

Memory-Semiotic Photoatlas

(From calendar to photoatlas)

William Commanda CAN TEACH Calendar 2022

Romola V. Thumbadoo (Ottawa)
and
Alexander Wolodtschenko (Dresden)



Dresden-Ottawa
2022

Table of context

1. Introduction	3
2. About this photoatlas project	4
3. William Commanda CAN TEACH Calendar 2022	5
4. About Circle of All Nations CAN TEACH	6
5. Romola V. Thumbadoo - creator of calendar	7
6. Semiotic portraying of calendar	8-19
- Line-viewing model of calendar	
- Compositions model of calendar	
- Gallery of 12 calendar photos	
- Calendar pages from January to December	
7. Semiotic potential of calendar	20
8. References and imprint	21

1. Introduction

The project is our second one which deals with creation of thematic photoatlases or ubiquitous atlases for smartphones and tablets.

Our first project, the photoatlas “10 Selected Indigenous Cybercartographic Atlases” was implemented 2021. It was the first German-Canadian project 2021 initiated by Fraser Taylor, Romola V. Thumbadoo, (GCRC, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada) und Alexander Wolodtschenko (Dresden).

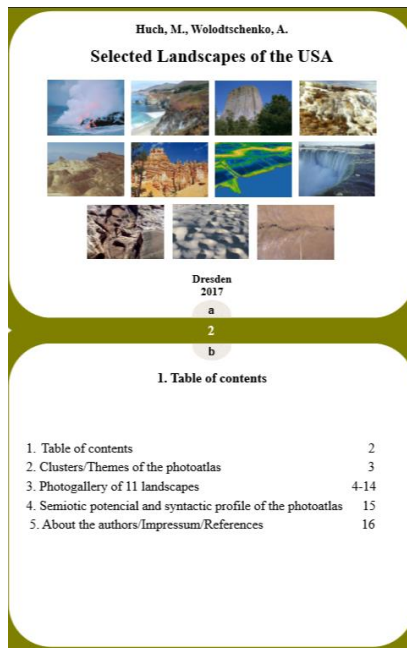
End 2021 we made the structural-semiotic analysis of the web-version William Commanda CAN TEACH (Circle of All Nation: Training, Education, Advocacy, Communications and Healing) Calendar 2022. The results of analysis was published in the Dresden cartosemiotic issue (Thumbadoo, Wolodtschenko 2021) and are also used in this photoatlas.

This project continues the activities, section "Umwelt- and Karto/Atlassemiotics", of the German Society for Semiotics (DGS) and Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre (GCRC) of Carleton University in Ottawa and the Circle of All Nations (Ottawa).

Our project aims to create a storytelling, methodical and commemorative photoatlas dedicated to William Commanda.

2. About this photoatlas project

From calendar to photoatlas



Our photo atlas belongs to derivative photo atlases, which can be created on the basis of another, original atlas or a atlas-like model, for example, a calendar, photo album, infographics, etc.

The electronic library as collections of ubiquitous photoatlases (Wolodtschenko 2021) has two derivative photoatlases, which were created on the basis of geological calendars (Huch, Wolodtschenko 2017) and belong to the series „From calendar to photoatlas“. Our derivative photo atlas will be the third such photo atlas in this collection and this series.

The thematic derivative photoatlases on cultural and historical topics develop and preserve the accumulated traditions and create a new storytelling content.

From a semiotic point of view, the web-calendar “William Commanda Calendar “is an interesting information product for derivative photoatlases.

3. William Commanda CAN TEACH Calendar 2022



The photoatlas project examines the William Commanda CAN TEACH 2022 calendar that profiles the work of the North American Indigenous Elder: Mamiwinini – A Nomadic Heritage

I am in the earth, wind and waters:

I am as the bird flies and the wind blows and the water flows

This heritage signifies several things to Elder Commanda:

A sacred connection with the land

A special responsibility as caretaker of Mother Earth

4. About Circle of All Nations CAN TEACH



The Circle of All Nations (aka CAN) was initiated by Elder/Grandfather William Commanda (aka GWC).

Over the past two decades, Circle of All Nations (CAN) work has remained focussed on five priorities: Training, Education, Advocacy, Communications and Healing, and hence uses the acronym CAN TEACH to brand its work and efforts.

