

ESF Exploratory Workshop on

**CONCEPTUALISING EUROPEAN
LANDSCAPES ACROSS LANGUAGES,
CULTURES, AND DISCIPLINES**

Las Navas del Marqués (Spain), May 1-4, 2012

Convened by:
**Niclas Burenhult, David M. Mark, Werner Kuhn and María
Cátedra**

SCIENTIFIC REPORT

1. Executive summary

The ESF Exploratory Workshop 'Conceptualising European landscapes across languages, cultures and disciplines' was held at the castle of Magalia, in Las Navas del Marqués, Spain, May 1-4, 2012. There were 21 participants from 12 countries (10 ESF countries) representing several diverse disciplines. On the first day (May 1) participants gathered at the venue and had a joint opening reception and dinner. The following two days of the workshop (May 2-3) consisted of presentations by the participants. Each presentation was limited to 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for discussion. The last day (May 4) was devoted to a general joint discussion about various issues that had emerged during the previous days, as well as initial plans as to how to take the research agenda further. Numerous coffee breaks and time before and after meals allowed ample opportunity for informal discussion among participants. Delegates were invited to provide examples of their published work, and/or links to their research web sites, in advance of the workshop. Links to these items were placed on a web site for the workshop, and participants were encouraged to read the materials in advance of the meeting.

The main objective of the workshop was to explore the issues of landscape in language and culture, and to examine ways of facilitating transdisciplinary research on European landscapes. The following is a list of the original workshop goals:

- Discuss results of relevant previous research;
- Exchange ideas about methods for elicitation of information about landscape concepts and its representation in ontologies;
- Discuss relevant theories of landscape from various disciplines;
- Enhance and critique a conceptual framework for factors that influence categories and terms for landscape features and components;
- Discuss ways to facilitate transdisciplinary research on this topic;
- Discuss ethical issues and feedback and value to communities;
- Prioritize future research topics and target languages.

The European context for the workshop brought a whole new perspective on the issues of landscape conceptualization that draws on a new set of fields and disciplines. Landscape represents an essential part of heritage environments, and preserving traditional landscapes is an important goal of planning and design.

Geography has a very strong connection to land and landscape. The relationships that people have to landscape, individually and collectively, have long formed an important theme in geographical research; this tradition and its successors have focused on land use and land-based activities. Anthropologists also examine the relations of people to their environments, mainly emphasizing cultural adjustments and responses, and often focusing on ethnobotany and ethnoecology at scales more proximal. As eloquently expressed in his 1996 book *Wisdom Sits in Places*, Keith Basso has shown some of the fundamental relations of culture to landscape, and Yi-Fu Tuan proposed *topophilia* to refer to the bond between people and place.

Behavioral and cognitive geographers have examined the acquisition and use of knowledge of geographic spaces, through studies of mental maps and of wayfinding and navigation. Linguists examine how spatial relations are expressed in natural languages and how words denote both individual geographic features and also classes or categories of geographic features. Toponyms, the proper names given to geographic features, have certainly been studied, but there has been little work on how the generic parts of such names relate to geographic categories within a language, to say nothing of cross-language comparisons.

Artists also have reflected upon landscapes. Literature, visual arts, and even music often are influenced by the nature of landscape, and in turn shape our perceptions and conceptions of landscape.

There has been even less work on cross-cultural and cross-linguistic variations and similarities in the topics of delimitation, classification, and naming of geographic features. These questions about landscape conceptualisations are fundamental to many disciplines. But now, in the information age, they have important new practical implications. Are the Spatial Data Infrastructures compiled by various countries and international agencies around the world biased toward the conceptualizations of the dominant cultures in those countries? Are they actually supporting these or imposing a cartographic bias? Do Geographic Information Systems have similar biases?

Perhaps the most general conclusion to be drawn from the presentations and ensuing discussions is that the European scene, like no other, displays a clear division of landscape research tradition and ideology into that which focuses on basic research into landscape conceptualisation vs. that which focuses on applied aspects driven by policy-making. The workshop provided a unique forum for bringing these approaches together and for offering them a chance to understand, cross-fertilise and support each other.

