It may be that we travel time by changing the weather,
as well as it may be that we travel distances by passing time.

I’m in America. I read coffee in a newspaper outside. It is morning, busy street, big cars, comfortable shoes; some people in a street speak louder. I feel ok.

I go.

The bus stops on the highway and people with Coca-Cola come in to check passports. A guy is sleeping as the checkers wake him up and the first thing he sees is Madonna. *Come Mr. Dj* - is written in white curvy letters on a red shiny can. They see his passport and give him the can. Now he *can*. Today scientists *can* grow eyes in the laboratory by recreating the tissue of human cells. Can one program the eyes that would reflect the sea, or for example ..?

There exists a world map without America. Made in 1492 by a devoted geographer it depicts oceans of dark green water instead of where today is North and South America. The map I am speaking about is here, in this building, in another room, in another room, in another.

What if America hadn’t existed in geography? It wouldn’t exist in so many other things. It wouldn’t exist in language, in perception of space, in economy. The memory of American culture wouldn’t exist.

Hippocampus is the part of the brain responsible for long and short-term memory as well as for the navigation of space. Hippocampus means a seahorse as it has the shape of a seahorse. How big is the seahorse in your head? - one could ask. Research has been made on London taxi-drivers and indeed they have a bigger hippocampus, a bigger seahorse in their head. It is evident that captains, drivers, pilots and geographers have more developed skills in order to navigate. Interestingly enough, navigational tools used in physical space can be adapted into the virtual realm.

A sea horse doesn’t need a sea map, but a sea horse could become a transitional object-joystick if we looked at it as an abstract map. So what are abstract maps, we asked a geographer. And he explained that those are the maps without scientific qualities. He then showed us a landscape of an Eastern city, a picture of a town on a Chinese fan, a bucket of ice, a piece of a wall..

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In programming languages abstract maps are explained in metaphors. “Associations establish a link between a key and a value'. An associative array or map is a structure that allows a disjoint set of keys to become associated with an arbitrary set of values. The convenience of an associative array is that the values used to index the elements
need not be comparable and their range need not be known \textit{ahead of time}. Furthermore, there is \textit{no upper bound} on the size of the structure. It is able to maintain an arbitrary number of different pieces of information simultaneously. \textit{Maps are sometimes called dictionaries} because of the uniqueness of the association of words and definitions in a household dictionary."

If new words appear to name new things and fill the gaps in the dictionary by expanding it, mapping new territories change the very map. Could there exist a map, bigger than its territory? – I asked.

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Monika Lipšic\\
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\textit{- Excerpt from online course on programming cs.williams.edu, last checked 2014 09 29}
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