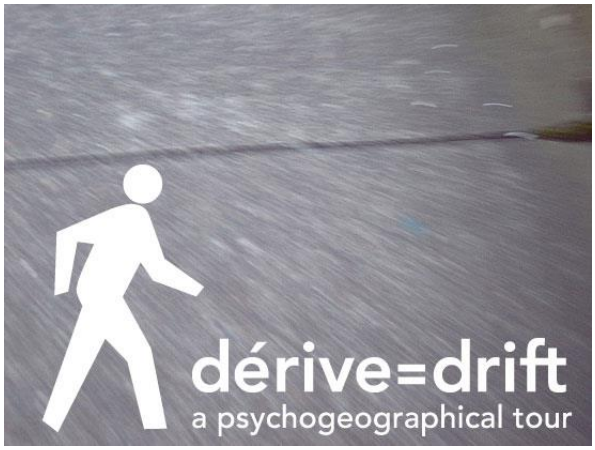

Module Details

Module Title:	Geographical Investigations
Module Level:	4
Module Reference Number:	UEL_4_GIN
Credit Value:	20 CAT points
Student Study Hours:	200
Contact Hours:	39
Private Study Hours:	161
Pre-requisite Learning (If applicable):	None
Co-requisite Modules (If applicable):	None
Course(s):	BA(Hons) Human Geography; BA(Hons) Urban and Environmental Planning
Year and Semester	2019/20, Semester 2
Module Coordinator:	Dr Philip Pinch
MC Contact Details (Email, Room)	pinchpl@lsbu.ac.uk
Teaching Team & Contact Details (If applicable):	Dr Sam Johnson-Schlee johnss32@lsbu.ac.uk
Subject Area:	Human Geography; Urban and Environmental Planning
Summary of Assessment Method:	100% Coursework. There are two components: • Coursework 1: Essay: Critical cartography: A deconstruction of three maps or GIS platforms (50% of total assessment) • Coursework 2: A Psychogeographic dérive (50% of total assessment)

1. SHORT DESCRIPTION

A module that examines a range of ways in which geographical information is produced and communicated, with an emphasis on developing students' skills. It ranges in focus from the uses of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) by public agencies, such local planning and transport authorities, to the importance of maps and spatial representations to private sector developers and to the way community groups understand their neighbourhoods and engage in battles over living spaces. The module also gets student to engage with the techniques and methodologies of psychogeographic exploration.

2. AIMS OF THE MODULE

The presentation and communication of geographical and environmental information through cartographic and other means (such as GIS and the Internet) are important skills for policy professionals, businesses and researchers. This module examines these mapping and representational processes and relevant techniques for the collection, manipulation, storage, analysis, and display of spatial information, including a basic understanding of GIS.

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module, students will:

3.1 Knowledge and Understanding

Achieve knowledge and understanding of:

- The range of techniques for the collection and representation of geographical data relevant to political processes at a range of spatial scales.
- The importance of spatial data to the development and local plan process and the strategies adopted by stakeholders and participants in that process
- The socially constructed and contested nature of geographical information

3.2 Intellectual Skills

- Critical and reflective academic writing skills
- Spatial thinking
- An ability to evaluate and utilise conceptual ideas and concepts

3.3 Practical Skills

- Use appropriate simple spatial data manipulation and querying techniques for land use planning.

3.4 Transferable Skills

- Academic research and professional investigation in the planning field
- Oral presentations skills
- Working in groups
- Collecting, analysing, evaluating and synthesising planning data and trends

4. ASSESSMENT OF THE MODULE

This unit is 100% assessed by coursework and the pass mark for the unit is 40%. Students have to do two pieces of coursework. Each piece of coursework is worth 50% of the total marks.

Both pieces of coursework to be submitted via Moodle as advised.

- **Coursework 1: Essay: Critical cartography: a deconstruction of three political maps or planning GIS platforms (50% of total assessment)**

The aim of this assessment is for students to apply the 'critical cartography' skills they learn in the lectures to either:

a) Three maps of their choosing. These maps should be interesting examples of how spaces and places are represented in map form. They might have a political, economic or cultural purpose. The key thing is for you attempt to 'deconstruct' the underlying purposes of the map, its political, economic or cultural meanings and the power relations underpinning these maps. Whose view of space and place is this? Whose views are excluded?

b) Three contrasting local authority planning GIS platforms. There is considerable variety in the ways in which local councils communicate planning and development management information on-line and through the maps they produce in local plans. In this assessment you will develop a critical assessment of three different local councils' systems.

