



Commission on Cartography and Children

International Cartographic Association

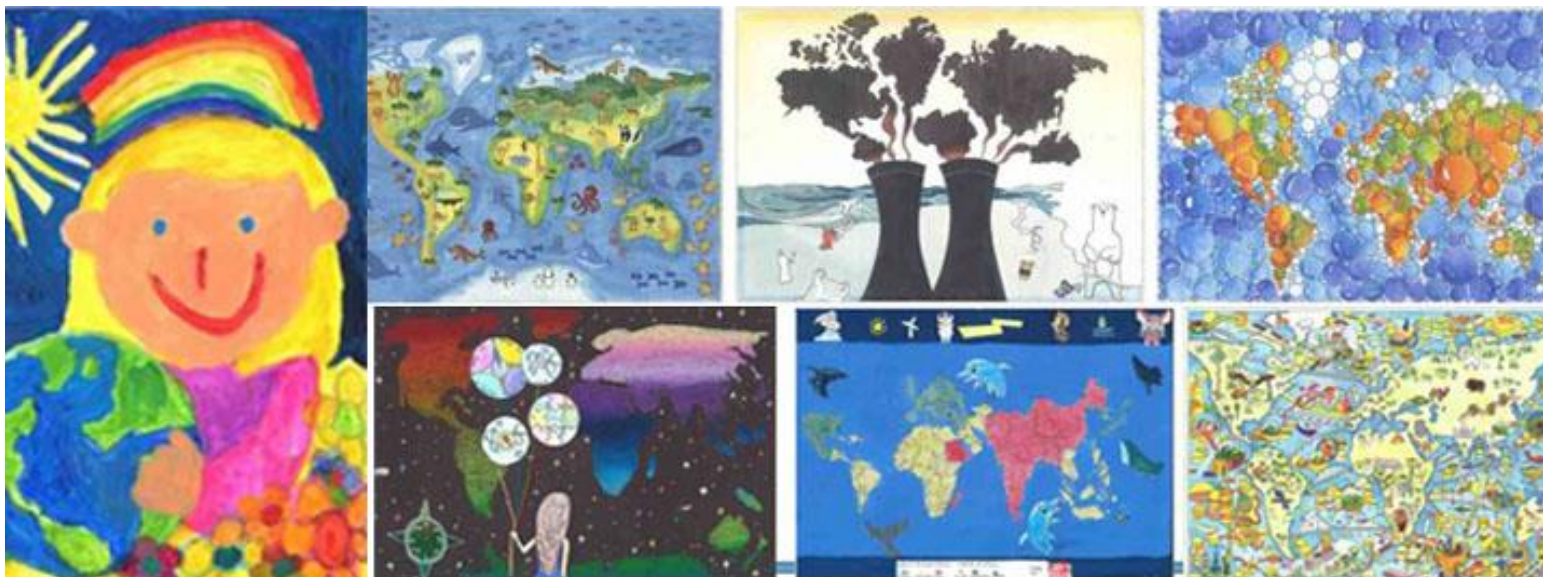
NEWSLETTER



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BARBARA PETCHENIK COMPETITION 2025 - THEME AND RULES



The Barbara Petchenik Award was created by the International Cartographic Association in 1993 as a memorial for Barbara Petchenik, a past Vice president of the ICA and cartographer who worked throughout her life with maps related to children. The contest aims to promote children's creative representation of the world in graphic form.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMPETITION

The competition aims to promote children's creative representation of the world, enhance their cartographic awareness, and make them more conscious of their environment.

GENERAL RULES OF THE COMPETITION

The countries interested in participating in the competition can collect maps on the theme **"Maps in everyday life"**, produced by children under 16 years of age. This is the theme for the Barbara Petchenik Children's Map Competition for the conferences in 2025 and 2027.

The competition in a country can be organised by:

- The member state organisation of a member state;
- An affiliate member on behalf of a member state;
- An affiliate member in a country that is not an ICA member state.

If the member state organisation does not organise the competition, then an affiliate member from the same country can organise it. Other entries from these countries are not accepted.

Each country can select a maximum of six (6) maps to be forwarded to the International Coordinator.

PARAMETERS OF THE ENTRIES:

1. The maximum size must not exceed A3 (420 mm x 297 mm or 17 x 11 inches).
2. The surface should be flat and pasted-on objects may not be higher than 5 mm or 0.2 inch and have to be thoroughly fixed.
3. The map can be made using any unbreakable material (thus no glass).
4. No moveable or folding-out parts covering sections of the drawing (Note: the submissions will be photographed or scanned and the complete drawing has to be visible in one scan or photo).
5. No perishable materials (like leaves of plants) and non-unstable elements may be used.
6. Do not plasticize or laminate the drawings because that disturbs the physical appearance of the drawing.

