

New maps and cartographic materials, June 2019 [reviews]

By: [Jo Klein](#)

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<http://www.ala.org/rt/sites/ala.org/rt/files/content/publicationsab/baseline/BL-40-3.pdf>

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Abstract:

Fifty years ago in June 1969, the Stonewall Riots sparked the gay rights movement in the United States. In commemoration of the events that started a national conversation, June is designated by LGBT communities (and this year by the President through Twitter) as Pride Month, in which these communities celebrate their identities and advancements in the gay rights equality movement and seek to dispel shame and stigma and bring awareness to the discrimination and violence faced by those communities. For folks like me, Pride Month is an opportunity to celebrate who we are and spread love, acceptance, and awareness, and to let those who are still figuring out who they are know that they're not alone.

Keywords: reviews | cartography | maps | LGBT Pride Month | book reviews

Article:

*****Note: Full text of article below**

A quick note: this issue's New Maps will be brief and focuses mainly on books and articles, but don't worry – I have a lot more atlases and maps in store for the next issue! So without further ado...

"How do you map a community? How do you map a life?" --Lance Wahlert (2016)

'Tis the season: it's Pride Month.

Fifty years ago in June 1969, the Stonewall Riots sparked the gay rights movement in the United States. In commemoration of the events that started a national conversation, June is designated by LGBT communities (and this year by the President through Twitter) as Pride Month, in which these communities celebrate their identities and advancements in the gay rights equality movement and seek to dispel shame and stigma and bring awareness to the discrimination and violence faced by those communities. For folks like me, Pride Month is an opportunity to celebrate who we are and spread love, acceptance, and awareness, and to let those who are still figuring out who they are know that they're not alone.

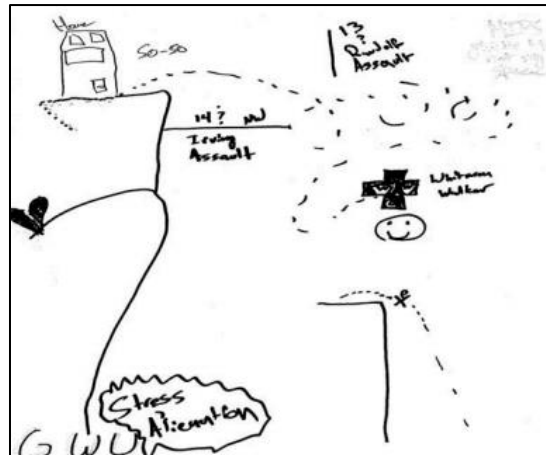
While today's Pride events often involve glitter and corporate sponsorships, it's important to remember that they began in response to violence against LGBT communities, and specifically trans women and the trans community, which still faces violence and discrimination today. Through community-mapping, Dr. Elijah Adiv Edelman addresses a form of this violence – the pushing of a community to the fringes through ignorance of its needs. As part of a needs assessment started by trans activists and advocates in March 2010, this community-mapping project sought to examine the tendency of tourism maps to erase social context and community knowledge in favor of sight-seeing and easier navigation by outsiders, and invited transgender, transsexual, and gender-nonconforming communities to share their narratives through creation of their own maps of Washington, DC. The needs assessment's purpose was to "publicly document the medical, social, political, and legal needs" of these communities, using map-making to visualize these needs and the stories of community members. The created maps represent the lived experience of the people that drafted them and are very unlike the neat and sanitized travel guide maps found at visitor centers and metro stations, reflecting the difference in purpose and audience with their difference in style and design and giving us a look at what maps created for a community by that community look like.

The project was featured in a special "Mapping Queer Bioethics" issue of the *Journal of Homosexuality* which, as Dr. Lance Wahlert introduces, uses location, space, and geography to investigate the questions quoted at the beginning of this issue's New Maps.

For those of you who will be enjoying Washington, DC as visitors at the ALA Annual later this month, a request from me: while you tour the city using travel guides and maps, please remember the communities that wouldn't fit on those easy-to-read and neatly folded pages.

