GIS & The World
(the bad stuff)

- Exploitative natural resource extraction
- Power is in the hands of the few (still predominantly white men)
- Geosurveillance by police and private sector
- Data colonization

Image credits clockwise from top: Venture Beat, Geotracer, energy-reality.org
Maps help us conceptualize how humans move across time and space.
Maps are essential to understanding social injustices.

Anti-eviction Mapping Project

De-colonial Atlas
Kennedy v. City of Zanesville
Red-lining map: Los Angeles
Americans are taught from an early age to analyze and understand the meaning and manipulation of words, but they are rarely taught the same skills about maps.
Democratize and provide access

(Technology is a tool, but it can also be a barrier)
Moral compass: the geographer’s tool

Alternatives to the Dominant Paradigm

- Critical GIS
- Counter Cartography
- Participatory “bottom up” GIS
- Feminist GIS
- Citizen Science
- Critical Data Studies
- GIS Ethics
This is a Safe SPACE
Ground Rules

• Respect the thoughts of others and make space for dialogue
• Don’t be a time hog
• Level playing field
• Lose the jargon
• Don’t be a jerk.
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