

POWER TO THE CITIZEN! Data and Co-Creation in the Digital City.

JustMap and the use of mapping for citizen-led planning in London.

Nicolas Fonty / JustMap

jan.17	Our Way Ahead / Networked City	<i>in collaboration with</i>		ICA /invited by ASH	aug..17
dec.16	CivicWise			Civic University / Tate Modern	feb.17
june.16	Reclaim Our Spaces			Land for What ? / Holloway	nov.16
jan.16	Just Space			Reclaim Our Spaces / Conway Hall	june.16
nov.15	Living Maps		<i>6 metropolitan events</i>	Just Space conference / UCL	april.17
				Our Way Ahead / London Met. U.	jul.17
jul.17	Elephant & W. Forum	<i>involved community groups</i>			
mar.17	Ilford NOISE				
jan.17	Our Tottenham				
oct.16	Millbank MCW				
june.16	Deptford DNA		<i>8 local workshops</i>	2x Deptford / neighbourhood festivals	june.16
oct.16	Granville K. Sth Kilburn			Old Oak / local community	mar.16

Slide 0 - Title

So I'm going to talk to you about mapping and community empowerment in planning, in London.

Mapping is obviously a tool we need to consider regarding the title of this event:

- city : well mapping has always been a classical tool for city design.
- regarding data, it is a powerful interface to analyse and visualise it.
- about digital : map making is now mostly digital, even if we hopefully still edit some paper maps (I'll come back to that soon)
- and finally co-creation : mapping tools are more and more open and accessible; and web 2.0 has opened the possibility to collaborative mapping platforms.

But the most important part of the title is surely Power to the citizen! And about this call, I will present you a few avenues that I think we should follow up if we want to use mapping as a tool of community empowerment in planning, in London.

JustMap

a collaborative map of London community resources, campaigns and projects :

- a tool for local community-led planning and initiatives.*
- a tool for metropolitan sharing knowledge and networking campaigns.*

The collaborative map is developed through neighbourhood festivals and other public events, to collect data directly from Londoners, with a special effort towards hard to reach groups.

Please add some flags to the map.

Do you know a community resource that matters ?

Do you know a campaign or a community project ?



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

WHAT'S GOOD
WHO COUNTS
WHAT NEEDS TO BE
PRESERVED AND SUPPORTED



PHYSICAL



HUMAN

COMMUNITY PROPOSALS

WHAT'S WRONG
WHAT NEEDS TO BE
CHANGED,
AND HOW TO DO IT



CAMPAIGNS



PROPOSALS

Slide 1- JustMap1

First, JustMap which is run in collaboration with Just Space and other London community groups. It is an ongoing collaborative map developed through informal workshops during public events ... with a local map during neighbourhood festivals (we have done 5 for the moment) ... and with a big London map for metropolitan events (also 5 workshops until now).

There, in the workshops, we collect, directly from Londoners, their own intelligence they have of their neighbourhood or city ... and the changes they would like to see happening.

