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Cognitive maps of Lisbon: how new SIG based codification methods can make a difference

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Abstract Drawing maps of cities are a common methodology particularly since Lynch (1960). However the multiple levels of explanation that are applied to derive conclusions from those productions are sometimes at odds with each other. Thus one can approach that subject's production from a planning, environmental or cognitive perspective. Our objective is to obtain a codification and analysis methodology that can differentiate all those explanatory levels applied to draw maps of cities.

We asked students to draw a map of the city of Lisbon. It was obtained an estimation of the degree of familiarity

with and the years of permanence in the city. After obtained 100 maps of Lisbon we codified trough a SIG system that make possible the:

1. analysis of the spatial heuristics Tversky (1981)

 personal and collective distance and spatial distortions
drawing of "collective" maps to characterize the city of Lisbon in what concerns the "legibility"

Our work was able to show the potential of GIS technologies to highlight the different levels of analysis that a draw map of a city can be submitted. This methodology can enhance not only of the capability of analysis but also, the clarity of the theoretical conclusions that one can drawn from the maps.

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