Re-thinking the Conversation: a geomythological deep map

For: TAG Bradford. 'Rethinking the Archaeological Map',

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“*Deep maps do not explicitly seek authority…but provoke negotiation between insiders and outsiders, experts and contributors, over what is represented and how. Framed as a conversation and not a statement, they are inherently unstable, continually unfolding and changing in response to new data, new perspectives and new insights.”* (Bodenhamer, 2015)

In this way, the deep map can become a conduit for **re-think**ing geomythological research and representation. Traditionally, geomythology has been the study of landscape **stories** through the purview of geoscience (Piccardi & Masse, 2007) **with** little **regard** for myth’s own voice. Bounded in the epistemic bias of orthodox perspectives storytelling has been dismissed as an inferior feature in the landscape; a source **to** be critiqued or stood behind as a bridge for public engagement but not as a partner to be afforded **equal value**.

This paper challenges that stance**,** **for** it suggests that **an alternative** is possible wherein established archaeological practices are overthrown in favour of a more interdisciplinary **methodology** (Kavanagh, 2015) through conceptual deep mapping. For ‘the world as it is’ in which we live does not stand still, it does not pose for a paper-held cartographical portrait; it is forever in flux. This refers both to the aesthetic topography and to the social structures it supports, as well as the intellectual data it **can** yield. To therefore **map** a landscape is more than geography, it is tofacilitate a palimpsest of cultural **narrative** which struggles to be contained within the rigid parameters of a conventionally academic bracket, as so often seen with historic landscape characterization. One solution to this, is not to even try. Instead to bring together the polyphony in a manner that is at once playful and scholastically sound without overt agenda. This is offered by way of introducing a ‘work in progress’ short film that responds to geo-archaeological fieldwork in collusion **with** art, music and myth to represent one stretch of coastline across time, space and disciplines with the aim of not compromising **integrity** and to re-establish the very foundation upon which normative perspectives reside**.**

Bodenhamer, D.J.; Corrigan. J. & Harris, T.M. (eds). (2015). Deep Maps and Spatial Narratives. Bloomington: Indiana University Press

Kavanagh, K.E. (2015). *Of Myth & Man: Essaying the space-between in geomythological theory.* Unpubl. M.A. Thesis. University of Wales, Trinity Saint David.

Piccardi, L. & Masse, W.B. (eds) (2007). *Myth and Geology*. Geological Society, London, Special Publications No. 273