com res / com prop

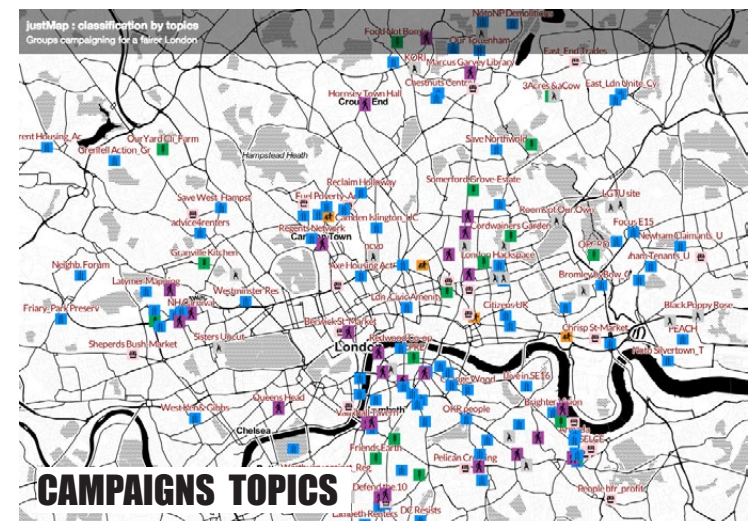
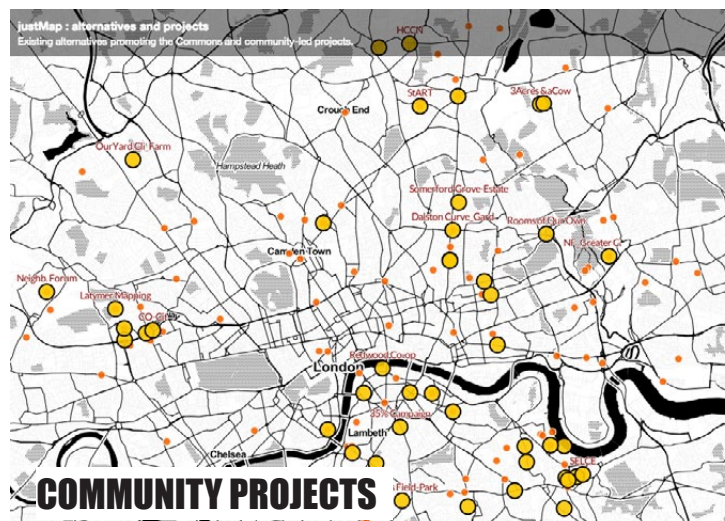
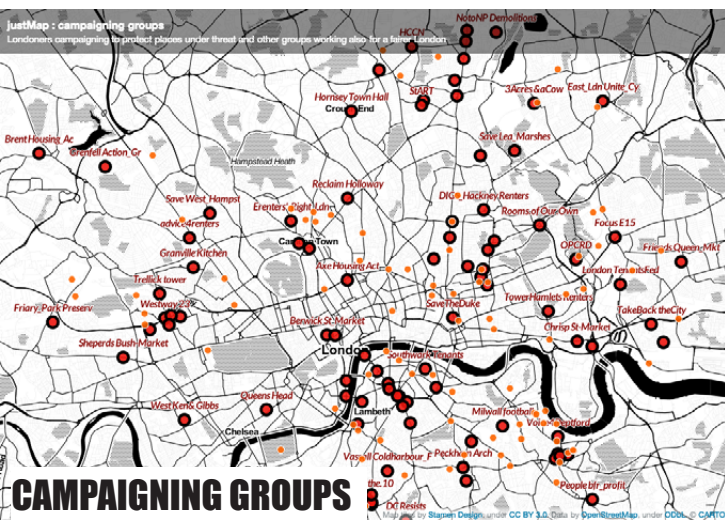
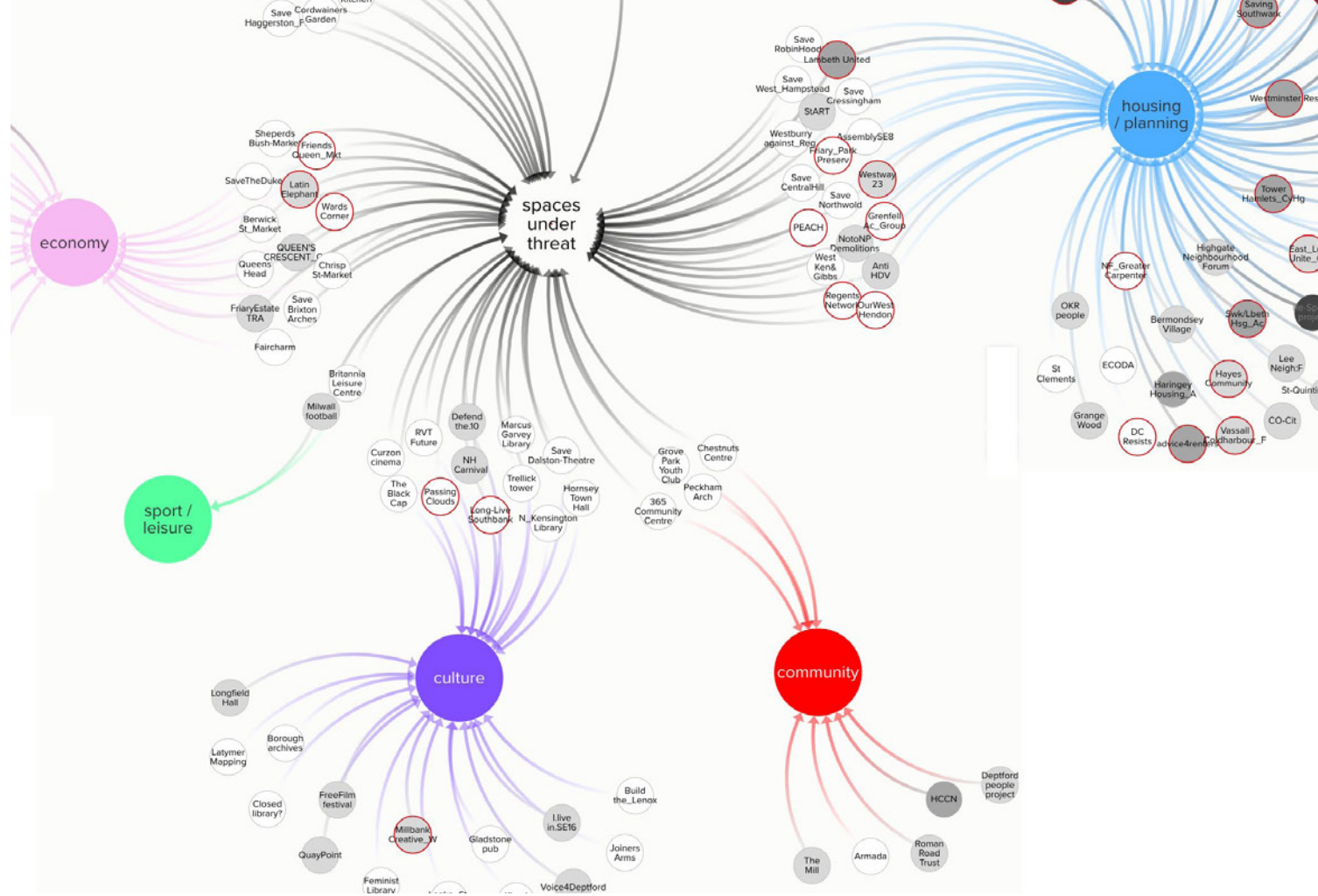
And I want to insist on this originality of collecting the data through a nice big paper map during popular neighbourhood festivals. You are sure this way to address a wide and diverse audience.