Edelman, Elijah Adiv. "'This Is Where You Fall off My Map': Trans-Spectrum Spatialities in Washington, DC, Safety, and the Refusal to Submit to Somatic Erasure", *Journal of Homosexuality*, 63 (3), 394-404, 2016. DOI: 10.1080/00918369.2016.1124695

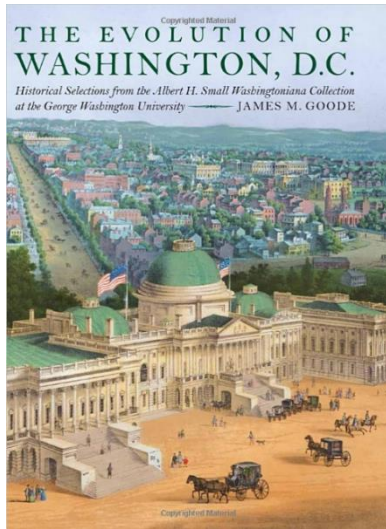
Wahlert, Lance. "Mapping Queer Bioethics: Space, Place, and Locality", *Journal of Homosexuality*, 63 (3), 301-305. 2016. DOI: 10.1080/00918369.2016.1124686



Speaking of this year's ALA Annual: how many of us share the experience of a childhood field trip to DC? My first trip was in late elementary school. I remember when our bus of young North Carolinians pulled up to the first stop on our tour, and we all shuffled out to listen to our teacher's spiel about the white marble buildings and monuments. Some of us have a lot more appreciation for the nation's capital than a travel-weary class of 4th graders. A lot more of us would have more appreciation if we were to read *The Evolution of Washington, D.C.* by James M. Goode.

Goode, James M. *The Evolution of Washington, D.C.* Washington, D.C.: George Washington University, 2015 (ISBN: 9781588344984). 191 pages: illustrations (chiefly color), maps (chiefly color), plans.

Separated into three parts, each part focusing on one of three main periods of the city's evolution – the "Early Decades" from 1790-1860, the "Civil War Years" from 1861-1865, and the "Emergence of a Modern City" from 1866-1960 – this book gives us a detailed look at the foundation of today's DC. It can be difficult to picture the history of a place that is so ingrained in society's collective mind. We see its buildings and monuments in TV shows and movies, occasionally seeing its past cityscape in historical dramas (if you're into those). What it actually looked like can be elusive. Through prints, architectural plans, topographical maps, letters, advertisements, and more, *The Evolution of Washington, D.C.* shows us how the city was laid out and tells its story alongside artifacts that add context and a realness that you just can't get from historical dramas on TV.



Materials featured in this book are selected from the Albert H. Small Washingtoniana Collection at the George Washington University, and are curated with the capital's history in mind. Each curated work has an entry, with an image or reproduction of the work and the story behind it. For example, the Priggs "Alligator Map" entry tells us about Priggs, the original surveyor and mapmaker, and Bell, the man who hand-copied the map and made it the decorative work reproduced in the book. The entry also gives us the context of a quote from cartographic historian Thomas Cope, about the tools, training, experience, and work ethic (or lack thereof) at Priggs' disposal.

The book's maps include the second published map of Maryland (1671), an 1884 topographical map of DC showing harbor tunnel and reservoir work sites, and an 1862 topographical map also known as the "Arnold Map," in addition to others. Although scaled down to fit the book's pages, the maps still look impressive and provide much needed geographical context to the history of the city. Goode also dove deep to dig up stories and provide full context for each work.

The Evolution of Washington, D.C. is a great book for professional and amateur historians, especially those interested in Washington, D.C. and the early United States. It's easy and interesting to read, written with the average history and archives buff in mind but with enough information to be useful to researchers and students too.

Linhard, Tabea, Timothy H. Parsons. *Mapping Migration, Identity, and Space*. New York, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, an imprint of Springer Nature (Switzerland), 2019 (ISBN: 9783319779553). 364 pages: illustrations (chiefly color), maps (chiefly color).

Mapping Migration, Identity, and Space is the result of a collaborative research effort from members of the International and Area Studies (IAS) Program at Washington University. Over the length of fourteen chapters that flow from the 1500s in early chapters to more recent years in later ones, this book examines topics of migration, identity, and space from across disciplinary boundaries in the social sciences and humanities.

