

Roberto Casati

## Mental maps, paper maps, e-maps

Jeudi de 13 h à 17 h (54 bd Raspail 75006 Paris), du 9 mai 2019 au 27 juin 2019.

Jeudi 9 mai 2019 : salle 2 (105 bd Raspail)  
Jeudi 16 mai 2019 : amphithéâtre François-Furet (105 bd Raspail)  
Jeudi 6 juin 2019 : salle BS1\_28 (54 bd Raspail)  
Jeudi 13 juin 2019 : salle 2 (105 bd Raspail)  
Jeudi 20 juin 2019 : salle 2 (105 bd Raspail)  
Jeudi 27 juin 2019 : salle 2 (105 bd Raspail)

*"I have a map of the United States... Actual size. It says, "Scale: 1 mile = 1 mile." I spent last summer folding it. I also have a full-size map of the world. I hardly ever unroll it. People ask me where I live, and I say, 'E6'." (Steven Wright).*



What is a map, that the human mind can use it? The seminar will address many aspects of map production, understanding and use, with a particular focus on the mechanics of mental interactions with maps. What are the basics of map semantics? Are certain maps better than others? What is (can there be) innovation in mapmaking? Does the brain use mental maps? Can GPS-based devices completely replace old-fashioned maps? Does GPS use impoverish our orientation capacities? Does the historical record of mapmaking and use tell us something about our abilities to represent the environment?

Suivi et validation pour le master : Hebdomadaire semestriel (24 h = 6 ECTS)  
Mentions & spécialités : Parcours en philosophie du langage et de l'esprit  
(Séminaire de recherche M1S1 M2S3 )  
Domaine de l'affiche : Philosophie et épistémologie

Students are expected to read and present book chapters or articles from the reading list, or to contribute with an autonomous project on map production, use and understanding.

Level: write short motivation letter to [casati@ehess.fr](mailto:casati@ehess.fr)  
Office hours; by appointment.

Interventions by Prof. Mariela Aguilera, University of Cordoba (Argentina), DE invitée of EHESS, and by Prof. Elisabeth Camp, Rutgers University (USA), DE invitée of EHESS.

Jeudi 09 mai 2019 13:00- 17:00	105 bd Raspail 75006 Paris salle 2	Introduction (Roberto Casati)  Course mechanics. How to take class for credits. Reading list. Organizing student's presentations.	<i>Cartographic Structures</i> (Mariela Aguilera) Maps are a little bit like pictures and a little bit like language, but they constitute a representational system on their own. Like pictures, they exploit a spatial isomorphism, and like languages, they are composed of semantically arbitrary elements that play different syntactic roles. In this presentation, I will argue that maps have a predicative structure. However, due to their spatial isomorphism, the structure of maps differs in interesting ways from the structure of language. In this direction, I will argue that there are some restrictions on the capacity of maps for expressing general thoughts and relations.
Jeudi 16 mai 2019 13:00- 17:00	105 bd Raspail 75006 Paris Amphi Furet	<i>Language, Maps, and Pictures: their Normative Function</i> (Mariela Aguilera) Maps, pictures, and language can be used to express different kinds of rules (Moroni & Lorini 2016). Based on semantic considerations, I will compare the capacities of maps, pictures and language for expressing norms. As we will see, the normative use of these kinds of representations portrays different balances of cost and benefit.	<i>Maps and Heterogeneous Inferences</i> (Mariela Aguilera) In collaboration with Federico Castellano  It is widely argued that maps have the resources for inferences (Aguilera 2016; Camp, 2007; Casati and Varzi, 1999, Rescorla, 2009). However, most proposals have only been focused on the capacities of maps for making inferences within cartographic systems. Here, we want to focus on the capacity of maps for logically interacting with sentences by means of heterogeneous inferences; that is, inferences that combine linguistic and cartographic representations. In our view, heterogeneous inferences with maps are an extraordinary cognitive tool, since they improve the inferential potential of both, maps and sentences.
Jeudi 06 juin 2019 13:00-17:00	54 bd Raspail 75006 Paris  BS1_28	<i>Maps semantics and Disorientation</i> (Roberto Casati) How do we situate ourselves on maps? What is the mechanics of map use? Are Borgesian maps impossible? What items are maps, and what aren't?	Definition of students' finals
jeudi 13 juin 2019 13:00-17:00	105 bd Raspail 75006 Paris salle 2	<i>Representations, Vehicles and Structures</i> (Elisabeth Camp) Why do we care about the structure of representations? How do we identify what structure a representational system employs? How do different structures affect the implementation, expressive range, and use of different representational systems?	<i>Propositions, Predicates and Maps</i> (Elisabeth Camp) What does it mean to claim that maps have either propositional or predicative structure? Why should we think they do have such structure? Why think they don't?
jeudi 20 juin 2019 13:00-16:00	105 bd Raspail 75006 Paris salle 2	<i>Continuous Cartographic Compositionality</i> (Elisabeth Camp) How can we extend standard notions of compositionality, articulated in the service of a theory of linguistic meaning, to maps, including especially maps that employ marks with potentially continuous syntactic and semantic variability? What form would a distinctively cartographic semantics take?	<i>Saying, Showing, and Implicating in Words, Maps and Pictures</i> (Elisabeth Camp) How do different representational systems divide the representational burden between encoded and inferred information, given their expressive powers and limitations? In particular, what effect does the presence of explicit force markers in natural language have on the sorts of commitments one undertakes by tokening sentences, as opposed to maps or

			pictures?
jeudi 27 juin 2019 13:00-17:00	105 bd Raspail 75006 Paris salle 2	Conclusions (Roberto Casati)	Students' final presentations

Students taking class for credit (depending on class size) are expected to

-Present one large or two small items from the bibliography (15 minutes) as if it was written by you.

-Write a paper min 8000 max 10000 characters, in either English or French, spaces included, bibliography excluded.

As usual, some experimenting with modalities for credit: the important part is to show that you are making sense of the class.

Some instruments we are working on:

Mapping Venice: [Venice for the Pedestrian](#) (also from [Radical Cartography](#))

[Disorientation Questionnaire](#) (Pablo Fernandez Velasco)

A link to a folder containing the relevant literature will be made available at the beginning of the seminar.