

Presentation Title: Digital and Mental Mapping: William Commanda and *Circle of All Nations (CAN)* in Cybernetics, Social Media, Photoatlases and Cybercartography

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Can the voice of an Indigenous man who was born on 11/11/13, the eve of the First World War, affirming *Ginawaydaganuc* interrelatedness with an evolving *Mother Earth*, support geo (global earth observation)-research and analysis in the networked age of information that is emmeshed in both global connection and covid isolation, and that appears poised on the doorstep of World War Three? In light of this question, my presentation examined the *Circle of All Nations* medicine wheel integration of the intangible dimension of spirit in innovative digital conceptualizations: *Cybernetic* cognitive motional mapping, inclusive of guiding/steering *cyber-navigation*, ancient mnemonic technology re-presented via archival data, and iconic affective canoe-art cartography; and ephemeral performance mapping and global digital village animation (following Thumbadoo, R. V. T. research); *Photoatlasing* via both the analysis of communications tools and the creation of graphic, seimiotic photoatlases as a new bridge-building knowledge generating model (Wolodtschenko, A. research); and *Cybercartography* (a complex, holistic, user-centered process which applies location-based technologies to the analysis of topics of interest to society; and presents this in innovative ways inclusive of qualitative and qualitative information displayed in innovative, interactive, multimodal, and multisensory atlas formats (following Taylor, D. R. F. research).

2022 marks the conclusion of 10 years of my doctoral and post-doctoral research into the work and legacy of the late North American Indigenous leader, William Commanda. Born in 1913 of Algonquin ancestry in the heart of the Ottawa River Watershed, he called himself *Mamiwinini*, a word he translated as *we travel every day*, an identity emergent from the *vastness* of his language, encompassing the spatial and temporal dimensions of cartography, consistent with the cosmic laws of nature. He travelled extensively and repeatedly across North and Central America, and also in Europe, Africa and the far East. Yet this presentation does not profile this physical land mapping of Indigenous presence; neither does it track the land-based reach of his global eco peace community, *Circle of All Nations*. Rather, it begins an exploration of cognitive cartography, mind mapping and discursive elements that contribute to the ongoing presence of his knowledge and wisdom in a biodiverse, microcosmic global digital village, a decade after his death at the age of 98.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL MAPPING

In the Age of Information, innovative engagement with online communications **technology** to develop

1. **Cybernetic Motional Mind Mapping and Navigation**
2. Temporal and Algorithmic Social Media **Innovations** to Animate the **Circle of All Nations Digital Global Village,**
3. Semiotics and Textual Infographics & **Photoatlases**
4. **Cybercartographic** Digital Atlas Live **Archiving**




Reframing *Cybernetics* via the lens of its etymological rootedness in navigation, steering and guiding, and reinforcing the examination via the motif of canoe as iconographic semiotic motional signifier, the presentation considers the re-iterative in multiple epistemological applications, from the 1976 Smithsonian video recording interview, to the 1981 canoe building at Roskilde Museum in Denmark for Queen Margarethe, and the 2007 *Good Enough for Two* canoe building documentary, now scheduled to be featured in the exhibition entitled "Material Legacies" at Kunstgewerbemuseum Berlin: Design Lab #13 Material Legacies from 04.11.2022 to 26.02.2023. Here, movement, land and water-based knowledge generation, art and creativity and the journey of life are the threads examined to extrapolate discursive elements.

The *Circle of All Nations* work is animated in interaction and relationship, ephemeral performance mapping and global digital village bridge building animation; since the onslaught of the Corona Virus Pandemic, online work has accelerated through the use of the emerging live video technology: 15 publicly accessible online events with presenters from 12 countries were hosted in 2020/21; videos reached over 12,000 people; and students developed technological skills and interests to support online communications of the work as part of their academic studies, including the creation of the meta verse landing page leading to social media output, 4 websites and the cybercartographic atlas.

CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS LANDING PAGE PHOTOATLAS

2.2. Facebook Cybernetic Pages



Five Facebook pages include following thematic modules:
 Circle of All Nations
 William Commanda
 William Commanda Legacy - Asinabka
 Romola Vasantha Thumbadoo
 Romola's Nature CAN TEACH Photo/Art Page

2.2. Facebook Cybernetic Pages

CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS
Cross Cultural Bridge Building

- "Cybernetic" research is focussed on querying the ongoing relevance of William Commanda's Indigenous thinking
- Cybernetics is viewed through the lens of its etymological roots in steering, navigating and guiding
- On-line and other digital platforms permit both time-paced and widescale sharing of Circle of All Nations work
- Since the onslaught of the Corona Virus Pandemic, on-line work has accelerated via the use of emerging live video technology
- 15 publicly accessible events with presenters from 12 countries were hosted in 2020/21; videos have reached easily over 12,000 people and can be viewed at https://www.facebook.com/circleofallnations/videos/?ref=page_internal and <https://www.youtube.com/channel/>
- Circle of All Nations - YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/>
- As well, several undergraduate students have learned about the work of this remarkable elder, and have developed technological skills and interests to support on-line communication of his work as part of their academic studies

ANIMATING THE CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS
Digital Global Village

The presentation also introduced the *Circle of All Nations Photoatlas Series: Photoatlasing* involves both the analysis of communications tools and the creation of graphic, semiotic photoatlases as an innovative sensory bridge-building knowledge generating model; Dr. A. Wolodtschenko describes atlassing as a new interdisciplinary semiotic epistemological direction in the creation, analysis and collection of diverse thematic atlases or photoatlases.


PHOTOATLAS SERIES

[HTTPS://CIRCLEOFALLNATIONS.CA/NEW/GALLERY/PHOTOATLAS-SERIES/](https://circleofallnations.ca/new/gallery/photoatlas-series/)

Dr. Alexander Wolodtschenko: photoatlas reflects the development of atlassing as a new interdisciplinary semiotic-epistemological direction in the creation, analysis and collection of diverse thematic atlases or photoatlases (with cartographic and non-cartographic traditions)

**Cartography in the Social Media Era:
A New Balance and Synthesis**

D. R. Fraser Taylor, Romola V. Thumbadoo (Ottawa, Canada), Ilya Zaslavsky (San Diego, USA) and Alexander S. Wolodtschenko (Dresden, Germany)



ICC 2021, Florence, Italy

Screenshot of start page of our presentation at the ICA Conference 2021 in Florence, Italy. Our derivative photoatlas is based on this presentation and includes some selected slides.

Cybercartography, a complex, holistic, user-centered process which applies location-based technologies to the analysis of topics of interest to society, and presents this in innovative ways

inclusive of qualitative and qualitative information displayed in innovative, interactive, multimodal, and multisensory atlas formats (following the research of Dr. D. R. F. Taylor), lends itself to the animation of William Commanda's ancient oral Indigenous storytelling mnemonic *wampum* heritage in contemporary digital technology, and bridges incommensurabilities of diverse knowledge systems, in text, map, image and video applications.

CYBERCARTOGRAPHY

DIGITAL MAP BASED ARCHIVAL AND ANIMATIVE STORYTELLING

2.4. Cybercartographic Digital Atlas



Atlas cover image

2.4. Cybercartographic Digital Atlas

Structural model of atlas (work underway)

William Commanda	Circle of All Nations	Asinabka: Chaudière	Analysis
			
This module of the Circle of All Nations Atlas examines the life, work and legacy of Indigenous Elder William Commanda and holds archival photos and documents in interactive maps	This module of the digital story mapping atlas includes interactive maps and links, a photo gallery, and links to facebook pages demonstrating animation of the work	This module presents the Commanda vision for the ancient Indigenous meeting place and the explores the land-based challenges in interactive maps	This list module presents the thesis and academic research, and blogs, analytical reports, and policy oriented papers

Consistent with the conceptual *Circle of All Nations* medicine wheel, the analysis moves from vision/plan (*Cybernetic* steering) to animation (*CAN Global Digital Village*) to reflection (semiotic *Photoatlas*) to articulation (*Cybercartography* atlas storytelling) to position William Commanda's *Circle of All Nations* legacy in the domain of social media cartography.

<https://circleofallnations.ca>

<https://gcr.carleton.ca>

<https://atlas-semiotics.jimdofree.com/bild-atlantothek/>