# Article information:

Full article: Sketch Maps and Qualitative GIS: Using Cartographies of Individual Spatial Narratives in Geographic Research  
<https://www-tandfonline-com.ezaccess.libraries.psu.edu/doi/full/10.1080/00330124.2013.781490>

# Article summary:

1. Mental maps and sketch maps have a long tradition in modern geography, but little distinction has been made between the two.

2. Sketch maps are currently used in qualitative geographic information systems (QGIS) to develop cartographies of individual spatial narratives.

3. Sketch maps have many methodological merits, including adding an invaluable dimension to the qualitative interview process, providing detailed spatial information of individuals, and facilitating data interpretation.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article "Sketch Maps and Qualitative GIS: Using Cartographies of Individual Spatial Narratives in Geographic Research" provides a comprehensive overview of the use of mental and sketch maps in modern geography. The authors argue that sketch mapping has (re)emerged as a research tool, particularly within the public participation GIS (PPGIS) and QGIS bodies of research. They illustrate how sketch maps are currently used to meet the objectives of qualitative geographic information systems, including collecting unique spatial data of individual experiences, visualizing socio-spatial processes, breaking down particular barriers of positionality in research, and developing new uses of GIS.

One potential bias in the article is that it focuses primarily on the benefits and merits of using sketch maps in qualitative geographic research. While the authors briefly mention some limitations and challenges associated with this approach, they do not provide a balanced discussion of its potential drawbacks or alternative methods for collecting spatial data. For example, they do not address issues related to the accuracy or reliability of hand-drawn maps or potential biases introduced by participants' perceptions or interpretations.

Another limitation is that the article does not provide a clear definition or distinction between different types of hand-drawn maps, such as mental maps, cognitive maps, perceptual maps, and sketch maps. This lack of clarity may lead to confusion among readers who are unfamiliar with these terms or their specific applications in geographic research.

Additionally, while the authors provide two case studies to illustrate the use of sketch maps in research, they do not provide any empirical evidence to support their claims about its methodological merits or effectiveness compared to other approaches. Without such evidence, it is difficult to assess whether sketch mapping is truly a valuable tool for collecting unique spatial data or whether it simply adds unnecessary complexity to qualitative research methods.

Overall, while this article provides an interesting overview of the use of hand-drawn maps in geographic research and highlights some potential benefits associated with using sketch mapping techniques specifically, it would benefit from a more balanced discussion that addresses potential limitations and alternative approaches. Additionally, more empirical evidence is needed to support claims about its effectiveness as a research tool.

# Topics for further research:

* Limitations of using sketch maps in qualitative research
* Accuracy and reliability of hand-drawn maps in research
* Biases introduced by participants' perceptions or interpretations in sketch mapping
* Different types of hand-drawn maps and their applications in geographic research
* Empirical evidence supporting the effectiveness of sketch mapping as a research tool
* Alternative approaches to collecting spatial data in qualitative research.

# Report location:

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