toponymy course

Naming Principles

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We give names in order to have labels for geographical objects
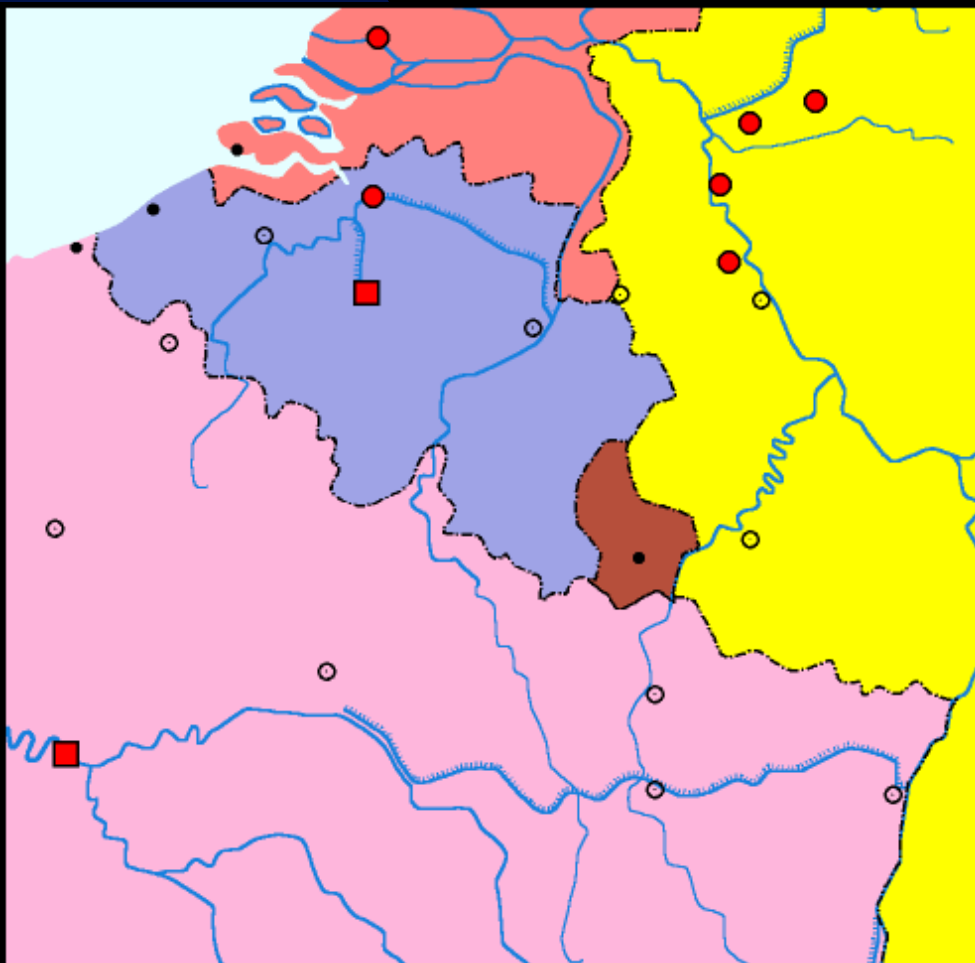
Why do we name? In order to make sense of our environment

Cow + ford = couford > couver
Lord of Couver = van Couver = Vancouver
=name of British navy officer that discovered Vancouver

We give names

- In order to be able to have labels for geographical objects.

- That is much more important than the semantic meaning of the names

- We give names to point, linear, area- and 3D-objects on the Earth's surface

What do we name:

- Rivers and lakes
- Mountains
- Settlements
- Roads, bridges, etc
- Bays, gulfs, capes
- Polders, huertas
- Estates

- Administrative areas
- Regions
- Islands
- Fields
- Houses, farms
- Slopes

Names - objects were named for:

Descriptive names

- Based on shape
- Vegetation and fauna
- Local events
- Directions
- Configuration
- Circumstances
- Catering
- Occupations

Non-descriptive names

- Religious calender
- Conceptual names
- Commemorative names:
  - Ships
  - Explorers
  - Sponsors
  - Home towns
  - institutions

