

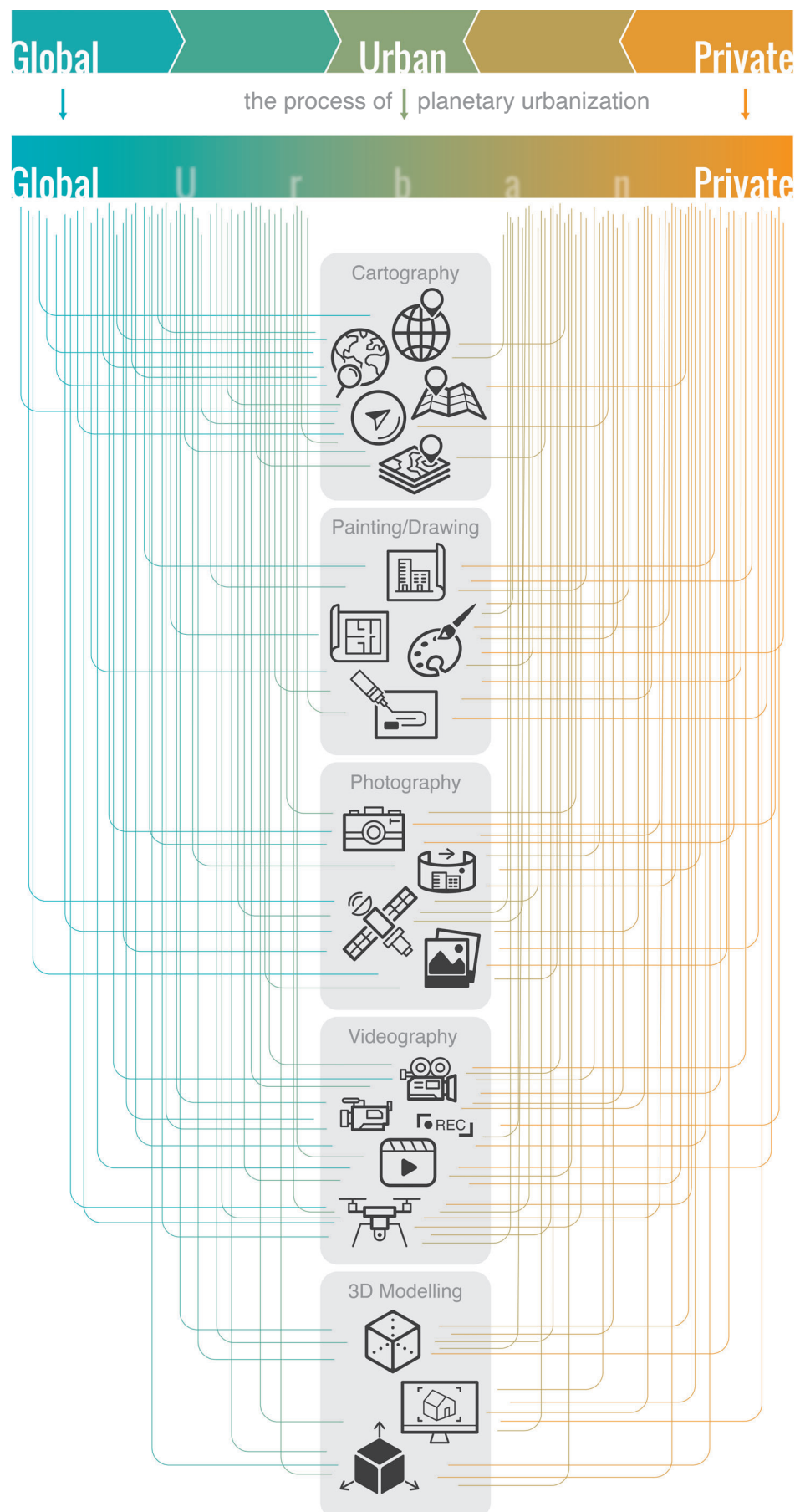
A Quest for Visual Representation Tools of Planetary Urbanization