The chapter authors use color maps, illustrations, photographs, and diagrams to illustrate and discuss findings. All figures are listed towards the front after the table of contents, making it quick to find specific maps and chapters. Maps range from simple line-art concept maps to complex annotated aerial imagery.

Chapter 1 introduces and discusses the titular topics, investigating the difference between "place" and "space," in the context of the movement of refugees and other migrant groups. It also discusses the use of maps to illustrate and tell complicated stories about these topics, as well as the use of GIS and multiple different maps to reveal "invisible" information.

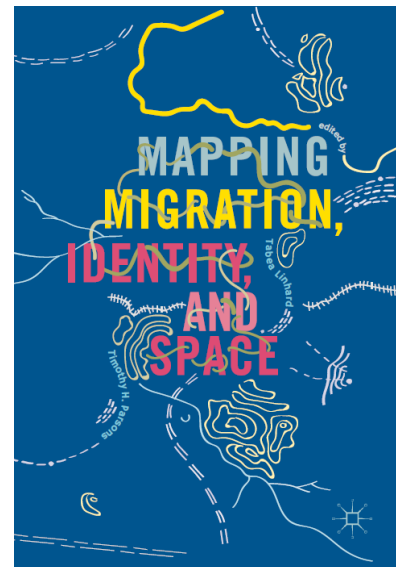
Chapters 2 through 13 explore various topics including:

- The complexity of migration and diverse experiences driven by culture and ethnicity in Mesoamerican migration in “New Spain” in the 1500s,
- The tendency of conventional (“Western”) maps to generalize a specific point of view and how to retain “place” and emotional context through inclusion of a narrative in mapping borders between Spain, France, and Morocco during and after WWII,
- The cultural identities of spaces depending on the communities that guide the narrative of those spaces in Puhoi, New Zealand and the Prussia/Germany-Russian border, and
- How the creation of Pakistan in the 1940s led to violent religious and cultural clashes through a traumatic separation of two place identities, and subsequent migration across and out of Southern Asia, and what role the intentional absence of cartographic materials in proposals for the state played.

Chapters 10 through 13 focus on more recent issues and topics, including refugee crises and migration in the Mediterranean, integration of migrants and how groups are categorized as refugees VS expatriates and other migrant categories, the role of law and political borders in definitions and community formations, changing cultural identities of suburban areas as a result of mass migrations and social behavior, how the EU approaches and records data on migration, and the focus on “routes” VS “borders” by I-Map in the early 2000s that changed how migration is studied.

The final chapter, which I read after writing the summaries above, gives geographer Russell King’s highlights of each chapter (go figure), and makes a great place to start if you like to read things from the middle or end or find my descriptions above lacking! King’s discussion ties the previous chapters back into the broader theme of mapping, and recontextualizes the topics to further explore implications of data and cartographic design in the authors’ original points.

This is a good introduction to a broad range of topics involving migration, as well as a diving board for deeper discussion. It’s best suited for humanities and social sciences scholars, students, and those interested in the research of and application of maps and geography to the titular topics. *Mapping Migration, Identity, and Space* would make a great course reading or textbook, but is also fascinating as a way to brush up on history and the various ways it can be interpreted.



Honorable mention:

2020 Weekly Planner: Greensboro, North Carolina (1951): Vintage Topo Map Cover (Paperback) by Noon Sun Handy Books. [View it on Amazon.](#)

Last month, Noon Sun Handy Books published legions of blank journals and weekly planners, with colorful and interesting covers. According to a search of these planners on Amazon, approximately 900 of them feature maps on the cover: “vintage” topo maps from the 1800s, USGS topo maps from the 50s and 60s, “panoramic maps” and aerial views, and more. Every search I conducted for this issue’s materials was peppered with these planners, dragging out my quest for actual atlases and maps to the 10th search result page, and then the 15th, and then the 40th, and then- you get the point. I saw so many of these that I’m probably an expert on identifying Noon Sun Handy Books planners now – keep an eye out for my identification field guide, coming this fall. I’ll be writing notes for it in the margins of my new planner.



Well that’s it for New Maps this time folks! Have a great time at ALA Annual and wherever else your June and July travels take you.