Gammolamoia

Tarnata

T. Castel Orangie

Gat van Gammi Lama
Norwegen

Mammomie

Tidorie

Sitinnat

Coppert
Roctie

Oba

Maritoctod

Tobolole

A D Chagi brock Aqnie La

H A L E M A H E R A
of B A T A C H I N A

Pondbacksi

patio

tabaro

A

Caodno

Moutido

Fort Mauritius

Macqian

Gietta

Aqnie hodrie H. van Tostein

Weda

T. L A N D

Dagahe

Danaka

Dan
Aqnie Kostwk kob

Mauritius –from Atlas Amsterdam by Isaac de Graaf 1705

Versche kuyl

Oostergat

d'1ste hoec

Fort Mauritius

d'2 gesusters

d'3 gebroeders

t'Visschers eylandt

Clappers eylanden

Descriptive names: configuration and direction

Toppers hoetje

Brabants hoetje

Negery Bangaegh

Negery belang
=Anbelang

De Pas

holle h.

Visschers Eyl.

De groote bocht

Drooge inbocht

Hen met de kiekens

de 3 gebroeders

G A:

't laag
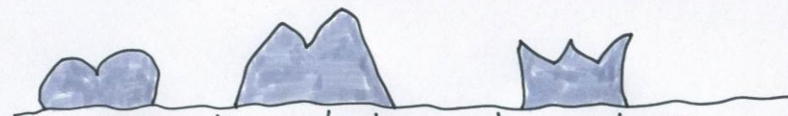
Descriptive names based on shape

coffin, table, beehive, sugar loaf

breasts, camel, crown

hats and caps

klapmuts

Nostalgia-archipelago

Costintsarck
Cruys hoeck
Schans hoeck
Laurens bay
Drie Huysen

N

Meelhauen
't Lage Eylandt
Eerste klip
Va igats
De bay met l'Eylanden
Afgoden hoeck
Cruys hoeck Crijsthoeck

Beloi ostrof

West
Niaromtza

Straet van Naßau

Staten Eylant

Sarapoui Coosey

Moetnaia

I. Mauritius

I. Orangen

Korotaoca goeba

Zelense

Malsons
Eylant

Staten
Eylant

Nieu
lant

Diessiasina

Cojauigoeba

Corigma

Brickmstolb

Niaromtza
Voloc

Oby Flu.

Nie u
Friesla nt

Zauoroot

Penzuinske hortomul
Bolsoi harmidgi
Isernicia
Bobranskaia goeba

Hol
Troscomaia

Van hagens hoeck
Veert met 't
Eylant met de

Clobotcoua

Tobolzicoua

Isernaia

Obb. reca

Nieu
Walcheren

Mongutzar

Loefdief

Pedaritza

S A M O

Sechaia More

Seguaslina

Kara

Reebnaia

Dolgoi Ostrof

S A

Capitius flu.

O B D O R A.

Names mostly start as descriptive names

- So first names mostly are transparent.

- Later, because knowledge of the (initial) language disappears, they may become opaque

Nature of the name:

- Specific part
- Generic part
- Possible transfer to other objects (false generics)

The relationship between specific and generic name parts may indicate:

-nature

-property

-purpose

-events

What is expressed in geographical name? Relationships between x and y

- X with/of Y: Thabazimbi (mountain with iron)
- X resembles Y: Vaal River (river like the colour grey)
- X belongs to Y: Simon's Town (Town of Simon)
- X at Y: Barkley East (Barkley in the East)
- X for Y: Signal Hill (hill for signalling)
- X where Y happened: Rustenburg (town where they rested)

(after Meiring, 1993)

These relationships might be expressed in place names because specific events happened there:

- Physical
- Physiological
- Sensory
- Emotive
- Intellectual
- Communicative

- Social
- Controlling
- Movement
- Impact
- Transfer

Names might be

- Simplex: Hawaii, Oslo, Pretoria, Enschede

- Complex: Port Elizabeth,

  al-Qahira, New York,

  Frankfurt am Main

Apart from establishing relationships or memorizing events, names do more:

They have/provide connotations! (descriptive backing):

