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TITLE: Human-Satellite Co-figurations in Mark Making  
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Everyday I find myself using devices to get me where I need to be from cell phones to dashboard mounted GPS units in my automobile. As I move and look for the little dot on the screen that represents me in space, my act of spatial navigation is coupled with my active embodiment of being in a place simultaneously with being the dot on the map. Oftentimes in this synthesis of the body-me and dot-me, I turn the phone in my hand to effect a certain orientation so that my sensory faculties can mesh with the vector lines of the map. It is at this intersection of the body and geolocation that I will examine as an important site of convergence of global visual culture. In order to explore this site of convergence, I examine a human-satellite co-figuration through concepts of satellite seeing and embodiment in (outer)space. By (outer)space I am referring to the simultaneity of the body as a nexus of psychic-sensorial experience that is both inner space as in the nerve-synapse combinations that populate feeling space and outer space as the prosthetic awareness of visible and invisible relations structured by computation. By examining a co-figuration, I am articulating the qualities of convergence in global visual culture through an understanding of the geolocated moment as co-constructed by both the agencies of human bodies and satellite computational networks such as the civilian use of GPS. Contemplating (outer)space embodiment is viewed critically through a framework of sensory-inscription (Farman, 2011) to evaluate the body in formation with mobile computing as both a sense-being and a socio-culturally inscribed subject.

Central to my investigation will be a review of project work from an intensive higher education course called “City Writing: Mobility, Multiculturalism, and Public Space in Art Education” from May, 2015 that I taught at Aalto University, Helsinki, Finland as a visiting professor. Graduate students enrolled in the course represented a global membership (from Brazil, Iran, Finland and United States) investigating notions of multiculturalism within Helsinki, embodiment and mapping, and how we see ourselves being seen by satellites and the geolocation technologies so prevalent to mobile computing. My analysis focuses on ways the human-satellite co-figuration impacts global visual culture and what it teaches us about seeing and finding ourselves in the world. Co-figuration of a human-satellite embodiment articulates a complex interrelation of agencies that both discipline the body and make it absurd through displacement. We are both in the map and outside of it, of the satellite and without it; a center-of-the-world epistemology that is traumatized through inconsistent data-flows, “black-box” digital devices that seem to operate autonomously and sometimes nonsensically, and structured within a global infrastructure of algorithmic triangulation that is both a sight of surveillance and invisibility. Considerations of the human-satellite will be put in relation to the act of mark making as it is constituted through technologically-mediated drawing experiences as both an art practice and a research of/by/in the body.