5. Romola V. Thumbadoo - creator of calendar



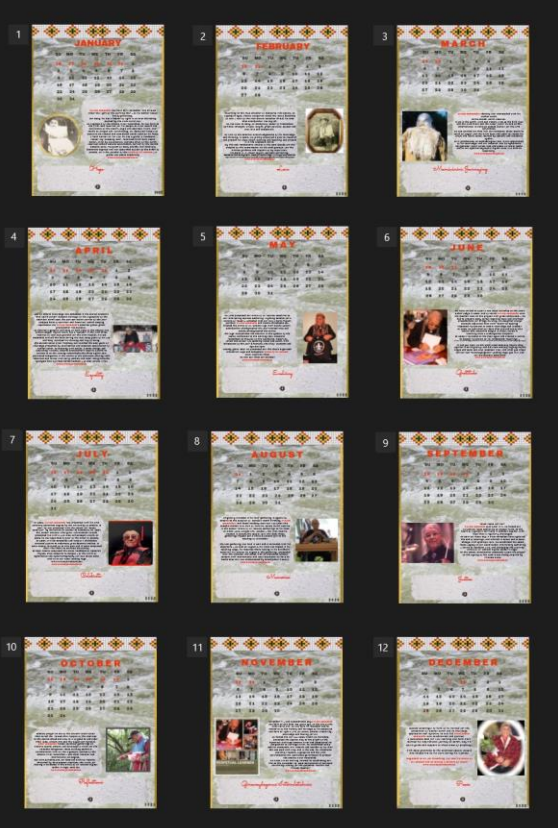
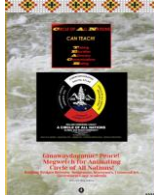
Romola V. Thumbadoo
PhD Geography
SSHRC Postdoctoral Research
Fellow Personal Assistant to
the Director, dr. D. R. Fraser
Taylor.
Coordinator, Circle of All
Nations. Geomatics and
Cartographic Research Centre
(GCRC), Department of
Geography and Environmental
Studies Carleton University.

Over the past decade, the research of Romola V. Thumbadoo has focused on the discourse and legacy of late Indigenous elder, William Commanda (1913 – 2011) and the thesis, entitled *Ginawaydaganuc and the Circle of All Nations: The Remarkable Environmental Legacy of Elder William Commanda* addresses his approach to Mother Earth, environment and relational matters.

For forty years, he was the carrier of three Algonquin wampum belts, critically important sacred and historical mnemonic teaching and record keeping devices, and was the longest known guardian of such an iconic Indigenous heritage and responsibility. He was awarded two doctoral degrees, one (doctor of philosophy) by the University of Ottawa in 2006, and the other (doctorate honorifique causa) by l'université du Québec-Outaouais in 2011. He was appointed Officer of the Order of Canada in 2008, this country's penultimate honour (Desiderantes Meliorem Patriam). Carleton University named the Aboriginal Resources Centre Ojigkwanong after him in 2013, and the University of Ottawa created the Dr. William Commanda Hall in 2014, in acknowledgment of his contributions to the academic world.

6. Semiotic portraying of calendar

Compositions model of calendar

Title (1 page)	Thematic-illustrative core for 12 months (3x4=12 pages)	Imprint (1 page)
		

From a semiotic point of view, the web-calendar “William Commanda Calendar” is an interesting information product with an photoatlas-related character.

The thematic-composition model of calendar includes 14 pages, of which one is title, 12 are core pages and the last page 14 is the imprint one.

12 thematic pages have a text-photo/image combination. The design model of January page, which includes an ornament, alphanumeric calendar, photo/text, text-logo, emblem and year. The content core of each month page is formed by a one image (photography) and text (comments).

6. Semiotic portraying of calendar

Page/slide - related profile

	Facade (1 Slide) = 7%
	Core (3x4=12 Slides) = 86%
	Conclusion (1 Slide) = 7%

The page/slide - related profile is a basic semiotic construction with three parts: façade, core and conclusion.

The content core of each atlas can be formed by semiotic meta-variables: image (photography), text (comments) and maps.

Our photoatlas includes photos and text-comments only.

6. Semiotic portraying of calendar

Semantics of the 12 pages

Every month of calendar is completed with a word-logo or text-logo at the bottom of the page. The table shows 12 months names with completed text. These are linked symbolically with the photos, which hold temporal and spatial memorializations.

