
Graduate Certificate in Cultural Mapping of Urban Spaces

Mapping Indigenous Knowledge and Practices

In the Graduate Certificate in Cultural Mapping of Urban Spaces, you will encounter various key terms and vocabulary related to mapping Indigenous knowledge and practices. Understanding these concepts is crucial for a successful and enriching learning experience. Here, we provide detailed explanations of essential terms, along with examples and practical applications, to help you grasp these concepts with ease.

1. Cultural Mapping:

Cultural mapping is the process of identifying, documenting, and visualizing cultural resources, practices, and heritage in a specific area. It involves creating spatial representations of cultural data to facilitate understanding, planning, and decision-making related to urban spaces.

Example: A city might create a cultural map to highlight significant historical and cultural sites, promoting tourism and preservation efforts.

2. Indigenous Knowledge:

Indigenous knowledge refers to the unique wisdom, understanding, and skills accumulated by Indigenous communities over generations. This knowledge is deeply rooted in traditions, languages, and relationships with the land.

Example: Indigenous knowledge about medicinal plants and their uses can contribute to modern pharmaceutical research and development.

3. Two-Eyed Seeing:

Two-Eyed Seeing is a framework developed by Mi'kmaq Elder Albert Marshall that emphasizes the importance of combining Indigenous and Western scientific knowledge systems to create a more comprehensive understanding of the world.

Example: Using Two-Eyed Seeing, a researcher might combine traditional ecological knowledge with Western geographical data to manage a shared ecosystem more effectively.

4. Cultural Landscape:

A cultural landscape is a geographical area shaped by human activities and interactions with the environment. Cultural landscapes often reflect the values, beliefs, and traditions of the people who inhabit them.

Example: A traditional Indigenous hunting ground, shaped by generations of land management and resource use, is an example of a cultural landscape.

5. Decolonization:

Decolonization refers to the process of undoing the harmful effects of colonization, including the marginalization and erasure of Indigenous cultures, knowledge, and practices.

Example: Decolonizing education involves challenging colonial narratives and incorporating Indigenous perspectives and knowledge systems.

6. Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC):

FPIC is a principle that requires state authorities and other external entities to obtain the consent of Indigenous communities for any projects or activities affecting their territories or resources.

Example: A mining company seeking to operate on Indigenous lands must first obtain FPIC from the affected community.

7. Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK):

TEK is the understanding, skills, and practices related to the environment and natural resources developed and maintained by Indigenous peoples over generations.

Example: TEK can inform sustainable fishing practices, helping to preserve fish populations and maintain traditional ways of life.

8. Biocultural Diversity:

Biocultural diversity refers to the interconnectedness of biological and cultural diversity, recognizing that human communities and ecosystems are interdependent.

Example: Protecting biocultural diversity involves preserving both the natural environment and the traditional practices of Indigenous communities.

9. Ethnobotany:

Ethnobotany is the study of the traditional knowledge, practices, and relationships between people and plants. It encompasses the medicinal, cultural, and ecological aspects of plant use.

Example: Ethnobotanical research can identify new medicinal plants and inform sustainable agriculture practices.

10. Participatory Mapping:

Participatory mapping is a collaborative process involving local communities in the creation and management of spatial data. It empowers communities by recognizing their knowledge and expertise.

Example: Indigenous communities might use participatory mapping to document and protect their traditional territories.

11. Cultural Heritage:

Cultural heritage refers to the physical, intangible, and digital resources that reflect the history, diversity, and identity of communities. It includes cultural practices, traditions, and expressions passed down through generations.

Example: A historic Indigenous village, ancestral artifacts, and traditional dances are examples of cultural heritage.

12. Cultural Ecosystem Services (CES):

CES are the non-material benefits people obtain from ecosystems, such as cultural, recreational, and spiritual values. Indigenous peoples often have strong connections to CES, as their cultures and livelihoods depend on the health and sustainability of ecosystems.

Example: A traditional fishing ground provides CES by offering opportunities for recreation, education, and spiritual connection.

13. Cultural Safety:

Cultural safety is an approach that emphasizes respecting and acknowledging the unique cultural identities and experiences of individuals and communities. It aims to eliminate power imbalances and discrimination

in healthcare, education, and other systems.

Example: A healthcare provider practicing cultural safety would ensure their services are accessible and responsive to Indigenous patients' needs and preferences.

14. GIS (Geographic Information Systems):

GIS is a tool for collecting, managing, analyzing, and visualizing spatial data. It is widely used in cultural mapping to represent and analyze cultural resources and practices.

Example: A city might use GIS to create a map of historical Indigenous sites, informing urban planning and preservation efforts.

15. Remote Sensing:

Remote sensing is the acquisition of information about the Earth's surface and atmosphere through the use of sensors on airplanes or satellites. It can be used to collect data on land cover, vegetation, and other environmental factors.

Example: Remote sensing can help identify areas of cultural significance, such as traditional hunting or gathering grounds.

In summary, mapping Indigenous knowledge and practices requires a deep understanding of key terms and concepts. By familiarizing yourself with these terms, you can engage more meaningfully with the material and contribute to the preservation and celebration of Indigenous cultures in urban spaces. As you progress through the Graduate Certificate in Cultural Mapping of Urban Spaces, remember that these terms are not just academic jargon but represent the rich and diverse lived experiences of Indigenous communities.