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# Territories in Time: Mapping Palimpsest Horizons

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Editor(s): Chiara Cavalieri (UCLouvain, Belgium) and Elena Cogato Lanza (EPFL, Switzerland)

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Territories in Time:  
Mapping Palimpsest Horizons

UCLouvain

EPFL

**Information:** The theme of this issue rises from the need to represent interactions between spatial, social and environmental processes through the dimension of time.

Nowadays cities and territories have to face processes where multiple and complex dynamics are replacing static and immanent ones. Moreover, worldwide, every two days more data is being produced than in all of history prior to 2003, and the consequent greater availability of data imposes a second dimension of time that challenges the way we conceive reality: the so called "real time" reminds us the impossibility of imagining the act of mapping as a standing alone practice, and thus the need of requisitioning its agency in both design and governance processes. This issue calls for a mapping approach that intends to disclose history as a data producer as much as the present time, as a mean for reading reality and therefore imagining the future without the restrictions of a prescriptive approach. In other words, it is the same hypothesis used in 1983 by Andre Corboz when he defined the territory as a palimpsest, as a blackboard where society can trace, (never completely) erase and ultimately re-trace new chapters of urban transformation.

Mapping as a design practice is thus constricted between the thickness of history and real-time data production, between the map as a result of a computational operation and the map as a hypothesis for spatial transformation. The theme of palimpsest and its process of representation calls for exploring the interactions between spatial, social and environmental processes through the prism of multiple temporal dimensions: the historical (the *longue durée*), the present (contemporary dynamics and flows) and the future (both short- and long-term scenarios).

This issue aims at discussing "mapping palimpsests", its tradition and future developments, as a scientific and methodological question.

**Instructions for Authors:** Authors interested in submitting a paper for this issue are asked to consult the journal's instructions for authors and send their abstracts (about 250 words, with a tentative title and reference to the thematic issue) by email to the Editorial Office ([up@cogitatiopress.com](mailto:up@cogitatiopress.com)).

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