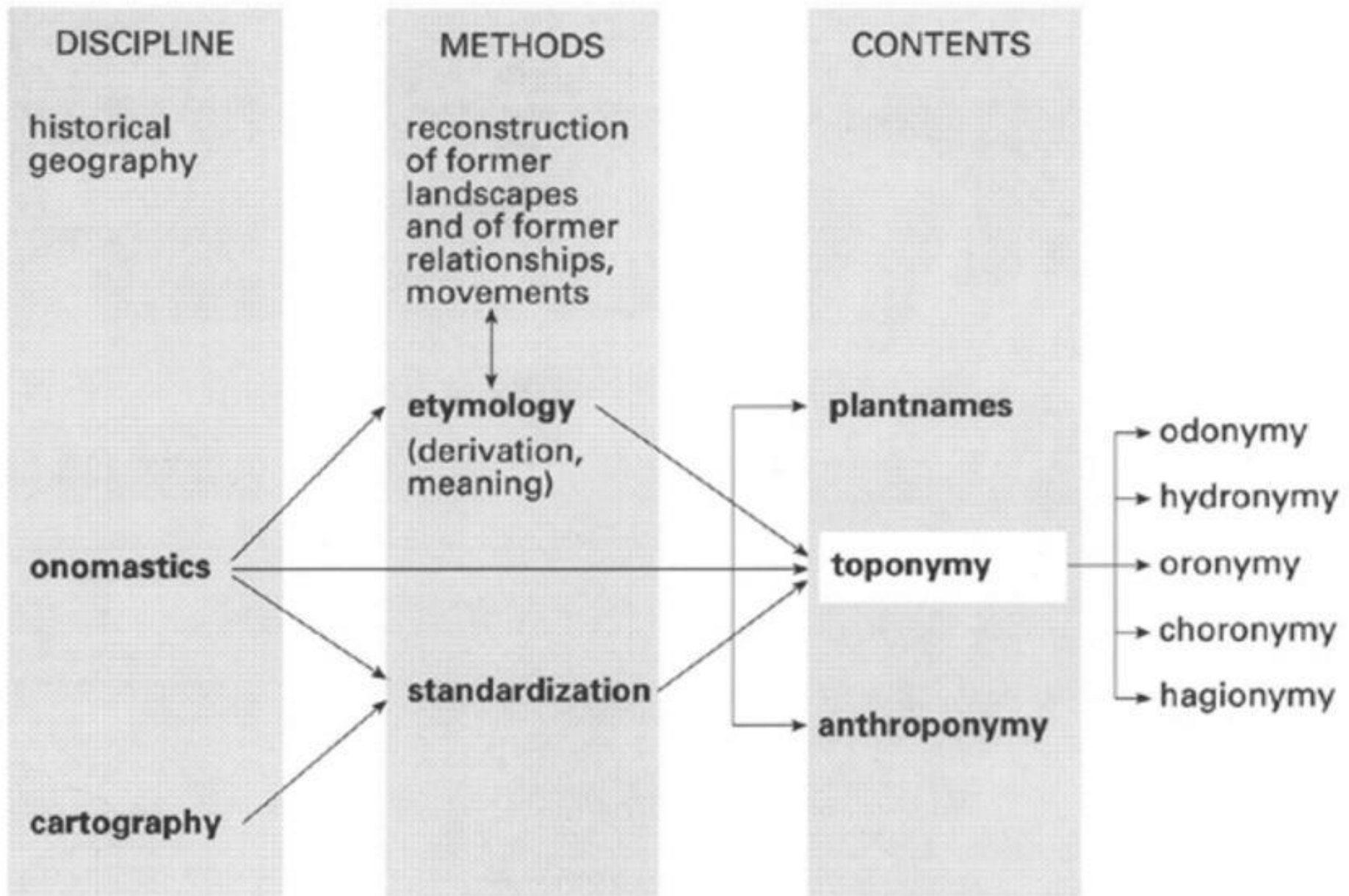What do you think of when you hear the name

Hawaii,

New York,

Gaza Strip

Pernambuco?

