

Text Mapping as Modelling Exercises

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June 8, 2019

In this document you will find five different mapping exercises to be used as inspiration if you have no “dream project” of your own. They are all quite open, with significant room for interpretation. I will be happy to discuss and clarify them either at the outset or at any point in the process where you find it useful.

The questions raised for each exercise are meant tentatively, as possible starting points. Please make your own interpretations and raise other questions you find interesting.

Each of the exercises specify a text to work on. These texts can be replaced with other texts given that the replacements share some important characteristics with the original texts. Please ask if you think that would be a good idea. Other exercises can also be discussed if you have ideas you think would be interesting.

There is no pre-defined definition of ‘mapping’ to be used in the exercises. However, bear in mind that there is a limited number of hours to spend on the exercises, and that the tool is given. That puts some limitations on what ‘mapping’ can mean.

Do not expect of yourselves to present beautiful finished exhibitions by the end of the mapping exercise. While it would certainly not be held against you if you do, the main purpose of this course is to struggle with difficulties at all levels in order to understand better not only the practical process of mapping but also to see some theoretical implications. So:

- See the problems in the eye when you meet them
- Try to find solutions, but

- Be aware what you do when you solve problems

There is no clear distinction between practical, technical, and theoretical problems. Hopefully, you will experience all types. Hopefully you will have some idea how problems you face may fall into these categories towards the end of the week.

General questions to consider:

- What do we gain from mapping a text?
- What can we learn from it?
- What does it mean to map a text?
- What is the relationship between the text and the map based on it?

1 Mapping novels

For each of the novels: choose if you want to work from the start and make a detailed model of the first part (as far as you get) or if you want to make a more general map presenting the whole book at a high level before going down into details.

1.1 Robinson Crusoe

Make a Neatline exhibition based on Daniel Defoe: *Robinson Crusoe*. Questions:

- Consequences of the novel's self identification
- Relationship between fact and fiction
- Name dropping vs. descriptions
- Macro vs. micro level

1.2 Jane Eyre

Make a neatline exhibition based on Charlotte Bronte: *Jane Eyre*. Questions:

- What are the most important spaces in the novel?
- What will you map? Examples:
 - the travels of the personae?
 - the places they talk about?
 - Thornfield hall?

1.3 Frankenstein

Make a Neatline exhibition based on Mary Wollstonecraft (Godwin) Shelley: *Frankenstein*. Questions:

- The large scale movements mapped into geographical space?
- Are there other spaces that can be mapped? Examples:
 - the lab room
 - body space

2 Mapping drama: Ghosts

Make a Neatline exhibition based on Henrik Ibsen: *Ghosts*. Questions:

- Which space(s) will you map?
 - space of events?
 - stage space?
- Mapping dramatic text or a (hypothetical) staging of it?

- What is a dramatic space?
- The stage
 - underspecification
 - movement (persons)
 - unmovable(?) objects

3 Mapping a short story: The Killers

Make a Neatline exhibition based on Ernest Hemingway: *The Killers*. Questions:

- Can a pre-existing background map be used?
- What kind of a map in case?
- In case you do not want to link the text to a pre-existing map: how can a map be developed along with the mapping exercise?

4 Links to the sources

<http://www.oeide.no/dhsi/>