Whichever option you choose, the aim is that you think critically about how spatial information is produced and communicated:

- Who has produced this map and what kind of agencies or individuals?
- What is the purpose of this map and whom is the target audience?
- What strategies are being used by the producers of map to convey their message?
- What does the map tell us about dominant/less dominant power relations and the politics of persuasion?

Coursework 2: A Psychogeographic *dérive*: Alternative mappings and understanding urban environments (50% of total assessment; 1,500 words equivalent)

This assessment is inspired by the traditions of psychogeographic wondering which date back to the ideas most notably of Guy Debord and his fellow 'Situationists' (see: http://www.psychogeography.co.uk/). Psychogeography is the art of strolling, or just about anything that gets pedestrians off their predictable paths and leads them to a new awareness of the urban landscape. The dérive, or drift, was defined by the Situationists as the '…technique of locomotion without a goal', in which '…one or more persons during a certain period drop their usual motives for movement and action, their relations, their work and leisure activities, and let themselves be drawn by the attractions of the terrain and the encounters they find there'.

For this product we want you to design and then conduct your own psychogeographic 'derive' through some part of London (or an urban environment of your choosing) and to record your experiences and encounters, focussing in particular on what you as an urban planner/human geographer have seen, encountered and learnt.

Assessment Criteria

	%
Understanding of issues, ideas and techniques raised by the module:	60
Presentational skills	25
English and writing skills	15

5. FEEDBACK

Students can normally expect to receive written feedback after 15 working days. This will be sent via the Moodle VLE system. A sample of student work will be double marked internally. A sample will also be looked at by an external examiner for evaluation and approval.

6. INTRODUCTION TO STUDYING THE MODULE

6.1 Overview of the Main Content

A brief history of mapping. Cartography: art or science? Positioning the 'self' and 'others' on the map. Different national mapping traditions: the UK Ordnance Survey. Processes of mapping: selection, generalization, scale, distortion and style. Introduction to Geographical information systems (GIS). The politics of mapping: maps, campaigning and propaganda. Capitalism, colonialism and land ownership: cadastral mappings and land information systems (LIS). Geographical information systems (GIS) and planning. Development of GIS, applications, data collection, data bases, terminologies and presentation techniques. Spatial analysis using GIS: queries, reclassification, buffering and cookie cutting. The military, mapping and GIS. Perception, environment and behaviour: mental maps and space-time activities in urban space. Psycho-geography and the city: invisible city and edge city. Alternative mappings: eco mapping, humanist maps and parish maps. The visual languages of spatial planning: cross national cartographic communication techniques. Mapping and representing spatial data: stakeholders, interests and the politics of the development process.

6.2 Overview of Types of Classes

The module is focused around a series of keynote lectures and there will be some student-led seminars. Video presentations, linked to small group discussions, form part of the learning programme. There will also be self-directed study by students in groups in the computer laboratory. Guest speakers from planning practice will also feature in the programme of study.

6.3 Importance of Student Self-Managed Learning Time

Students will be expected to undertake self-directed reading of the subject matter to underpin and extend the knowledge and discussions explored during the taught sessions. Non-attendance at lectures and seminars / discussions is likely to prejudice a student's ability to successfully complete the module.

The anticipated teaching and learning will be achieved through the following indicative hours of activity:

Lectures:	26
Seminars and Workshops	13
Total Contact hours:	39
Reading to support lectures	80
Preparation for Coursework	81
Student managed learning hours:	161
Total learning time:	200

6.4 Employability

Geographical information skills and other forms of spatial literacy are important skills for employment within public and private sector organisations. This module provides the

opportunity within the course to develop these skills and in particular to understand the range of techniques used by the planning profession and other relevant agencies and stakeholders in and around the development process.