The entry should be an **original piece of work** and it must be made using traditional methods (colour pencils, water colour, etc).

The maps should be sent so that they arrive **by Thursday 1 May 2025**, prior to the next ICA conference to the address of the International Coordinator of the Barbara Petchenik Competition. This address is provided on the [ICA website](https://icaci.org/petchenik/) (<https://icaci.org/petchenik/>).

The entries will be displayed during the next ICA conference as part of the International Map Exhibition that will be held as part of the 32nd International Cartographic Conference of the International Cartographic Association in Vancouver, Canada, 18-22 August 2025.

Competition maps will be archived in the Archives and Research Collections at Carleton University Library and will be available for public viewing on [the Library's website](https://repository.library.carleton.ca/collections/wd375x35j) (<https://repository.library.carleton.ca/collections/wd375x35j>).

All documents related to the organisation of the competition
can be found on the [ICA website](https://icaci.org/barbara-petchenik-competition-2025/)
<https://icaci.org/barbara-petchenik-competition-2025/>

PROJECTS

Canada/South Africa Transdisciplinary Children's Cognitive Story Mapping Collaboration

Professor Fraser Taylor's latest contribution to cartographic theory and practice

Professor D.R. Fraser Taylor, Chancellor's Distinguished Professor, International Affairs, Geography and Environmental Studies and Director of the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre at Carleton University, has a long history of engagement in African Studies. Since March 2022, Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre (GCRC), Carleton University and Circle of All Nations (CAN) in Canada, and National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW) and Durban University of Technology (DUT) in South Africa have engaged in a transdisciplinary project which integrates children's cognitive story mapping practice as a methodology in child care practice as well as a therapeutic art practice, and takes cartography into entirely new theoretical and applied directions.

The importance of children's mapping in a globally connected world was highlighted at the 30th anniversary of the Children's Mapping Competition in ICC 2023. Upon exposure to the Children's Map Competition, NACCW learners and child and youth care workers took an overwhelming interest in the story/mapping/drawing activity that the competition triggered and produced over two hundred maps in short order; sixty-six were presented to the competition. The preliminary results of the project from 2022 were profiled in five presentations at ICC 2023 in South Africa; and presented in an article of the Canadian Cartographic Association (CCA) publication (Cartouche 100, December 2023), in the Issue 30 December 2023 Newsletter of the ICA Commission on Cartography and Children; and the NACCW Learning Brief February 2024. This contributed to the mobilization of national and international interest in this initiative. Recent work is leading to both decoding the personal experience of space embedded in the locational realities of the children as well as to moving the child and youth care work from practice to concept to theorization. This includes academic work and research with 24 fourth year practicum students at DUT, and five NACCW interns (graduates who provide support as research assistants) with DUT.

What is of particular academic interest in this innovative and fast-moving project, is that researchers recognized the relevance of breaking down disciplinary silos (social welfare, humanities, cartography) to respond in a timely and effective manner to learning needs expressed by vulnerable children in school settings. Cognitive story mapping quickly became a catalyst for enhancing child and youth care work practice with vulnerable learners impacted by both the isolation of the Covid Pandemic and the acceleration of global communications.

The transdisciplinary children's mapping initiative now represents an innovative cartographic breakthrough in GCRC's children's mapping research. Findings to date are examined via interrelated trajectories:

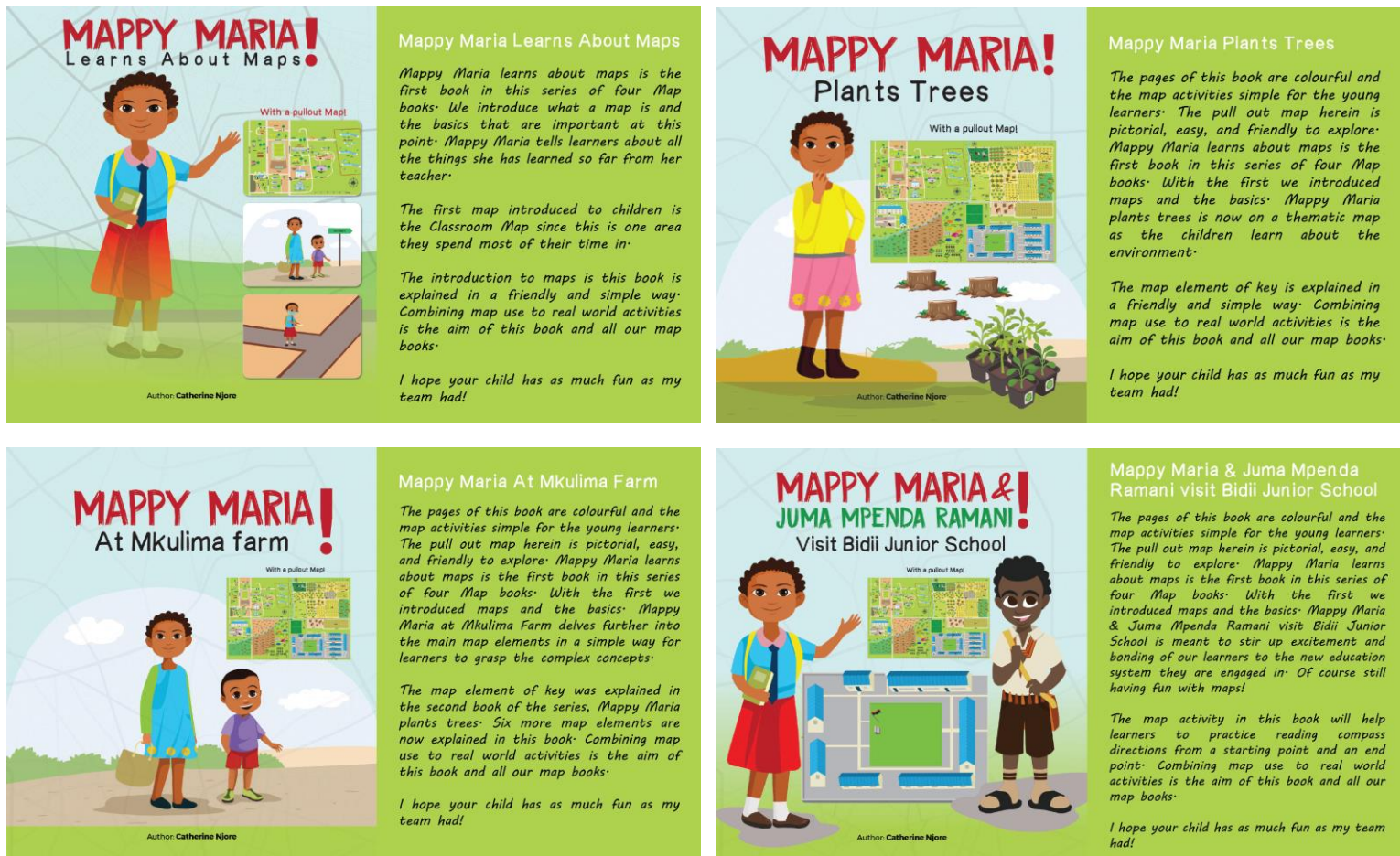
- Locational mind/concept story mapping as communicative methodology and interface in child and youth care work practice to promote responsive program, policy and advocacy;

- Analysis of a.) the creative principles and locational preoccupations in the children's maps; and b.) of art map presentation via use of infographic, photo atlas (graphics/textual map collections), visualization formats and dynamic slideshows, to permit exploration of findings via the lens of graphic and semiotic cartography;
- Map design, map production and map visualization, and output for geo-narrative storytelling, participatory collaboration and elaboration, and statistical and locational analysis.

PUBLICATIONS

Children's books on cartography

Catherine Njore, a cartographer and an active youth and children's mentor from Kenya, is the author of a series of children's books focused on maps and life skills. Her *Mappy Maria* series aims to introduce young learners to the world of maps, fostering an early appreciation for geography and navigation in primary school children.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2025

COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting of the ICA Commission on Cartography and Children – 32nd International Cartographic Conference, Vancouver, Canada, 18-22 August 2025

WORKSHOP

ICC2025 Pre-Conference Workshop

Vancouver, Canada, 17 August 2025

Hosts: Inclusive Cartography Working group, Commission on Cartography and Children, Commission on Cognitive Issues in Geographic Information Visualization, Commission on User Experience

Details to be announced

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS RELATED TO THE RESEARCH THEMES OF THE COMMISSION

32nd International Cartographic Conference

Vancouver, Canada, 18-22 August 2025

Deadlines in 2025:

20 January - Submission of full papers

27 January - Submission of abstracts

30 April - Registration of presenters of abstracts, papers and posters

<https://icc2025.com/abstracts/>



21st International Conference on Geoinformation and Cartography

ICA Endorsed Conference. Organized by the Croatian Cartographic Society
Zadar, Croatia, 18-20 September 2025

www.kartografija.hr



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of the Commission on Cartography and Children

Next Newsletter: Summer 2025

All commission members are invited to contribute to the content of the next newsletter. They can send any news related to cartography for children (publications, national events, teaching activities, etc).

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