Bollettino AIC

Call for Papers

Participatory Cartography: Actors, Processes, Technologies, and Politics of Shared Spatial Knowledge and Co-Design

Guest Editors: Federica Burini, Giovanni Mauro

Over the past decades, participatory cartography has emerged as a major new field in the cartographic representation of territory. By combining research with collaborative activities carried out with communities within specific territorial contexts, it constitutes a meeting point between critical geography, GIScience, environmental studies, digital humanities, citizen science, participatory design, and spatial justice. Through its multiple forms, such as collaborative maps, PPGIS, counter-cartographies, community maps, sensory mapping, geospatial storytelling, digital platforms, and others, it is profoundly transforming the ways in which territories, conflicts, memories, vulnerabilities, and resources are shared, represented, discussed, and even governed.

From this perspective, participatory cartography cannot be understood merely as a technique for collecting or visualising data. Rather, it should be regarded as a complex communicative system and as a process for the shared production of spatial knowledge. Through collaborative cartographic practices, local communities, researchers, public administrations, social movements, cultural institutions, and other territorial actors co-produce representations of space, negotiate meanings, make visible relationships that are often excluded from official cartographies, and contribute to the development of new forms of awareness and collective action. Participatory cartography therefore represents a privileged means of promoting participatory governance, based on the active involvement of local communities in the timely monitoring, supported by real-time updates, of ongoing territorial dynamics, with the aim of fostering more equitable and sustainable policies.

With the advent of Information and Communication Technologies and Artificial Intelligence, the challenges facing participatory cartography have become even more compelling. What role should be assigned to the latest-generation technologies? What new collaborative scenarios emerge from the agency of AI? How can ICTs be used most effectively as enabling systems for new methodologies of co-design mediated by participatory cartography?

This Call invites the submission of theoretical, methodological, empirical, and project-based contributions that explore the role of participatory cartography as a practice of shared knowledge production, a political device, a technical infrastructure, and a social process, also in light of contemporary technological challenges. Particular attention will be devoted to issues concerning inclusion, representation, data quality, power asymmetries, technological accessibility, the ethics of participation, the use of Artificial Intelligence, and the impact of maps on decision-making processes.

The following topics are of particular interest:

- Theories, genealogies, and critical approaches to participatory cartography
- PGIS, PPGIS, VGI, community mapping, and counter-cartographies
- Participatory methods and the co-production of spatial knowledge
- Quality, validity, uncertainty, and interoperability of participatory data
- Participatory cartography, spatial justice, and territorial conflicts
- Participatory mapping of environmental risks, climate, and vulnerability
- Cities, planning, mobility, and collaborative decision-making processes
- WebGIS, mobile applications, OpenStreetMap, and participatory digital platforms
- Community maps, memory, cultural heritage, and situated narratives
- Education, citizen science, and cartographic literacy
- Artificial intelligence, automation, and generative cartography
- Ethics, privacy, technological accessibility, and community data governance
- Crowdmapping and territorial perception
- Crisis mapping and the management of geopolitical or environmental emergencies

Types of Contributions

Proposals for contributions in Italian, English, and French will be considered, provided that they comply with the editorial guidelines of the Bollettino AIC.

Contribution proposals must be sent to federica.burini@unibg.it and giovanni.mauro@unicampania.it by 15 December 2026.