7. THE PROGRAMME OF TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Week	Lecture Topic	Tutor
1	An Introduction to the module: Processes and politics of mapping. Some basics about GIS: terminologies and uses of GIS A (brief) history of mapping and 'critical cartography'. Positioning the 'self' and 'others' on the map.	PP PP
2	GIS and Development Management - Guest speaker: Eric Hermans, GIS Manager, London Borough of Wandsworth. Workshop: Comparing local authority planning GIS systems; spatial information and public engagement	EH
3	GIS and Policy Plans - Guest speaker: Eric Hermans, GIS Manager, London Borough of Wandsworth	EH
4	Lecture: Deconstructing the map - Revisiting frameworks for cartographic critique. Discussion of Harley article and application to student examples. Task: Bring in 2-3 maps selected for CW1 printed out in colour, ready to discuss with your peers. Workshop: Working in groups on applying these frameworks to maps or GIS systems selected for CW1.	S J-S
5	Psycho-geography and mapping the city's edge lands and invisible spaces. A psychogeographic derive – Connecting Ian Nairn's Southwark	PP PP
6	Maps, geopolitics and power; Mapping the nation and the Ordnance Survey Workshop: Student workshop on 'derive' designs and strategies.	PP PP
7	The visual languages of mapping and cross national cartographic communication techniques. Maps, spatial representations of place and the politics of the development process.	PP
9	Mental maps: Perception, environment and behaviour.	PP
9	Lecture: Representations of London - Looking critically at historical and contemporary representations of London. Task: Reading Glass, Ruth. 1964. "Introduction" in London Aspects of Change London: MacGibbon & Kee	S J-S

10	Lecture: Writing, literature, and the challenge of representing urban space - how to write a city Workshop: Practical exercise on how to write about space. Task: Read selection of literary sources on urban space	S J-S S J-S
10	Assessment 1 Hand-in Date - Critical Cartography Essay	
	Easter	
11	How Transport for London (TfL) use GIS: Guest Speaker - Vicki Gilham (GIS specialist, TfL) Workshop: Student workshop on their 'derive' experiences.	PP/VG PP/S J-S
12	Module review and feedback	PP
13	Assessment 2 Hand-in Date – Student Psychogeographic Derive	

8. STUDENT EVALUATION

This module has been popular with students for a number of years. Over the years it has moved from a focus on the technical features and dimensions of to examine how planners use GIS packages in practice. The addition of a guest speaker from practice has strengthened this focus considerably. Moreover, the module has also been developed to address broder human geographical anlysis of the ways in which geographical data is collected and represented. Students have found the design and implementation of their own psyhchogeographic derive an exciting and innovative form of assessment.

9. LEARNING RESOURCES

9.1 Core Materials

Books and articles: Critical cartography

Dodge, M., Kitchin, R and Perkins, C (eds) (2011) *The Map Reader: Theories of Mapping Practice and Cartographic Representation*, Wiley, London. Includes:

- Deconstructing the Map, *J.B. Harley*
- Power and Politics of Mapping, *Rob Kitchin, Martin Dodge and Chris Perkins*.
-

Duhr, S (2007) *The Visual Language of Spatial Planning*, Routledge, London (Very theoretical and conceptual, but a good text). (307.12094 DUH)

Dorling, D and Fairbairn, D (1997) *Mapping: Ways of Representing the World*, Longman, London

Cloke, P., Crang, P and Goodwin, M (eds) (2014) *Introducing Human Geographies (3rd edition)*, Routledge, London. See Part 2, Section 2 'Cartographies':

- The power of maps, *Jeremy Cramptom*
- Counter-cartographies, *Wen Lin*

Monmonier, M (1996) *How to Lie with Maps (2nd edition)*, University of Chicago Press (912.01 MON)

Town and Country Planning Association (1999) *Your Place and Mine: Reinventing Planning*, TCPA, London (711.4 YOU)

Wood, D (1993) *The Power of Maps*, Routledge, London

Wood, D (2010) *Rethinking the Power of Maps*, Guildford Press, London

Rachel Hewitt (2011) *Map of a Nation*, Granta Books

Parker, M (2009) *Map Addict: A Tale of Obsession, Fudge and the Ordnance Survey* Collins, London

Elwood, S and Leszczynski, A (2012) 'New spatial media, new knowledge politics', *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*,

Solnit, R (2014) *Wanderlust: A History of Walking*

Kevin Lynch (1960), *The Image of the City*

Ley, D., (1974) 'The Black Inner City as Frontier Outpost: Images and Behaviour of a Philadelphia Neighbourhood', Association of American Geographers, Monograph Series No. 7, 282