2. Scientific content of the event

The workshop program started on May 2 with a welcome and presentation of the event by the convenors followed by a presentation of the ESF and its Exploratory Workshop programme by ESF representative Graham Fairclough, and then self introductions of all participants. These were followed by a general introduction by David Mark of research on cross-cultural conceptualisation of landscape and the current international state-of-play in this area. Mark described previous fieldwork in Australia and New Mexico under the 'Ethnophysiology Project', highlighting some cases in which the conceptualization of landscape components is clearly different from conceptualization in English.

In the following session, talks by Hannes Palang and Kenneth Olwig highlighted aspects of the relationship between landscape research, policy and semantics in the European context: Palang described the perspective of the Permanent European Conference for the Study of the Rural Landscape. Olwig pointed to semantic pitfalls faced by the European Landscape Convention, specifically the differences between Germanic and Romance concepts of landscape. Niclas Burenhult concluded this session with a presentation of research carried out in the ERC-funded research project 'Language, cognition and landscape' (LACOLA), emphasising the cross-cultural differences in how landscape is modelled by language, so far observed primarily in non-European language settings.

The next session was specifically devoted to issues of ontology in the landscape context, with talks by Laure Vieu, André Frank and Werner Kuhn. Vieu addressed the complex relationships between ontology and lexicon in the spatial domain, especially the similarities and differences between the ontological categories of natural objects, artefacts and locations. Frank emphasised the role of functional explanations for lexical categorization of the landscape domain by comparing the lexical density in sub-domains such as water and land features. Kuhn provided an overview of ontological issues and problems in relation to landscape, given its specific properties. He pointed out that landscape exemplifies the constructive nature of human categories and that, consequently, landscape ontology should specify constructions, for example through ontology design patterns.

The evening session on May 2 contained talks by Andrew Turk and Marie Stenseke. Turk provided an introduction to the emerging field of ethnophysiology and the potential role of phenomenology as a transdisciplinary paradigm for this field, as well as a call for an ethnophysiology of European landscapes informed by work done in non-European

contexts. Stenseke addressed the concept of landscape in relation to current European management policies, and the discrepancies in landscape understanding between policy makers, traditional farmers, and the general public.

The first session on May 3 featured talks by María Cátedra, Roberto Casati and Humphrey Southall, dealing in one way or another with constructed landscapes. Cátedra described the history of heritage management and preservation in the historical parts of Avila, Spain, with a focus on the changing notions of policy makers. Casati presented a philosopher's view of the temporal aspects of human-environment relationships, with particular emphasis on the more proximate environments of constructed gardens and cityscapes. Southall's talk focused on the flexible relationship between denotation, reference and place, with particular reference to place names, constructed environments and historical sources in Great Britain.

In the second session of the day, presentations were given by Zsolt Molnar, Dora Drexler and Ross Purves. Molnar described the immensely detailed indigenous landscape categories in rural Hungary, providing a glimpse into largely unstudied and highly endangered aspects of European intangible heritage. Drexler presented her comparative research on the idea of landscape in the histories of various European traditions with reference to art and landscape planning, highlighting a fundamental distinction between landscape concepts in the German and Hungarian traditions vs. the English and French ones. Purves introduced highly innovative usage-based approaches for studying landscape features and named places by means of geo coordinates, labels and tags in Flickr, demonstrating it to be a useful complementary data type when exploring landscape semantics.

The next session contained presentations by three members of the project 'Language, cognition and landscape': Juliette Huber, Felix Ahlner and Love Eriksen. The project explores the relationship between language and landscape in a cross-cultural perspective and includes two European case studies in its world-wide investigation. Thus, Huber outlined a preliminary study of the relationship between directional reference, place names and landscape in the High Alemannic variety of Swiss German as spoken in the Schenkenberg Valley, Switzerland; Ahlner described similar issues for the highly endangered Ovdalian language, a variety of East Scandinavian spoken in the Swedish province of Dalarna. Eriksen's presentation covered ways of employing GIS methods to map cultural and linguistic features, illustrating with material from his Amazon database.

The final session featured talks by Christopher Green and Deirdre O'Mahony. Green outlined a new archaeological project aimed at integrating temporality into large data sets of geo coded find materials from the Bronze Age through the early historical period in Great Britain. O'Mahony, an artist, provided a very personal view of landscape, history and changing local attitudes in the Burren, Co. Clare, Ireland, effectively encapsulating and situating many of the perspectives represented at the workshop.