...later the data is uploaded online.

A tool :
to make more visible who
and what matters,
to share specific knowledge
between groups working on
similar issues,
to connect, cooperate and
build alliances.

And all this both locally and
across the metropolis.

4 examples of visualisation at a metropolitan scale
[click on images for interactive maps](#)



Slide 2-JustMap2

So after the workshops we upload the data online, classify it and work out on different types of visualisation :

Here you can see a few ones regarding the metropolitan scale : places under threat because of disruptive developments/ groups campaigning against those threats / alternative initiatives and community projects / a visualisation by topics

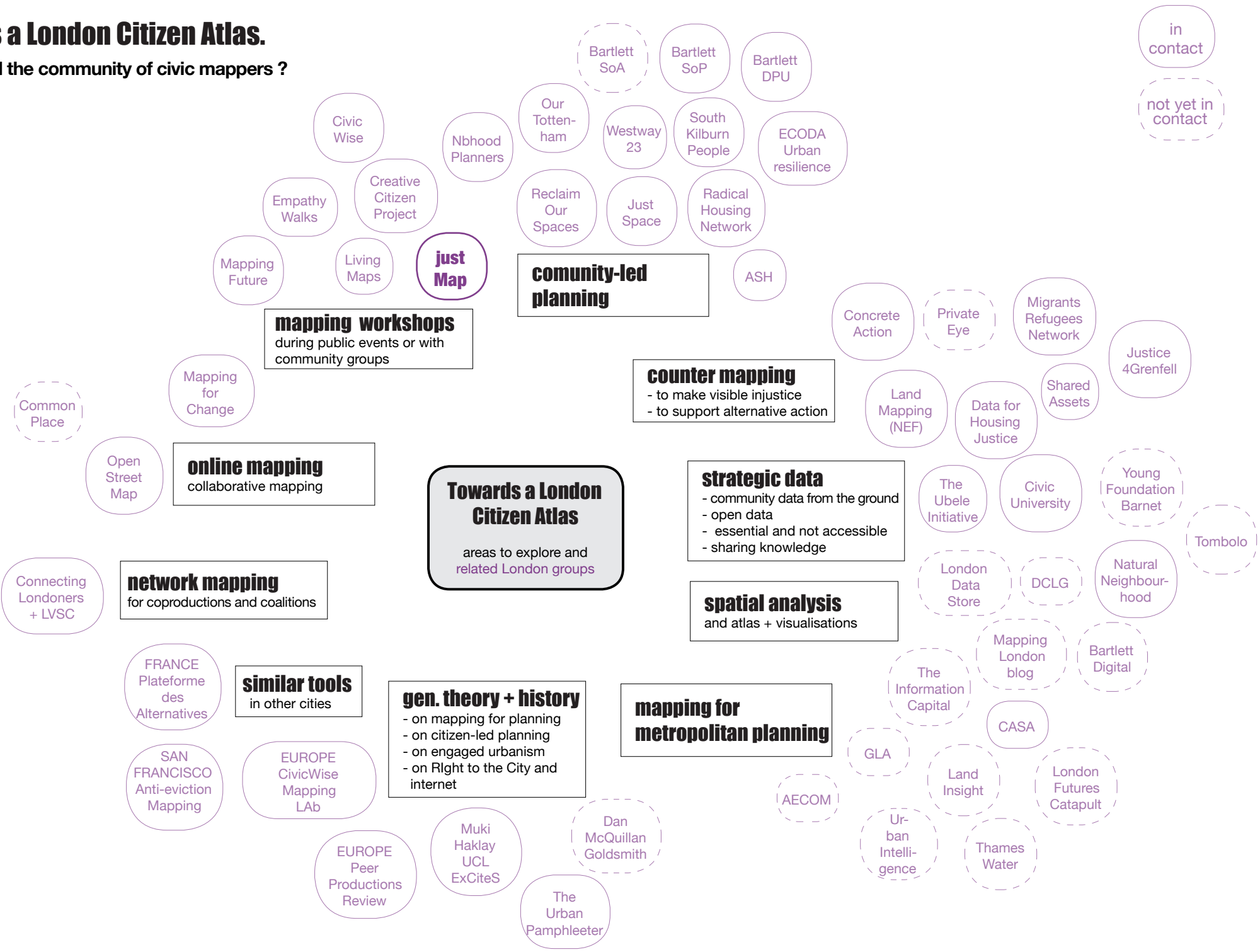
It is still quite experimental and based on DIY skills but I am sure you can easily imagine the kind of great tool we could have with improvements of design, interactivity and search engine functions :

This tool can make more visible who and what matters + it can allow to share specific knowledge between groups working on similar issues + it can connect them and be the support for cooperation and alliances.

And all this both locally and across the metropolis. And I want to also insist on this other originality of addressing both scales simultaneously. You inform the wide scale thanks to a series of local workshops from the ground. And locally you can relate local issues to a wider framework.

Towards a London Citizen Atlas.

How to bind the community of civic mappers ?



Slide 3a- the London community of civic mappers

The second avenue I'd like to present you is relative to longer terms.

