Cityscapes: An Online Discovery Tool for Urban and Cultural Studies

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Cityscapes is Geohistorical

- Allow students to investigate a city over time, e.g. Tokyo:
  - 1680
  - 1799
  - 1858
  - 1892
  - 1945
Cityscapes Map Platform

- Google Map Open API:
  - Web-based
  - Zooming
  - Layering
  - Transparency
  - Markers
  - Satellite/Terrain
Cityscapes Historical Maps

- Historical maps are closely georeferenced using ArcGIS and Google Earth:

Cityscapes:

- Converted to Google format with open source Amherst GTiler
Cityscapes Location Balloons

- Location balloons provide structured media inclusion

Dialogues don’t require knowledge of HTML.

Open source: Amherst *aMapApp*; *Ext JS*, *PHP*, and *MySQL*. 
Cityscapes Multimedia

- Location balloons link to an image database using thumbnails, and display them in a dedicated viewer.
- Images can be from different collections:
  - DigiTool (Amherst)
  - Luna (Smith College)
  - Flickr (students & others)
Cityscapes Location Blogging

- Location balloons can have blogs associated with them, letting students converse about the location and included media.

During my Junior year abroad in Tokyo, I visited the Senso-ji Buddhist Temple. It has a traditional architecture for a Japanese temple and
Cityscapes Access Control

- Privacy of student projects is important.*
- *aMapApp* location balloons are created outside of Google maps, so their content is not web-searchable.
- Built-in access control and groups for classes.

* e.g. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
Cityscapes Tokyo  http://ats.amherst.edu/tokyodemo

• Reinventing Tokyo: The Art, Literature, and Politics of Japan's Modern Capital

• “Tokyo is the political, cultural, and economic center of Japan, the largest urban conglomeration on the planet, holding 35 million people…. Since its founding 400 years ago, when a small fishing village became Edo, the castle headquarters of the Tokugawa shoguns, the city has been reinvented multiple times…”

• Amherst College
Professors Morse, Maxey, Van Compernolle

Fishing Village, Flying Crane, and Mount Fuji
Cityscapes Paris  [http://ats.amherst.edu/parisdemo](http://ats.amherst.edu/parisdemo)

- **Pariscape: Imagining Paris in the Twentieth Century**

  “Paris has been for centuries one of the exemplary sites of our urban sensibility, a city that has indelibly and controversially influenced the twentieth-century imagination. Poets, novelists and essayists, painters, photographers and film-makers: all have made use of Paris and its cityscape to examine relationships among technology, literature, city planning, art, social organizations, politics and what we might call the urban imagination.”

- Amherst College Professor Rosbottom
Cityscapes Paris  

- **Colloquia in French Studies: Paris, a Multi-Layered City**

- “An exploration of the cultural and urban development of Paris across time and in space with an emphasis on the 19th and 20th centuries. We will use an interactive digital platform to reconstruct the spaces, both real and imaginary, featured in novels, poetry, short stories, popular songs, visual documents, and maps that have evoked the city throughout its history. Works by Corneille, Maupassant, Baudelaire, Apollinaire, Desnos, Modiano, Vargas, Gavalda.”

- **Smith College Professor Visentin**
Cityscapes Team

• **Inspiration:** Professors Sam Morse and Hélène Visentin

• **Organizer:** Scott Payne, Director of [Academic Technology Services](https://www.amherst.edu) at [Amherst College](https://www.amherst.edu)

• **Historical Map Georeferencing:** [Andy Anderson](https://www.amherst.edu), ATS; Zoë Zaferiou and Jon Caris, Smith College

• **GTiler Creation:** [Andy Anderson](https://www.amherst.edu), ATS

• **aMapApp Creation:** Paul Chapin, ATS

• **Image Database Interface:** Miodrag Glumac, ATS

• **Historical Maps:** Smith College, Harvard University, University of California at Berkeley, David Rumsey Map Collection