The month chain January-December includes 12 semantic concepts-terms from **Hope** to (Love-Mamiwinini: Journeying-Equality-Evolving-Gratitude-Celebrate-Memories-Justice-Reflections-Ginawaydaganuc:Interrelatedness) and **Peace**.

This verbal chain is a luminesce of the life path of William Commanda which demonstrates a gallery of 12 calendar photos with text logos for every month (see slide 12).

January – Hope	July – Celebrate
February – Love	August – Memories
March – Mamiwinini:Journeying	September – Justice
April – Equality	October – Reflections
May – Evolving	November – Ginawaydaganuc:Interrelatedness
June – Gratitude	December – Peace

6. Semiotic portraying of calendar

Gallery of 12 calendar photos

January – Hope	February – Love	March – Mamiwinini: Journeying
		
April – Equality	May – Evolving	June – Gratitude
		
July – Celebrate	August – Memories	September – Justice
		
October – Reflections	November – Ginawaydaganuc Interrelatedness	December – Peace
		

6. Semiotic portraying of calendar

Gallery of 12 calendar photos with comments

January – Hope	February – Love	March – Mamiwinini: Journeying
		
<p>The first calendar Month January shows William Commanda as child. He was born 1913 on the first land reserved for Indigenous peoples- at River Desert, Quebec, Canada</p>	<p>An exemplary leader of tremendous spiritual strength, unique insight, great political acumen and also love and compassion</p>	<p>William Commanda's identity was intermeshed with his Mother Earth: Turtle Island, North America</p>
April – Equality	May – Evolving	June – Gratitude
		
<p>William Commanda carried mnemonic belts during the last forty years of his life and they informed his thinking and way of being.</p>	<p>William Commanda and Romola Thumbadoo co-created the Circle of All Nations logo with Claude Latour</p>	<p>A two week workshop at the Kumik Elders Lodge in 2004, inspired the book about William Commanda</p>
July – Celebrate	August – Memories	September – Justice
		
<p>In 2006, William Commanda was presented with his first Honorary Doctorate Degree by University of Ottawa; in 2011 with the second for "Causa Honorific" by Université du Québec en Outaouais.</p>	<p>The last Circle of All Nations annual spiritual gathering was held in 2011, at the time of William Commanda's death and funeral</p>	<p>"Make Peace Not War" William Commanda said after 9/11. He had been delayed in South Africa after the UN Conference against Racism and Xenophobia</p>
October – Reflections	November – Ginawaydaganuc Interrelatedness	December – Peace
		
<p>Elder Commanda hosted countless gatherings on Victoria Island, Ottawa and developed a vision for the Asinabka Indigenous Peace Building Centre.</p>	<p>November 11 is a Remembrance Day. William Commanda was born on the eve of the First World War (11-11-1913), and was a tireless advocate for peace!</p>	<p>Despite the hardships experienced throughout his lifetime, Grandfather Commanda loved celebrations and parties with his friends from around the globe!</p>

6. Semiotic portraying of calendar

Calendar pages of January and February

JANUARY

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

William Commanda was born on 11 November 1913 at 8.30 under the light of the Morning Star - so his mother named him Ojigkwanong. For many, he was a beacon of light in an ever darkening marked by the First World War. An Algonquin of the Ottawa River Watershed, he was born on the first land reserved for his people at River Desert the confluence of the Desert, Eagle and Gatineau rivers, now known as Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg. He identified himself as Mamiwiniwini/nomad and considered North America his home. A hard worker all his life, he was a guide, a woodsman, venter log "company man", renowned birch bark canoe maker, chief by acclamation, Supreme Chief of the North American Indian Nations Government, Carrier of the Sacred Wampum Belts, recipient of many awards, two honorary doctorate degrees and was appointed Officer of the Order of Canada. He is the founder of the **Circle of All Nations** - a global eco peace community
www.circleofallnations.ca

Hope

2022

FEBRUARY

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

According to the 1945 Chamber of Commerce Publication: an Algonquin type, Abuela Margarita noted the iconic backdrop of Asin - Rock of the Post Glacial Canadian Shield. We note that Grandfather was stylish!

He was also, to many, an exemplary leader of tremendous spiritual strength, unique insight, great political acumen and also love and compassion.

In view of the external acknowledgements of his knowledge and thinking, in 2009, we jointly conceived a plan to research and present his ideas about learning and teaching and present it in the academic world.


