

In/visibility and Difference: A Visual Methods Workshop – Berlin, 3-4 December 2015

planb

The Drawing of Our Lives: Same-same but Different

Abstract:

Since 2007 and 2003 respectively, Sophia New and Daniel Belasco Rogers (plan b) have been recording the drawing of their lives by turning a GPS on each time they leave a building. Daniel's original intention was to see how he learnt about Berlin, joining the city up as the neurons were doing as he built a model of the city in his hippocampus. Sophia's was to chart the difference that having a child made to her mobility. Quite early on in the process, the artists realized that they needed visualization tools for the traces they were collecting. Although it was easy to represent the data as a sort of map, they wanted to be able to play the traces in time as lines that drew themselves into existence. Meeting the software developer Peter Vasil and working with him over the years has resulted in the development of free and open source tools, and of a workflow that others can hopefully use. They have used this software to trace years of their data as part of exhibitions at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Tracing Mobility 2011), and worked with the drawings of other peoples' lives with projects in Birmingham (UK, Fierce Festival 2011) and Leuven (BE, Artefact Festival 2012). In their presentation they will briefly outline their motivations, discoveries, and research this long term project has resulted in, and touch on other visualization techniques they have used, such as laser engraving, a knitted textile proposal and clay modeling of GPS data.