



Latitudes of the longitude

The lines that we see on a map are not always indicators of any specific physicality. Alongside the obvious delineations and shapes of paths, roads, rivers, and conurbations there are technical symbols that may not be easily explained by reference in a legend or key. The Prime Meridian of longitude is the case in point and may lead us to think of issues regarding symbolism both in terms of history, scientific use, as well as what humankind may extrapolate and infer from the way maps, geographies, cultural tropes and belief systems overlap unto our cognition – what we decide to believe about how they may intertwine, be it of the rationalist logician or a complex of psyche and cartography that we 'imagine'.

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Planning a journey along the path of the longitude is possible but not practical – because it isn't there. It is intangible but not ineffable, non-corporeal but metaphysical. A conundrum then, and one of our own makings. More on this later..

A journey across a landscape may be instigated by different impetus and stimuli – for example, a practical necessity or a romanticism. Often both or, at least through the prism of recorded history, perceived as such.

Throughout the history of the British Empire, the fervour of nation and duty has oft traversed the synaptic divide, interpolating with the 'emotive' to fuel – and at times justify – the geo-politics of colouring in pink huge swathes of the atlas.

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