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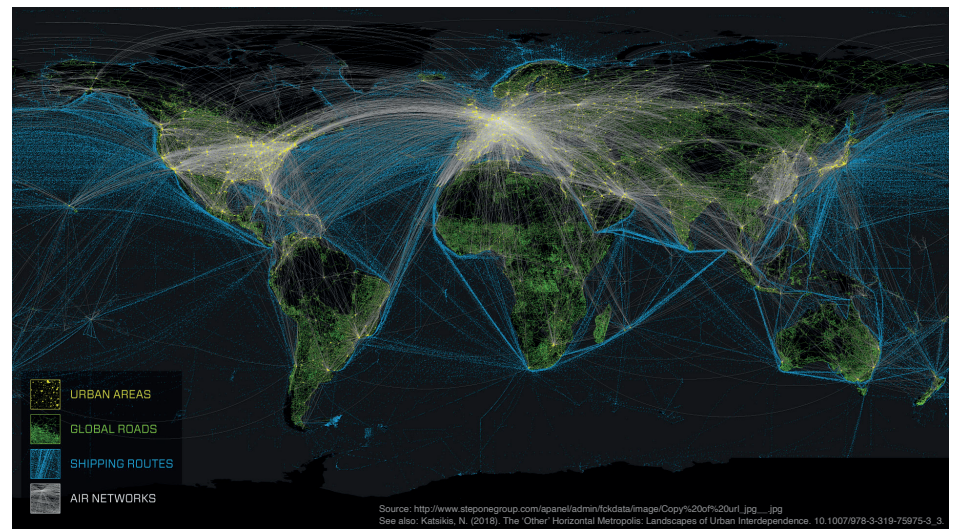
Rationale

Slightly more than a half century before, Henri Lefebvre raised the hypothesis of “complete urbanization” of the entire society. He suggested that this urbanization exists in a virtual form at his time, but prophesied that it will be real in the future. So **has that future come?** Capitalist urbanization under the neo-liberal policies; uncontrolled spatialization of capital accumulation; the rapid increase in consumption and distribution of things; competitiveness of ‘global’ cities and many more different dynamics declare radical transformations in the global condition of urbanization. Consequently there is a rising need for new concepts, categories, methodologies, cartographies, and **a new visual language** to explore this complex and planetary scale urbanization?

Through which visualization tools could the contemporary condition of the urban phenomenon be understood?



“I’ll begin with the following hypothesis:
Society has been completely urbanized.”
Henri Lefebvre, La Révolution Urbaine (1970)



Approach

This study borrows the methodology of Lefebvre for analysing the contemporary urban phenomenon which is based on levels and dimensions: **Global**, state(s), world market, ideologies; **Private**, individual(s), habiting, everyday life; and the intermediary and mediating level between global and private, the **Mixed** level: **Urban**.

It has twofold characteristics:

- place of **agglomeration** of people, goods, and capital
- place of **exchange** of labor, goods and capital

In a sense, urban is a place where differences meet, integrate, relate and exchange to the other(s). In other words, it serves as a **center** inbetween the global and private.

Under planetary urbanization, everything is becoming urban, but at the same time, urban is being eliminated between the global and private.

Discussion

Now, the global urban condition is more complex than ever before and answering the urban question is becoming more and more difficult. Therefore, a new visual language for the urbanization in planetary scale is needed as well as new concepts, methodologies and categories. Relatively more traditional techniques such as, mapping, sketching, technical and perspective drawings, photography and video have longer histories within this context. More recently, new technologies such as drones, 3D modelling, VR images and satellite observation systems are becoming widespread and now easier to be reached by more people. A new visual language and visualization methodologies using all these tools together and in between different scales and layers is needed. They present numerous possibilities to the different professions, in the context of not only analysis but also design and production processes.

In Lieu of Conclusion

This study aimed to explore the condition of recent urbanization at a theoretical level, to show the complex nature of the urban at the present time, and to explore the visualization tools’ capabilities within the layers of the urban phenomenon. Therefore, it shows us there is a need for a new visual language which;

- is inter- and multidisciplinary,
- benefits from various tools and techniques,
- moves in between different scales and levels of the urban,
- applies different tools to different levels,
- aims to visualize the complex nature or contemporary urban condition.

