

ASTRO*CARTO*GRAPHY

On May 18-19, 2001 Arielle Guttman gave us a Lecture and Workshop on ACG. Following is Linda Anderson's write up:

FRIDAY LECTURE

At our Friday evening meeting in May, we welcomed Arielle Guttman, noted Astrocartographer, who collaborated with Jim Lewis for many years in the fascinating work of Astro*carto*graphy (ACG). which is the astrology of mapping one's planets on the globe, also called the astrology of location.

Arielle began by telling us that using ACG is one of the best ways to see planets in action. In your ordinary natal chart, you can see themes, such as Saturn or Neptune activities going on, perhaps continuing for many months or years, but by using your ACG map, you can see which planets are activated in any given location.

In your natal chart, you know that the angular points — Ascendant, Descendant, Mid-Heaven and IC — are power points, sometimes called the “reason for incarnation” also relating to what sign was rising for you at the time of your birth. However, what is rising for you here is setting somewhere else in the world. For example, the Southwestern states have a 180 degree polarity point to India, and so would have a different resonance for you in that location. As a point of interest the polarity point of Washington D.C. is Vietnam and also China!

Using Sidereal terms, Arielle tells us that a planet on any angle will be a foreground planet, which will be amplified more loudly than any of the other planets. For example, if you should have Neptunian an angle, your interaction with the world will be based on a Neptunian frame of mind. Planets in succedent houses are termed middle ground, while those planets in cadent houses are

looked upon as background planets.

Planets on angles will have an influence of 10 to 15 degrees both backward and forward of the angle, and these are called the “power zones”. A planet in your 12th house will have already risen before your Ascendant, and if it is within the power zone will have a strong influence in your chart. The Sun in your chart will show whether you were born in the day or the night depending on whether it is above or below the horizon. If your Sun is in the 1st – 6th houses, you may resonate more to your Moon than your Sun and be a night person. However, by using your ACG chart, you can go somewhere in the world that puts your Sun in the tenth house, at the Mid-Heaven or noon position. You can do this with all the planets. By moving, you are turning your own astrological wheel.

However, a word of caution — Arielle says, “Wherever you go, there you are.” You still have all the aspects of your chart with you — squares, oppositions, T-Squares, etc. — and you might find some of these amplified in a new location. Your level of experience in working with the aspects in your chart should help you to determine whether or not to go there.

The positions which show on your ACG chart are those of the angles, based on the theory that the angles are the doorways to receive and send the energy in the strongest way possible. Your ACG chart may show no planets where you are because you have no planets on the angles; therefore, no one planet is emphasized there.

Basically, your ACG is your birthchart transferred to a map. You should be able to see if your Sun (a straight line) is in the correct place and also to determine whether your angular planets (if any) are positioned correctly. The Ascendant and Descendant lines always slope; the degree of slope depends on what time of year you were born

and what sign any planets were in. Any planets near the Equinoxes (Aries or Libra) will have the least amount of slope; if you were born nearer the Solstices or have planets in Cancer or Capricorn, these will have the greatest incline of slope. ACG does not involve signs or houses, however; it only involves the place in which the planet was rising or setting. There are no bad planets; everyone needs to learn to embrace the energy of all the planets, especially one they might not “like” or be fearful of; otherwise, it becomes a “shadow” planet of repressed energy. When it transits your chart, it should be looked upon as an empowerment of energy that you should be open to, so you can recognize what is happening in your life. Then, as Arielle tells us, “If there are no bad planets, there is no bad place.”

When moving to a new place where a planet is positioned, the question is “What does the planet want?” The archetypal nature of the planet will determine what you will wind up doing there. It will be the description of your life in that area. Arielle believes there are no random landings; we arrive at certain places in our lives at exactly the right time. Time and place work together. Also, transits and progressions can activate a locality you are in if the degrees of the transit or progression are on an angle in your chart, even though you may have no planets there in your ACG chart.

There are three ways to activate a planet in your chart: 1) The time when a transit comes along and activates it; 2) A relationship with another person involving that planet may activate it; and 3) Relocation — going to a place where the planet is angular. These three things can happen at the same time, also, and often do.