City Lab: http://www.citylab.com/posts/maps/

Open Street: https://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=5/51.500/-0.100

Brilliant maps: http://brilliantmaps.com/

Histories of mapping:

BBC: *The Beauty of Maps*
http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00s2w83

BBC: *Maps: Power, Plunder and Possession* http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00s5m7w

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_cartography

http://www-gap.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/HistTopics/Cartography.html

http://www.geography.wisc.edu/histcart/

http://www.strangehorizons.com/2002/20020610/medieval_maps.shtml

Psychogeography and urban exploration:

http://www.psychogeography.co.uk/

Books by Iain Sinclair: *London Orbital* (2003), *Downriver* (2004), *London Overground* (2015)

Pinder, D (2005) 'Arts of urban exploration',*Cultural Geographies*,12, 383-411 available at: http://www.nyu.edu/classes/bkg/tourist/pinder.pdf

Coverley, M (2010) *Psychogeography,* Pocket Essentials

Pinder, David (2004) *Visions of the City: Utopianism, Power and Politics in Twentieth-Century Urbanism*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press (chapters 4 and 5)

Bonnett, Alastair. "Situationism, Geography, and Poststructuralism." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 7.2 (1989): 131–146.

McDonough, Tom (2002) (ed) *Guy Debord and the Situationist International: Texts and Documents*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Anton, Michael, Garrett, Bradley L., Hess, Alison, Miles, Ellie and Moreau, Terri (2013) London's Olympic waterscape: capturing transition, *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 19, (2), 125-138.

Plant, S (1992) 'The Most Radical Gesture: The Situationist International in a Postmodern Age', https://1000littlehammers.files.wordpress.com/2010/02/plant__radical_gesture_si.pdf

Bennett L, 2011, "Bunkerology - a case study in the theory and practice of urban exploration" *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 29 421-434

Garrett, B.L. (2011), "Shallow excavation, a response to Bunkerology – a case study in the theory and practice of urban exploration", on-line at: http://societyandspace.com/material/commentaries/exchanges/bradley-l-garrett-shallow-excavation-a-response-to-bunkerology/

Bennett, L (2011). 'Exploring the bunker' - a response by Luke Bennett to 'Shallow Excavation', *Environment and planning D: Society and space*.

Garrett, Bradley (2014) 'Undertaking recreational trespass: urban exploration and infiltration', *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 39, (1), 1-13.

GIS and planning

Carver, S., Evans, A., Kingston, R. and Turton, I. (2001) 'Public Participation, GIS, and

Cyberdemocracy: Evaluating on-Line Spatial Decision Support Systems', *Environment and Planning B:Planning and Design* , 28(6), pp.907-921.

Haklay, M (2014) 'Geographical information systems' in Cloke, P., Crang, P and Goodwin, M (eds) (2014) *Introducing Human Geographies* (3rd edition), Routledge, London.

Allinson, J. (2002) 'The use of GIS in town planning' in Brebbia, C. A. and Pascolo, P., eds. (2002) *Management Information Systems 2002: GIS and Remote Sensing*. WIT Press, pp. 175-184.

Batty, M *et al* (2009) 'New developments in GIS for urban planning' http://www.casa.ucl.ac.uk/andy/papers/GIS-Planning.pdf

Lanci, G (2015) 'Translating cities: the use of digital technologies in urban environments' http://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/1305/1305.0135.pdf

Nyerges, T., Couclelis, H and McMaster, R (eds) (2011) *The SAGE Handbook of GIS and Society*, Sage, London. Includes:

- Critical GIS, Sarah Elwood *et al.*
- On-line public participation GIS for spatial planning, *Richard Kingston*
- Designing public participation GIS, *Piotr JanKowski*
- PPGIS implementation and the transformation of US planning practice, *Laxmi Ramasubramanian*

Khan, Z. and Adnan, M. (2010). *Usability Evaluation of Web-based GIS Applications,* Master Thesis, Blekinge Institute of Technology.

Komarkova, J., Sedlak, P., Novak, M., Musilova, A. and Slavikova, V. (2011). 'Methods of usability evaluation of web-based geographic information systems', *The international journal of systems applications, engineering & development* , [online] 5(1).