My PhD and Postdoctoral studies of the past decade are the outputs of this commitment. We are most grateful for the tireless guidance and support of my Supervisor, Professor D. R. Fraser Taylor, Carleton University.
 (Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre <http://www.gcr.ccarleton.ca>)
<https://www.arcgis.com/home/profile?appid=22422018E-8F0000000000000000000000&url=https://www.gcr.ccarleton.ca>
www.circleofallnations.ca

Love

2022


6. Semiotic portraying of calendar

Calendar pages of March and April



MARCH

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		




William Commanda's identity was intermeshed with his Mother Earth:
Turtle Island, North America.
"I am in the earth, wind and waters; I am as the bird flies and the wind blows and the water flows," he said at the International Millennium Canada Council for the Arts Conference.

He also pointed out that how environmental abuse meant he could no longer find the birch bark and cedar to create his craft, the iconic canoe, marked by semiotic and evocative symbol.

It is foundational as methodological tool in our exploration of his knowledge, and our research into his Cybernetic navigational reach across time and space via social media and In our Cybercartographic digital atlas live archive repository.

www.circleofalignations.ca

Mamiwini. Journeying



2022



APRIL

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Law of Nature knowledge was embedded in the sacred mnemonic "oral spirit script" wampum heritage of the Algonquins of the American North East. The earliest known carrier of the four wampum belts of spiritual and historical record keeping importance was **William Commanda's** paternal great, great grandfather Pakinawatik.

He ensured Algonquin territory on both sides of the Ottawa was acknowledged before there was a "Canada" in the first three reserves of land safe guarded for the First Peoples. William Commanda carried the belts during the last forty years of his life and they informed his thinking and way of being.

The ancient Seven Fires Prophecy Belt alerted the 500 years of challenge presented by colonization and ceaseless exploitation of Mother Earth, culminating with COVID, climate change and escalating violence, despite Grandfather's massive efforts to awaken us to the looming catastrophe. The Three Figure Belt positioned Indigenous in the centre of the continent, sharing land, resources and values with early settlers and later immigrants. The "youngest belt affirmed borderlessness – As does corona virus.

www.circleofalignations.ca




Equality



2022

6. Semiotic portraying of calendar

Calendar pages of May and June




MAY

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				


We first presented our Circle of All Nations Teeshirts at our 1998 Spring Equinox Gathering 'Lighting Candles for a Culture of Peace'. - cohosted with our Wolf Award Project partner, **William Commanda** and Remota Thumbadoo co-created the Circle of All Nations logo with Claude Latour. Grandfather photographed the four trunked tree and Claude photographed the Turtle.

The logo incorporates the semiotic in the symbols of the cosmic connection to the Morning Star, ancestral rootedness at the Lake of Two Mountains, waterlife, forest and animal life spanning water and earth, with intimations of the four directions, the chief elements and cyclical spin!


Twenty years later we presented our PhD thesis organized around our Logo and conceptual **Circle of All Nations (CAN) Medicine Wheel**
We now call them our **Uniteast**
www.circleofallnations.ca



Evolving

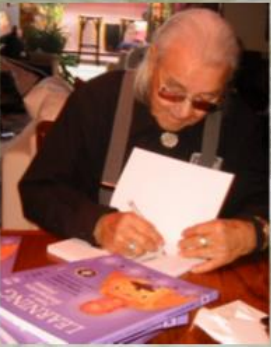


2022



JUNE

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		




We were invited to offer a two week workshop at the Kumik Elders Lodge in 2004, and of course **William Commanda**, ever the teacher, took on the project with great enthusiasm - we had to prepare many formal teaching tools and overhead presentations for bridge building. His daughter Evelyn Dewache explained that word 'kumik' as meaning "repeated reflections to attain knowledge and wisdom." In 2005 we published our book that evolved out of this session and, somewhat tongue in cheek, called it 'Learning from a Kindergarten Dropout'!