Names do more (2)

Names provide boundaries: in an urban environment street names are grouped in themes, so that when a person hears a street name, she recognises the theme and will know where to go

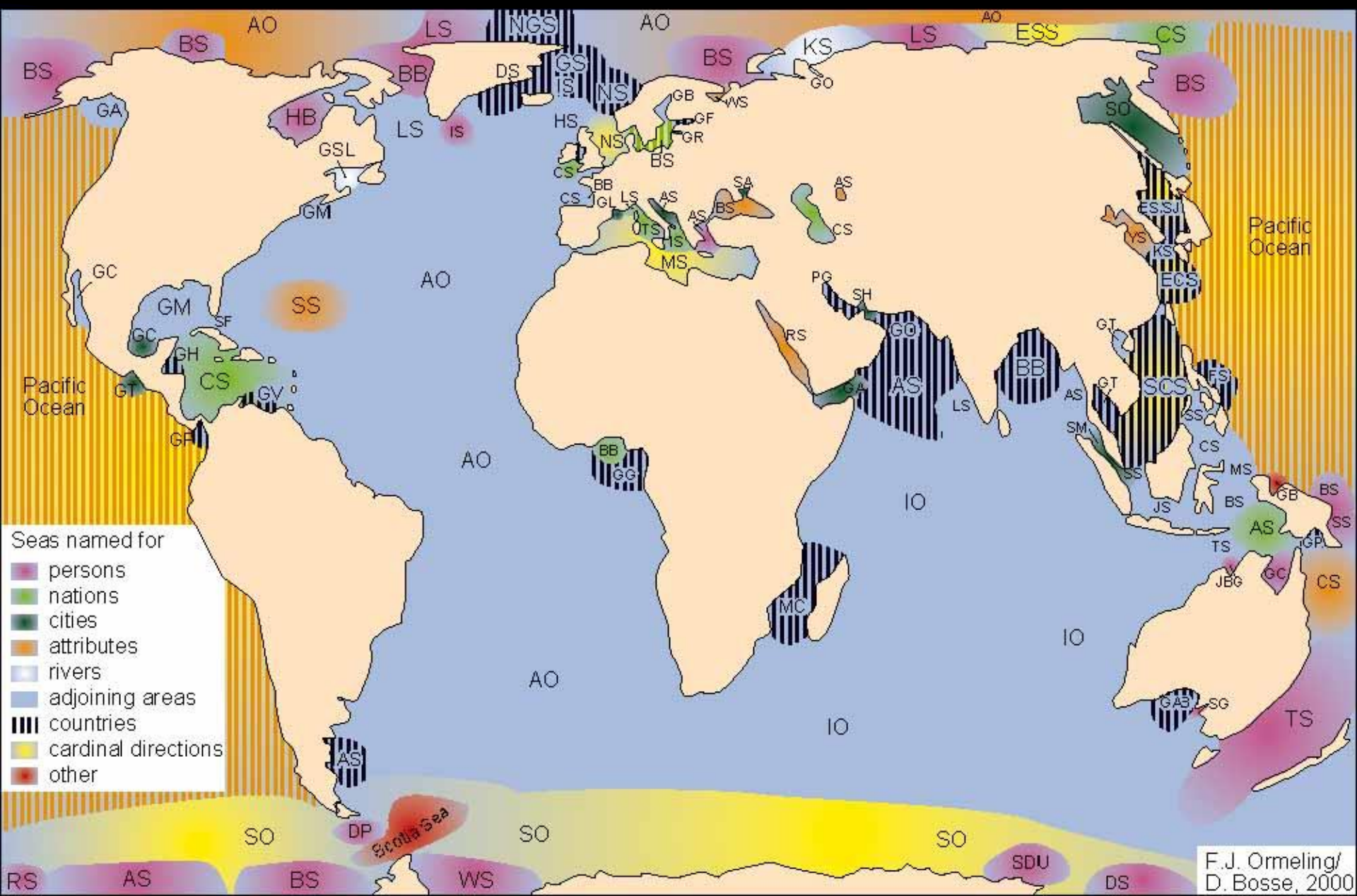| DISCIPLINE	METHODS	CONTENTS	
historical geography	reconstruction of former landscapes and of former relationships, movements		
	etymology (derivation, meaning)	plantnames	odonymy
			hydronymy
onomastics		toponymy	oronymy
			choronymy
	standardization		hagionymy
cartography		anthroponymy	

Historical aspect:

Names tell us something about:

- The nature of the entity named when the name was given
- The nature of the society that provided the name: its attitude towards nature