The planets on your ACG map of the world

will appear four times — on the Ascendant, on the Descendant, on the Mid-Heaven and on the IC, although some may not be at a place where you would want to go. However, if you can find a place where they appear on different angles from your present location, and you go there, you will be able to see yourself in a completely different light. If you cannot physically travel there, you can use “remote activation”. Think about that country or location. Consider your furnishings, your music, food and clothing. Your decor and surroundings can help activate the planets in the location you are interested in. By immersing yourself in knowledge of the arts, culture and history of that part of the world, you can help to activate your planets on the angles in that different location. As in Vedic Astrology, “feed the Goddess”!

As a point of interest, here in the United States, places east of the Mississippi are ruled by Capricorn, while west of the Mississippi, the ruler is Sagittarius, and in the far Northwest corner, we find Scorpio ruling. The planets in your ACG chart will confirm where it is you feel most comfortable! Each time zone that you move back (west) goes back half a sign; if you move two time zones, you’ve gone back a full sign.

As an example, Arielle showed us the chart of Senator John McCain, who was nothing angular, except Pluto on the MC, which denotes a rise to power. However, in his relocated chart for Arizona, Senator McCain has 5 planets angular over Arizona! He has a grand mutable cross, which became activated when he moved here. He shines in Arizona!

Arielle also uses the Asteroids in her charts, and pointed out to us that Senator McCain has a strong Pallas Athena accompanied by a

crossing of the Moon in the New England area, where he had a strong showing in the primaries. (More about crossing lines in Saturday's workshop.) Pallas Athena denotes good opportunities and a place where your skills can be used. Senator McCain now has Pluto transiting the IC, which can denote a time of going inward. With a Pluto transit, you can experience personal transformation or loss, but a loss that is followed by some sort of gain.

ACG can also be used as a prediction tool, as Arielle demonstrated using charts of election night, which showed Mars over Tennessee, a loss for Gore; Venus over Texas, a win for Bush; and Neptune over

Florida, denoting all the confusion which was reigning there! Another point of interest — Mars prominent in the ACG chart of an athlete in an athletic contest can denote win, not loss, as Mars is an athlete's sign.

Arielle closed for the evening with a promise of more discussion on Saturday of deeper interpretation of our ACG charts in the locations of our lives.

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SATURDAY WORKSHOP

In our Saturday workshop we continued our journey around the world to find the perfect place (is there one?) for each of us using our ACG maps and the expertise of professional astrocartographer, Arielle Guttman. Arielle began by informing us that there are many different mapping systems available for your use, which you can check out to determine which is most compatible to you in your work with ACG. Jim Lewis' "Fifteen Techniques for Reading Astro*Carto*Graphy Maps" is a good basic system with which to begin. Whatever you use in chart work, you can use in map work, such as the Nodes, the Asteroids and Chiron.

ACG has just come into its own over the last 20 years. One of the reasons is, of course, the use of computers to calculate all the data required for the maps. Another reason is that we are a global community now; people are always moving and traveling as never before. Arielle, nevertheless, uses both the natal chart and the relocation chart to get a complete picture of a person's changes. A third reason is that there wasn't an awareness of the topic of locational difference. At least a 500-mile move from your birthplace is important. By moving the wheel around in your own chart, you will find that any place you like astrologically will be an actual place on your ACG chart.

However, you should first find the actual place you want to be. The most important concern of most people is climate. Before you move, you want to look first at your relocation chart. If you move to a place where your ACG lines are favorable (Sun or

Venus, for example), you should stay there at least a year, because during that time the Sun will have traveled around the Zodiac activating each sign in turn. You may find that you have a different experience than you anticipated, and this can be due to transits and progressions (Pluto transiting your Sun, for example), so while this experience may be what is needed for you in your life at this time, it may be not at all what you expected! Then you can compare your natal and your relocation charts to determine if the move you made is working for you — are you happier or not?

As we discussed last night, the slope of the Ascendant and Descendant lines will depend on the time or year you were born. An ACG chart is three-dimensional and denotes the latitude of the planets on the ecliptic, so that a planet rising on your natal chart may, in fact, be located many miles away, not affecting you as strongly as you might think. The Mid-Heaven/IC lines on your ACG chart are always vertical from north to south, since they are not rising or descending like the ASCIDSC lines. You can also use the Declination of Planets to see this same thing. Arielle showed us samples of relocation charts to demonstrate differences of planetary angles between places.