In 2020 I reflected on the book again and created a course to deepen reflection on its fundamental teachings - Check it out at <https://www.asiabka.com/Archives/2020-CAN-Course-Infographic.pdf>

PS Did you know we did word cloud manually before they figured it out digitally and did cross country skype before skype and zoom and even facebook live! And when you check out our new 'Ginawaydaganac' Landing Page, you will find our microcosmic metaverse!
www.circleofallnations.ca

Gratitude



2022

6. Semiotic portraying of calendar

Calendar pages of July and August



JULY

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						


In 2006, **William Commanda** was presented with his first Honorary Doctorate Degree by the University of Ottawa; in 2011, he was presented with the second for "Causa Honorific" by Université de Québec on Outaouais. In 2001, the former National Aboriginal Achievement Awards presented him with a Life time Achievement Award. In 2008 he was appointed Officer of the Order of Canada. In 2009, William Commanda and Romela V Thumbadoo initiated efforts to undertake joint doctoral studies; in 2012 Romela followed up on this plan and in 2018 completed their PhD Thesis at Carleton University. In 2021 Romela completed the SSHRC Postdoctoral Research Project: From Campus to Campus - Is the world of Cybernetics and Cybercartography our CAN TEACH zone! Find us at our Meta Landing Page www.circleofallnations.ca



Celebrate



2022




AUGUST

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			


Originally initiated in his 1967 gathering in Eganville, Ontario on the occasion of Canada's 100th birthday, **William Commanda's** land based academy took new life after this nomadic Sunbow Five Walk of 1995/96, across North America in the annual 'Circle of All Nations Gatherings' at his home on Bitobi Lake, Kitigan Zibi, Québec - the first reserve created in Canada. The special folk who made these gatherings happen put a whole different spin to the meaning of volunteer!

The last gathering was held in 2011 and it coincided with his departure - He died on August 3, his wake was hosted in his teaching lodge, he remained there resting in his birchbark canoe till his funeral on August 5, the gathering proceeded over the weekend, and ended with an unplanned sendoff concert with international and local musicians! We have no doubt that this was orchestrated by Grandfather himself!

www.circleofallnations.ca



Memories



2022

6. Semiotic portraying of calendar

Calendar pages of September and October



SEPTEMBER

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



"Make Peace Not War"
William Commanda said after 9/11. We hosted our Millennium Peace Gathering at Nepean Point, at the heart of Algonquin Territory in Canada's Capital, with hope that is regularly challenged. On 2019 UN Peace Day, 7 Fires Tornadoes here signalled the end of meetings, and ushered in COVID and Climate Change. With syntropic spin, we celebrated the 2000 Peace Legacy at our 2020 Global Anniversary Gathering - online on Facebook Live, and energizing the evolving Circle of All Nations Digital Global Village! In this photo, Grandfather Commanda offers the prayer at the Signing of the Land Mines Treaty, inspired by Princess Diana
www.circleofallnations.ca

Justice



2022



OCTOBER

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Tobacco prayer at one of the ancient "Black Holes" that called the Palaeolithic Peoples of the Americas to the Sacred Chaudiere Site. It is aligned to and older than Giza, Ankara Wat and the Mayan Sun Pyramid.

Elder Commanda hosted countless gatherings on Victoria Island, Ottawa and developed a vision for the Asinabka Indigenous Peace Building Centre in collaboration with all the Algonquin Nations of the Ottawa River Watershed - and other national and international colleagues.

See www.asinabka.com for detailed archival reports. Thwarted by development interests, the vision for healing is animated in the Circle of All Nations Digital Global Village. JOIN US!
www.circleofallnations.ca



Reflections



2022

6. Semiotic portraying of calendar

Calendar pages of November and December

NOVEMBER

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

PERPETUAL LEARNER
TIRELESS TEACHER

November 11 – and Remembrance Day. **William Commanda** was born on this date 108 years ago, on the eve of the First World War. He was born to remember and to remind us of the history and heritage of his people. He was born to light a fire for peace, passion, creativity, knowledge and healing for all.

He hosted the Nov 3-6 2006 Waterlife Workshop, awakened the Capital City to the plight of the historical Kichissippi/Ottawa River and empowered its designation as Heritage River. We celebrated Uncle Gabriel Commanda, WWI Veteran and Founder of Val d'Or, the last Gold Rush city, and in the '90s, he, Anasahero and Chief Papatia, Algonquins and the first environmentalists, petitioned government to protect the Ottawa River Watershed.

His niece Lillian Dowling insisted on celebrating our PhD at the November 10, 2018 Convocation at Carleton University! Fitting for the perpetual learner and tireless teacher!

www.circleofnations.ca

Ginawaydaganiuc Interrelatedness

2022

DECEMBER

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
		27	28	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Seasons Greetings! As hard as he worked for the protection of Mother Earth and to challenge oppression and injustice, so also did **Grandfather Commanda** love celebrations and parties! A passionate zest for life, learning and hard work marked his inspirational journey on Earth. May his spirit guide and support us these times of prophecy.

