

Preface

This book represents the outcome of a fruitful and amicable cooperation over the past years. It is the result of intensive and partly controversial discussions between representatives of two “scientific generations”. One of them (Manfred Ferdinand Buchroithner—MFB), initially coming from hardcore geosciences *and* philosophy and subsequently, motivated by years in the international mapping business, professionally moving to cartography; the other (Pablo Azócar Fernández—PAF), starting with geography/cartography and then developing an ever-increasing interest in theoretical and philosophical aspects of cartography. Influenced by his academic teachers in philosophy Rudolf Freundlich, Ernst Topitsch and Rudolf Haller MFB grew up in the tradition of the Vienna Circle and the thinking of Karl Popper and Bertrand Russell. In the early stages of his cartographic activities he was influenced by the epistemological views of his teacher at ITC (Enschede, NL) Sikke A. Hempenius and his predecessor at the Chair for Cartography at TU Dresden, Germany, the great East German theoretician Rudi Ogrissek. PAF was molded by the Latin-American cartographic thinking. Lectures about *Geography's Theory* at the beginning of 1990s, taught by the distinguished teacher Margarita Riffo Rosas (University of Chile), permitted him to immerse into philosophical topics related to geography. Soon, the question arose why these analyses are not applied to the field of cartography. After this motivational early phase of experience PAF's main focus turned to the relationships between philosophy, epistemology, cartography and mapping. During his doctoral research in Dresden, Germany, he deepened the aforementioned topics which are not sufficiently studied in South America.

The interest in the growing of our book by colleagues in Santiago and Dresden is gratefully acknowledged. We want to thank Wolf Günther Koch, Alexander Wolodtschenko and Dirk Burghardt, Dresden, for their continuous provision of the literature on the topics studied. Particular thanks go to Török Zsolt, Budapest and W. G. Koch for their critical reading of various stages of the book and their indispensable comments. We are also grateful to Mrs. Sharma and the staff of the TU Dresden Institute for Cartography. Pilar Correa from the Metropolitan Technological University (Universidad Tecnológica Metropolitana—UTEM, Chile) took care of the finalisation and homogenisation of the figures which we two authors created with our limited skills in graphic software. Our sincere

appreciation has also to be extended to UTEM for the financial support during PAF's studies in Germany. Dalia Varanka (Rolla, Missouri, USA) undertook the invaluable task to bring our typescript into English which is also legible for native speakers. With her profound background in both cartography and philosophy as well as her experience in editorial issues she certainly improved the value of this book significantly. Thank you, Dalia.

Without the uncomplicated cooperation of Christian Witschel and Agata Oelschläger from Springer Verlag, Heidelberg, this book would not have been ready at the time of its publication. Our gratitude is also conveyed to them. Finally, we wish to thank our families for the time they had to abstain from our company because we were dealing with another love of ours, the epistemology of cartography.

During the writing of this volume, controversial views set forth by various authors had, after sometimes controversial discussions between the two of us, to be synthesised. The authors are aware that this book will certainly also raise contradictions among the readership. If this can be achieved and a scientific discourse can be triggered, one of the intentions of this work has already been reached. Cartography needs more research in the field of epistemology! It should, however, not be concealed, that over the years of manuscript generation also the authors' views of things underwent some modifications—sometimes even with significant changes in direction (which can, in part, be traced by their publications). Science is dynamic! And in this sense the current book is not only intended to be a historical-epistemological investigation and documentation of twentieth and twenty-first century cartography but also a triggering agent for further research in this field. If this can be achieved, the authors have reached a good part of their intentions.

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