-burg

-donk

-dam

Names ending in –burg: 7th-9th century
Names ending in –donk: after 10th cent.
Names ending in –dam: after 13th cent.
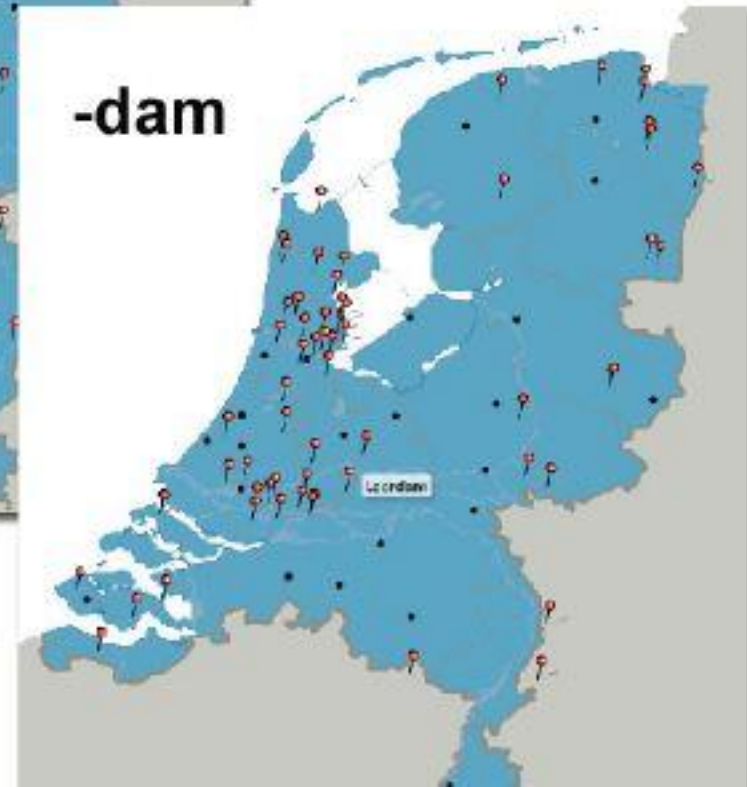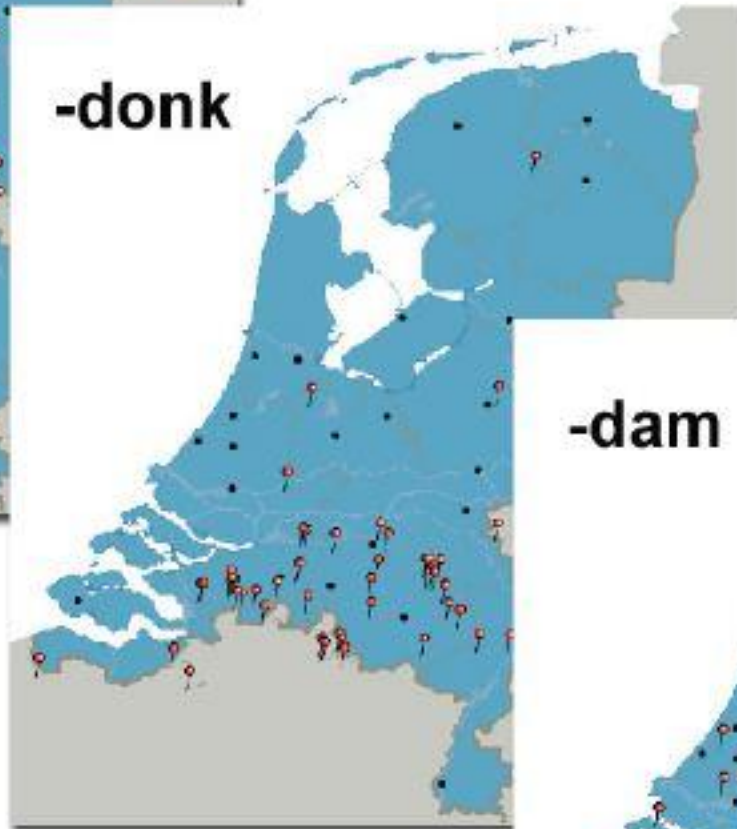
Just as for Christian names, we also see