With deep gratitude to the countless special people who helped him do his work during his lifetime.

Megwatch to all for breathing life into his Circle of All Nations and animating a Culture of Peace!

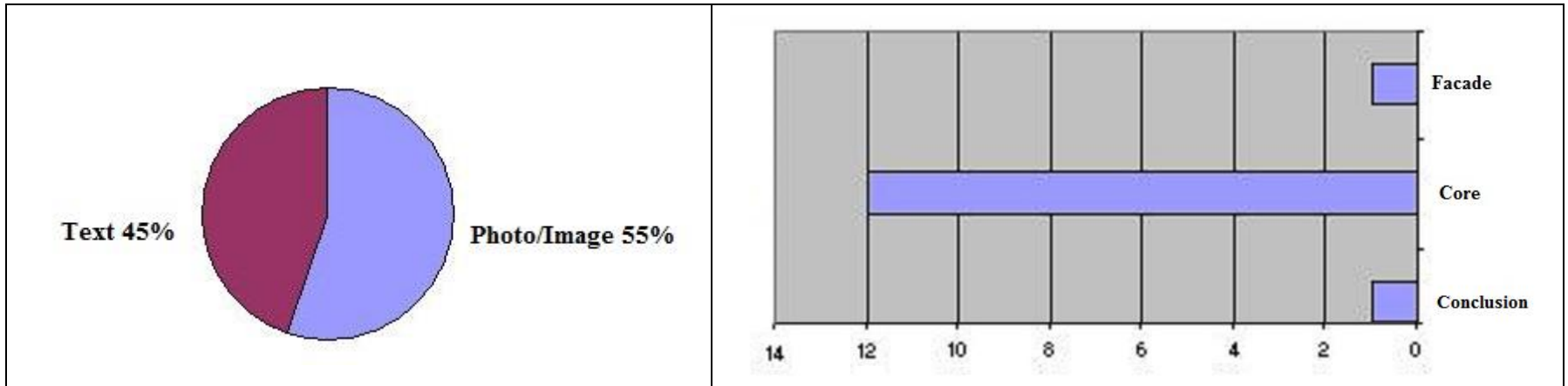
www.circleofnations.ca

Peace

2022

7. Semiotic potential of calendar

The semiotic potential of a calendar (atlas, book, etc.) is a quantitative and graphic (modular or page-related in %) characteristic according to its medial features, which are expressed through dominant modules or semiotic metavariables (Text, Photo, Map).



Semiotic potential of calendar as diagram

Graphic profile as page-related profile

The calendar has text (45%) and photo/image modules or metavariables (55%). The illustrative information dominates in calendar with 55%, text has 45%, maps - 0%. The calendar has 13 photographs, one - in the title page and 12 – in the month pages. Every of 12 photos occupy 20-25 % of page but it is a content focus in calendar and has own storytelling in text.

8. References and imprint

Circle of All Nations Website and Archives: www.circleofallnations.ca

Huch, M. und Wolodtschenko, A.(2017): *Der Geologische Kalender 2002-2014: eine struktur-semiotische Analyse*. In: Journal for Theoretical Cartography <meta – carto – semiotics>, Vol. 10, 2017, 1-11 pp. <http://ojs.meta-carto-semiotics.org/index.php/mcs/article/view/45/45>

Thumbadoo, Romola V. (2018): *Ginawaydaganuc and the Circle of All Nations: The Remarkable Environmental Legacy of Elder William Commanda* PhD Thesis. Ottawa. Carleton University.

<https://curve.carleton.ca/aa4e3cbb-5b83-464d-8286-a901fcd77b06>

Thumbadoo, R.V., Wolodtschenko A.(2021): *William Commanda CAN TEACH Calendar 2022: a structural-semiotic analysis*. In: Diskussionsbeiträge zur Kartosemiotik und zur Theorie der Kartographie, Intern. Korrespondenz-Seminar, Band 24. Dresden 2021, S.28-35.

Thumbadoo, R.V., Wolodtschenko A.

William Commanda CAN TEACH Calendar 2022

Memory-Semiotic Photoatlas.

Dresden-Ottawa, 2022