Next Arielle spent some time delineating charts of local space. These are excellent for moving short distances. Also, in traveling short distances, you can lay your local space chart over a regular map to find the planetary line you are following. If you don't like the line you are on, you can plan a different route. You need to remember that local space charts are reversed when reading East/West. North/South. A good

reference book for more information is “Planets in Locality” by Steve Cozzi.

Moving on to parans (short for paranatellonta), Arielle explained that parans are crossings of two ACG lines on the map. This crossing influences not only the area in which it crosses, but also the entire world line of latitude at which the intersection occurs. The orb of influence is approximately one degree either side of that line. A paran, obviously, produces more energy than a single planet. The closer a paran is to the equator, the less amount of crossings you will have, but the more important they will be. There are many lines crossing in the extreme northern and southern latitudes, simply because this is the place they cross on the 3-dimensional world sphere.

Next, using the chart of Barry Goldwater as an example, Arielle pointed out some interesting aspects. With Neptune on the Mid-Heaven, Goldwater indeed became an icon in his area. Those with this aspect denote mythological archetypes and embody a collective ideal. With Uranus on the IC, Goldwater didn't fit in his family structure, and broke away to search for his own destiny. With the Nodes near his birthplace, he met his destiny in the place and people in Arizona, and may even have led past lives here.

Point of interest: Planets on the IC, such as Neptune, the Moon and the South Node designate your roots, either from this life, past lives or even ancestral roots. Lines of lineage (planets on the IC) may show in your ACG chart at the place in the world where your ancestors originate from — something to check out!

Next, Arielle displayed and discussed the ACG charts of presidential candidates. The candidates all showed dynamic lines over their home states, but only those with planets over Washington D.C. made it to the Presidency — such as LBJ, and President Bush — not so for Senators McCain and Goldwater or Vice President Gore, all of whom have no planets over Washington D.C. in their ACG charts. To be successful, they needed planets in both places.

Point of interest: A Pluto line, as seen in the chart of the Dalai Lama, denotes the need to learn to let go — be aware. The Dalai Lama is demonstrating patience, waiting for a peaceable solution to his exile and the problems of his country. However, Pluto can denote possible danger, but you must look for verification of this by interpreting Pluto crossings, aspects, etc. For example, Pluto on the Ascendant gives you more control by operating through you, versus Pluto on the Descendant, which is coming from the outside world at you. Pluto on the IC denotes a difficult childhood and early family life.

Moving on to Geodetics, Arielle explained that Geo, of course, stands for earth. The geodetic equivalent theory states that every degree (360) of the Zodiac shows up somewhere on the globe. Each line of longitude becomes a degree of the Zodiac. The most universally agreed upon starting point is 0 degrees longitude, which occurs at Greenwich, England. Therefore, Greenwich = 0 degrees Aries MidHeaven, West of Greenwich, the MidHeaven becomes Pisces; east of Greenwich, it becomes Aries, and so on, all the way around the world. Arizona is

in the sector of the world where Sagittarius falls from the Zodiac.

The Ascendant and other house cusps are derived from the local Mid-heaven. For example, the MC for 0 degrees Aries at London yields an ASC of 26 degrees Cancer. Sedona has a Sagittarius MC of 8 degrees and Phoenix has a Sagittarius MC of 7 degrees. They both have Aquarius rising at 24 degrees. While both New Mexico and Arizona have a Sagittarius MC, at the 4 corners New Mexico has Pisces rising, while Arizona has Aquarius rising.

East of the Mississippi has a Capricorn MC, while west of the Mississippi has an MC of Sagittarius. With a Capricorn MC and Aries rising in the east and Midwest, we can see how this area was populated by the Aries rising people of Europe. Note also that the Pisces MC east of Greenwich, running from north to South, crosses through the countries on the western coasts of Europe that once ruled the seas. In Geodetics, every cusp becomes powerful. For more information, you can read "The Geodetic World Map" by Chris McRae.

With our new knowledge of Astro*Carto*Graphy, we can now travel the world!

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