

LO, Yung-Ching

Taiwan Indigenous Peoples' Territories Mapping Project
National Taiwan University
Taiwan

No BioNote

A Dialectic Between Internal Lines and External Boundaries—A Case Study on Mahoan Bunun's Border--A Thesis on No-borderism Territory Mapping

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This paper uses the 3-year-long Taiwan Indigenous People's territory Mapping Project as an example of the problems of cross cultural mapping. Especially, the author talks about the Euclideanism geometry which furnishing a set of definitions for the concepts such as "point" ("that which has no part"), "line" ("breadless length"), "surface" ("that which has length and breadth only") as just a kind of Western epistemological assumption. The ways to show the concept of territory on maps for the indigenous peoples should be considered to show the local indigenous knowledge for their references of space. The characteristics of "point", "line", "surface" in an Euclideanism epistemology style should be considered whether fit into the ideas of the indigenous people. The author takes the Mahoan Bunun indigenous people's mapping experience of public participatory geographical information system territory mapping (PPGIS) in the central-eastern Taiwan for example to illuminate that it has the characteristic of dialectic between their internal lines & external boundaries. What is important of all is that the Bunun people remember (concept) their traditional territory through the experience of diaspora rather than through the physical spatial space. Under this circumstance, it's hard for the Mahoan Bunun people to draw a physical line on maps to illustrate the dialectic between their internal lines & external boundaries for the following reasons: 1. Blurred lines between domesticated household. 2. Domesticated household's private boundaries won't combine a public boundary line. 3. Partial participation won't create census on territory boundary. 4. The internal line were still on the move because of resources shortcoming. 5. The ideal concept of one-clan-one-tribe won't make a bigger organization of identify. 6 Therefore there is hardly boundary between sub tribe of Bunun, and 7. The cross border phenomenon of the indigenous social movement in modern time won't encourage lines to separate one another.

Based from the ideas above, the author suggests a thesis of no-borderism territory mapping to avoid the Euclideanism epistemology influence in order to detect much more indigenous knowledge of space references.