As you have seen with JustMap, even if we were able to collect an important quantity of data and to produce interesting interactive visualisations, it is still experimental, built on top of DIY skills and volunteer work. And to become a sustainable platform it would need at least a wide community of users and mappers to maintain and update the data. **I think this is a key issue for the success of collaborative platforms: how to have a sufficiently big motivated community of users and mappers. (think to OSM for example)**

But regarding MAPPING for COMMUNITY-LED PLANNING in London, justMap is only one initiative among dozens of others. Each of these groups is focusing on specific topics, but each topic is essential and complementary to address the overall issue.

communities mapping directly for planning / groups who promote workshops
/ online collaborative platforms / a particular interest for community data / or
counter mappings showing injustices or supporting collective actions

This is potentially a big community of civic mappers and it looks like it is widening every day. Then, how would it be possible to make their work complementary ? Would it be possible to work collaboratively to a London Citizen Atlas ? I'll get back to this in a minute.

Critical writings on mapping, digital platforms and Smart City conceptions

Fields in tension between 2 opposed models

Tensions in ... 2 models of ...	Author	Adam GREENFIELD 2013	Rob KITCHIN 2013	Dan McQUILLAN 2017	Trebor SCHOLZ Nathan SCHNEIDER 2016	Renée SIEBER Muki HAKLAY 2015	Jeremy CRAMPTON 2010
	Title	<i>Against the Smart City</i>	<i>The real-time city? Big data and smart urbanism</i>	<i>Counter Mapping the Smart City</i>	<i>Ours to hack and to own.</i> The rise of platform cooperativism	<i>The epistemology(s) of volunteered geographic information: a critique</i>	<i>A Critical Introduction to Cartography and GIS</i>
		Smart Cities	Smart Cities	Smart Cities	Collaborative Digital Platforms	Collaborative Mapping	Cartography and GIS
	Model 1	<i>Narrow corporate and state visions</i>	<i>Technocratic, corporated, brittle and hackable, panoptic.</i>	<i>Corporated and hegemonic</i>	<i>Extractive monopolies</i>	<i>Individual-led + focused on representations (VGI)</i>	<i>Securisation</i> (formal knowledge and professionalised)
	Model 2	<i>Desires of wider society</i>	<i>We need to develop a critical model</i>	<i>Commonality and self-governance</i>	<i>Regenerative cooperatives</i>	<i>Community-led + focused on the processes (PPGIS)</i>	<i>Resistances</i> (counter-mappings and amateurisation)

Slide 3b- critical writing on Smart Cities

Because at this state of the lecture, it would be interesting to look briefly at critical writings on mapping, digital platforms and Smart City.

I won't go into details but it is remarkable to see how all of these researchers oppose, for each field, 2 very different models in tension : **corporate-led vs community-led, controlled vs self-governed, technocratic vs widely open, monopolies vs cooperative platforms**. I am sorry, I know this slide contains too much information to be showed in only one minute. But just pay attention to the recurrence of the critic of the market-led model and the proposition of alternative models.

This specific paper from Dan McQuillan (who is based at Goldsmith University) is interesting regarding the question we raised in the previous slide, **about the community of London mappers with a civic agenda and how they could share some common objectives**.

