

“William Morris Davis: Drawing the geomorphology of mountains”

William Morris Davis is considered one of the founders of geomorphology. Davis' more relevant contribution is the Erosional Cycle Theory, which implies a model of evolution - and classification - between different *landforms*, such as cliffs, coastal plains, valleys, meanders, plateaus, hills, and mountains. Davis' theory brings together a very sophisticated use of verbal and visual inscription, particularly perspective drawings of geographic areas that geomorphologists call “block diagrams”. This presentation analyzes the roles that these drawings had within Davis' scientific research, their relation with the mountain ranges studied by him, and the alternative they represent with respect to the geographic use of photography that started at that time. Davis' block diagrams both visualize mountains and others landforms in terms completely different from maps, paintings, and photography, and also make geomorphology appear as a modern science, inasmuch they were adequate to journals and conferences format.

Dr, Cristóbal F. Barria Bignotti, The Centre for Sensory Studies, Concordia University