Available at: http://www.naun.org/main/UPress/saed/19-529.pdf

Wong, C., Baker, M., Webb, B., Hincks, S. and Schulze-Baing, A. (2015). Mapping policies and programmes: the use of GIS to communicate spatial relationships in England. *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design,* 42(6), pp.1020-1039.

Longley, P.A., Goodchild, M.F., Maguire, D.J. and Rhind, D.W. (2005) *Geographical Information: Systems and Science*, Wiley

Heywood, I *et al.* (2006) *An Introduction to Geographical Information Systems* (3rd ed), Harlow, Pearson Prentice Hall

Davis, BE (2001) *GIS: A Visual Approach (*2nd ed), Albany, OnWord Press (910.285 DAV)

Appleton, K and Lovett, A (2005) 'GIS-based visualisation of development proposals: reactions from planning and related professionals', *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems*, 29 (2005) 321–339.

- http://ac.els-cdn.com/S0198971504000419/1-s2.0-S0198971504000419-main.pdf?_tid=aabf2e12-c373-11e5-88c4-00000aab0f27&acdnat=1453733905_1e9022c94d1d163c28e426cb8d555618

Appleton, K and Lovett, A (2005) 'GIS-based visualisation of rural landscapes: defining 'sufficient' realism for environmental decision-making', *Landscape and Urban Planning* 65 (2003) 117–131
http://ac.els-cdn.com/S0169204602002451/1-s2.0-S0169204602002451-main.pdf?_tid=52052f50-c374-11e5-84dc-00000aab0f26&acdnat=1453734186_1e08bcdc8bd8ef948999e2b917568dc6

Emily Talen (2000) 'Bottom-Up GIS', *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 66:3, 279-294

Wyatt, P and Ralphs, M (2002) *GIS in land and property management,* Spon Press, London (333.30285 WAY)

Wise, S. (2002) *GIS Basics*, Taylor & Francis

RTPI (1993) *GIS and Its Potentials*, RTPI, London (910.285)

Scholten, H.J. and Stillwell, J.C.H. (1990) (eds) *Geographical Information Systems for Urban and Regional Planning*, Kluwer Academic Publishers (711.0285 GEO)

ESRI Best practice for urban and regional planning:
- http://www.esri.com/~/media/Files/Pdfs/library/bestpractices/urban-regional-planning.pdf

Batty, M. (1991) "New technology and planning: reflections on rapid change and the culture of planning in the post-industrial age", *Town Planning Review*, 62, 3, 269-294.

Dale, P. (1991) 'Land and property information systems', Chapter 9 in Healey, M.J. (ed.) *Economic Activity and Land Use*, Longman Scientific and Technical, Harlow, pp. 156-72.

http://www.directionsmag.com/entry/gis-for-planning-and-community-development-solving-global-challenges/149245

PPGIS: http://www.ppgis.net/

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5s8kbEdB68

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzMaTxkPizw

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6XYPU5_KVI4

EUROSTAT: http://europa.eu/index_en.htm

Digimap

The University has access to the Ordnance Survey's 'Digimap' service. Through this you can access a range of on-line mapping services. You will need to enrol. To do this you need to go to the Digimap access portal via the University Library website and follow the instructions to enrol as a student user. You will need to agree sign the licence agreements.

The more general Ordnance survey Website: https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/

UK Land Registry: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/land-registry

Quantum GIS (QGIS)

For an Open Source GIS tool the official site of Quantum GIS (QGIS): www.qgis.org

We have this loaded on our computers. There are easy to use tutorials at this site and a trial database.

NOTES

9.2 Optional Materials

Websites

Brilliant Maps: http://brilliantmaps.com/
Esri: http://www.esri.com/
National Statistics online: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/
Getmapping project: http://getmapping.com
LANDSAT: http://landsat7.usgs.gov
Space Imaging: http://www.geoeye.com/
SPOT (satellite system): http://www.spotimage.fr/
UrbanSim: http://www.urbansim.org
What-if: http://www.what-if-pss.com/
SimLucia: http://www.riks.nl/projects/SimLucia
MIMAS: http://www.mimas.ac.uk/
NOMIS: http://www.nomisweb.co.uk