Mapping for community-led planning in London

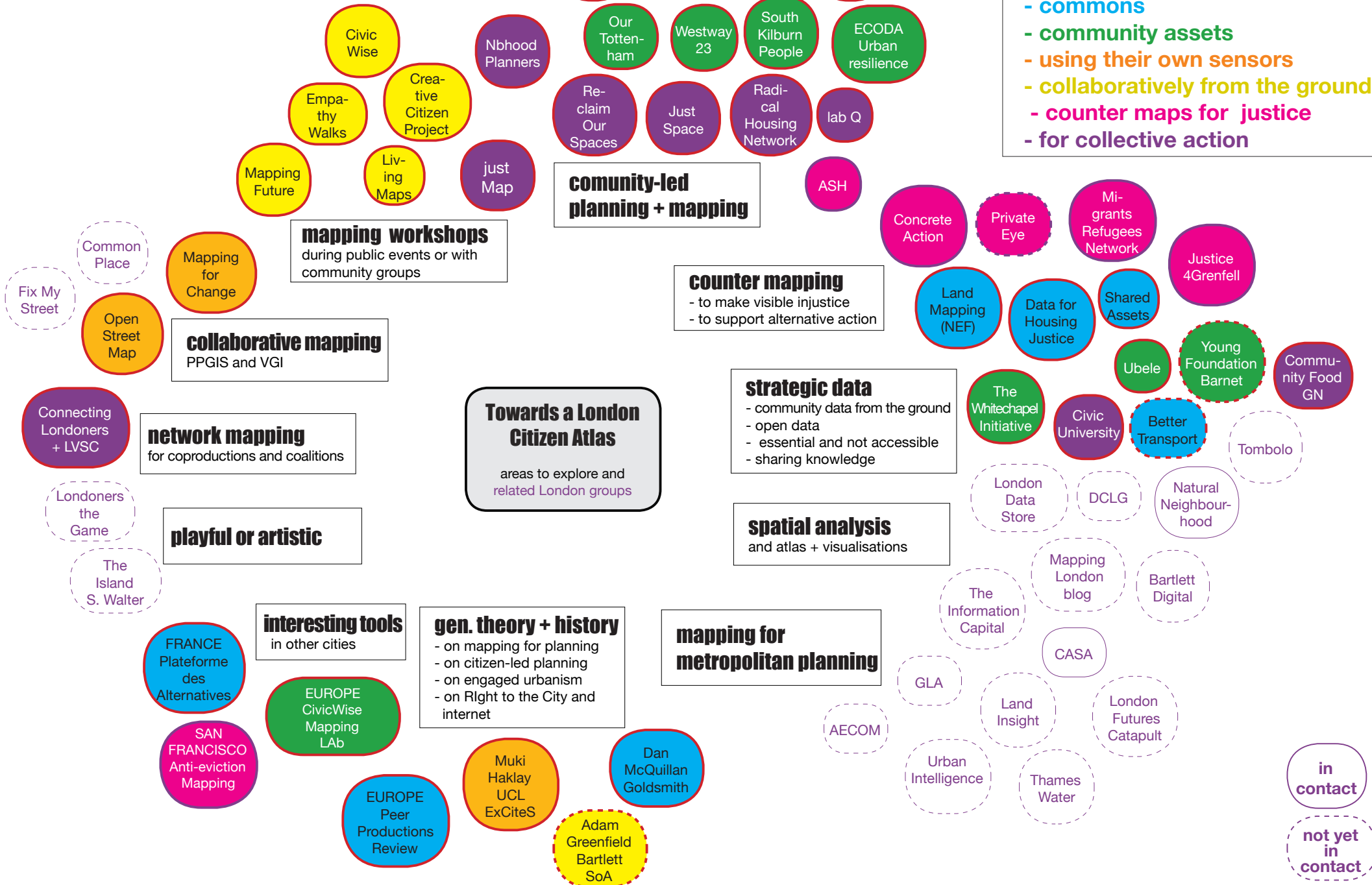
Towards a community of civic mappers ?

Towards common mapping databases and platforms?

COUNTER MAPPERS of the corporated smart city / Dan McQuillan

because they map

- commons
- community assets
- using their own sensors
- collaboratively from the ground
- counter maps for justice
- for collective action



Slide 3c- Dan McQuillan topics and the community of civic mappers

Indeed, in this article, Dan Mc Quillan lists **6 simple approaches that could bind mappers opposed to the technocratic corporate-led model ...**

- mapping the commons : like the Land Mapping Project in cooperation with the New Economic Foundation
- mapping community assets : like do most communities involved in planning
- using their own sensors : like Mapping for Change who provides noise or pollution sensors to communities
- mapping collaboratively from the ground
 - : like these groups
- counter mapping for justice : like Justice4Grenfell to who I give a bit of mapping support
- and finally mapping for collective action, as we hope we do with JustMap

Conclusion

Some avenues to build up mapping platforms for community-led planning

- 1. to combine digital with physical processes** ; in particular workshops **in popular public events** to be sure to address a wide and diverse audience
- 2. to use mapping to connect local needs from communities to metropolitan support** from universities or practitioners (project for a metropolitan civic school)
- 3. to network the community of civic mappers** through cooperative projects, workshops or events (like this evening)
- 4. to recognise the existence of 2 opposed models in tensions for the Digital City:** be critical with the market-led model and define common values, objectives and approaches to go towards a community-led model