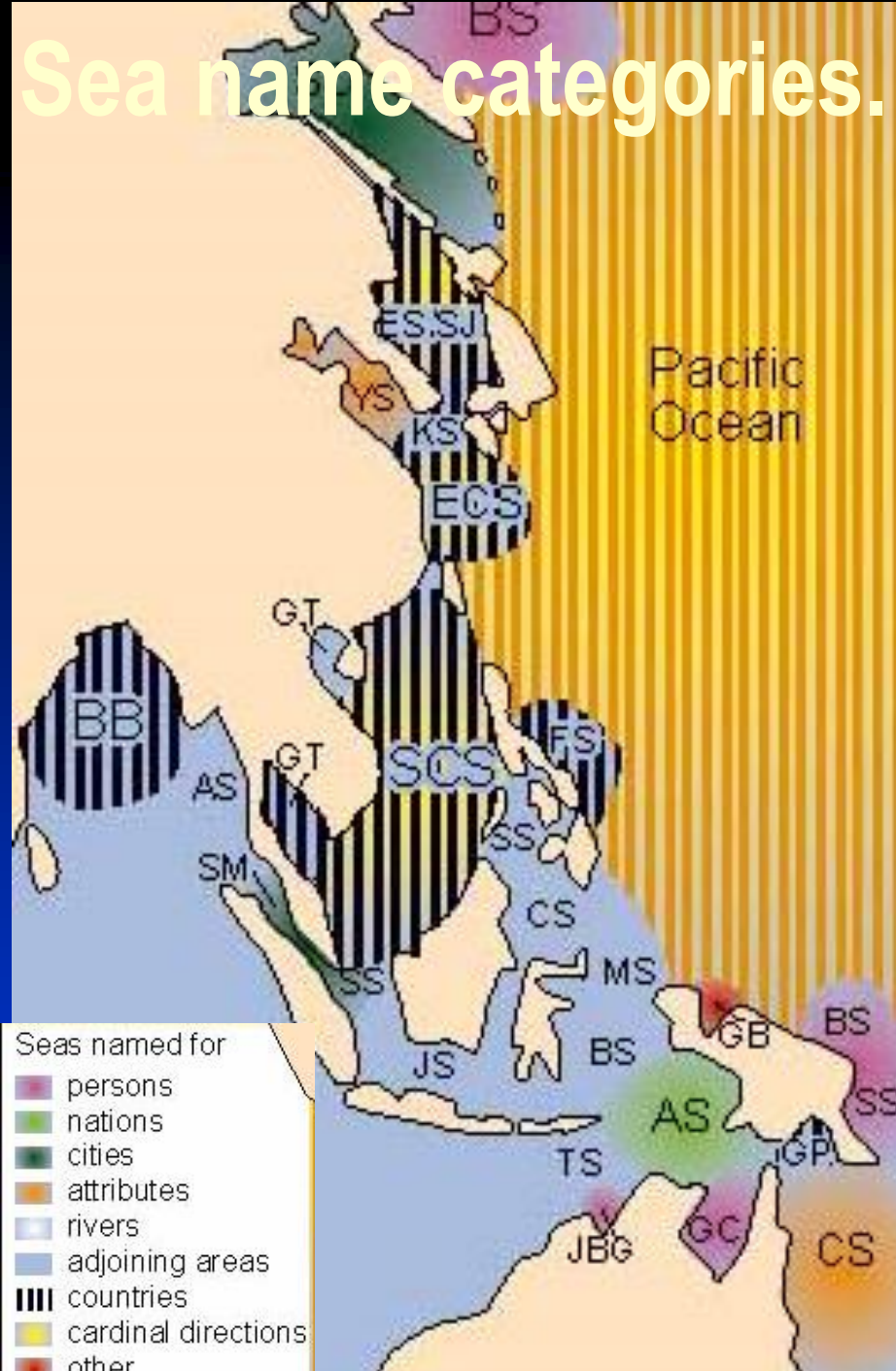trends in place names
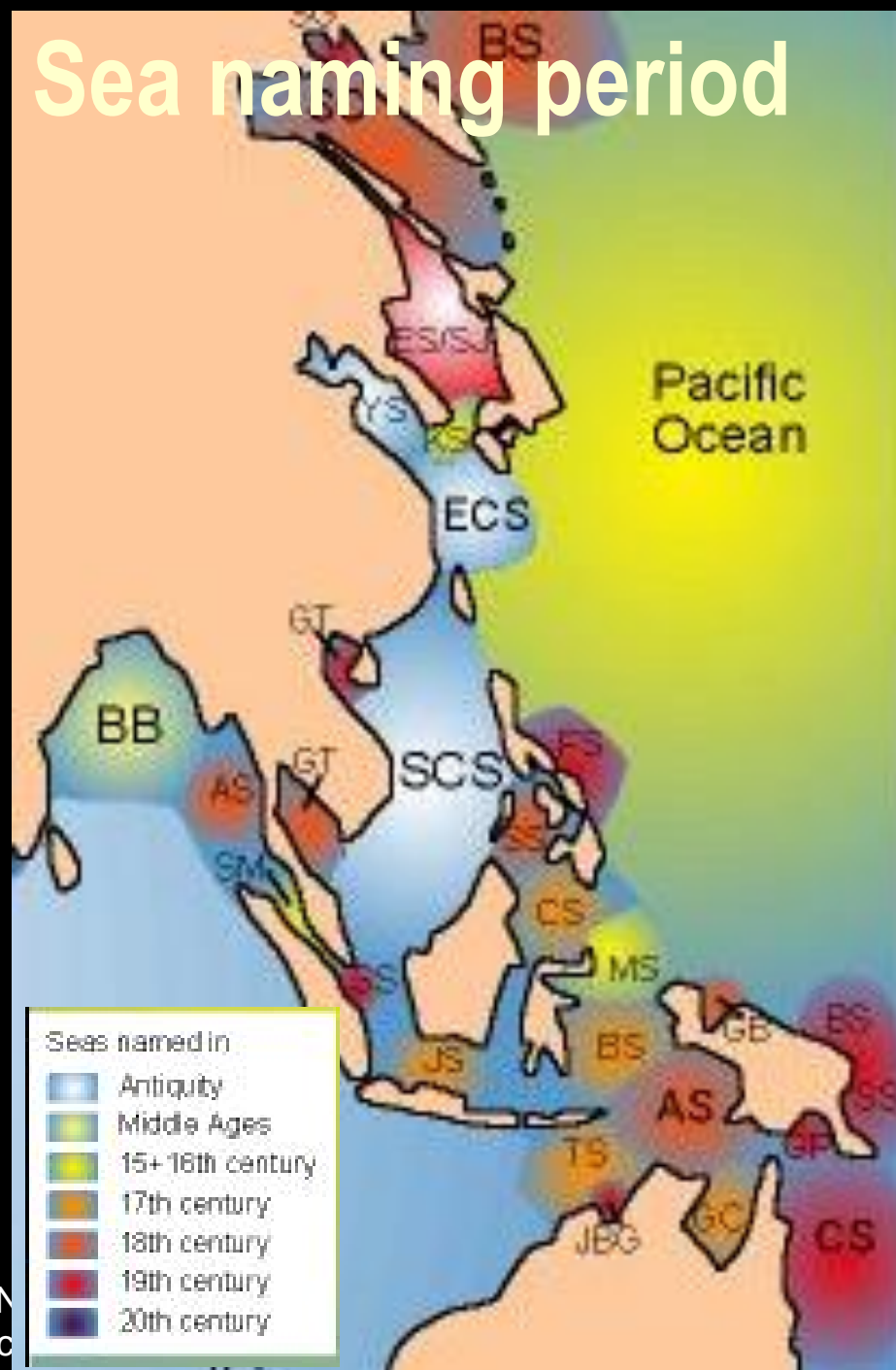
Synchronous research: Sea name categories

Seas named for
- persons
- nations
- cities
- attributes
- rivers
- adjoining areas
- countries
- cardinal directions
- other

F.J. Ormeling/ D. Bosse, 2000

Diachronous research: Sea naming period

Seas named in
- Antiquity
- Middle Ages
- 15 + 16th century
- 17th century
- 18th century
- 19th century
- 20th century

F.J. Ormeling/D. Bosse, 2000