The half-day program on May 4 was devoted to general discussion and plans for future activities. The presentations and discussions on the preceding days made it clear that that the diverse disciplines and research strands represented at the workshop embody an equally diverse array of perspectives and attitudes as to what landscape is, how it is to be defined, and why it is an important field of study. In particular, the workshop exposed a clear partition of approaches into those which focus on basic research into landscape conceptualisation and usage vs. those which focus on applied aspects driven by policy-making. The latter appears to be a particularly significant aspect of landscape research in Europe.

In order to make the most of this unique assembly of diverse approaches, the workshop organisers convened before the discussion session and decided to dedicate that session to eliciting ideas and views from the participants as to what they considered to be

the most significant general themes, topics and perspectives to have come out of the workshop, and what they had learnt from it. This generated a large number of responses and discussion involving all participants. Notes were taken and displayed simultaneously on a screen. Participants were also asked to consider ways of opening up new questions by finding themes which cross-cut the various elicited suggestions. The notes from this session have subsequently been edited and collocated into a list of 'Emergent Themes' or 'Groups'. This list is reproduced in Section 3 below.

In the final session the convenors brought up the issue of follow-up activities, and several suggestions surfaced and were discussed at length. ESF representative Graham Fairclough presented the possibilities of continued activity within the ESF frame. It was agreed that a new, future meeting was an attractive option, and that the group could work towards publishing a special issue of a suitable journal, containing co-authored papers on a number of the main emergent themes that had crystallised from the workshop.

3. Assessment of the results, contribution to the future direction of the field, outcome

The notes taken at the discussion of the last day of the workshop have subsequently been edited and collocated by the chair of that session, Andrew Turk, into a set of five 'Emergent Themes' or 'Groups', with related subtopics or issues, relevant to landscape studies. This set is currently being reviewed and discussed among the convenors and will be distributed among the participants shortly. The full list is given below:

GROUP A:

- Definitions of landscape:
 - Reasons for various definitions;
 - Urban vs rural vs natural (wild) landscape;
 - Notions are often socially constructed.
- General fuzziness of domain:
 - Makes definitions and physical description difficult;
 - Variety of categories in different languages;
 - Landscape as place (rather than space).
- Temporal dimension:
 - Multiple time scales – geological, historical, current;
 - Individual vs community vs society time scales;
 - Perspectival time.
- Ontologies of landscape:
 - Different sorts of categories;
 - Culture / language determined?
 - Interaction with data collection, storage, analysis.
- Representations of landscape:
 - Representation drives definition and vice versa;
 - Representation involves: aesthetics; language; thought; performance; practice;
 - Role of art in motivating relationships with landscape.

GROUP B:

- Perspectives on landscape:
 - Different perspectives from different disciplines;
 - Mental / Cognitive explanations of motivation and emotion;
 - Embodiment: movement, perception, performance.

- Landscape understood with respect to (wrt) a set of functions:
 - Relationship between activities and meaning;
 - Alternative words for processes: purposes, affordances, ecosystem services;
 - Input/output systems models of processes;
 - Processes (wrt landscape) involving individuals/groups/communities/societies;
- Form of landscape:
 - Consideration of form vs function;
 - Measurability of terrain;
 - Role of geomorphology theory.

GROUP C:

- Attitudes towards landscape:
 - Topophilia, place vs space, identity;
 - Conservatism (external memories);
 - Values: social construction, ethics, norms;
 - Linked to cosmology, spirituality;
 - Impact of new technologies (including social media) on people's relationships with landscape.
- Social, political and policy dimensions:
 - Power struggles about landscape;
 - Landscape first and foremost is about politics;
 - Conventions, laws, guidelines, etc – e.g. ELC;
 - Prescription vs. encouragement;
 - Top-down vs bottom-up policy making;
 - Endangerment of tangible AND intangible landscape heritage;
 - How to understand the role of value systems in relationships to landscape and relevant policies;
 - Public attitudes to new features in landscape such as wind turbines;
 - How to influence policy making about landscape;
 - Interaction of this theme with culture.
- Globalisation issues:
 - Immigration, mobility, demography, consumption;
 - Tourism - inhabitants vs. visitors;
 - Whether local vs global is always good vs bad or sometimes vice versa.
- Economic issues:
 - Impact of economic landscape issues on ways of life;
 - Food and landscape – Terroir (place-based identity of agricultural products) – ingestion of landscape.

GROUP D:

- Landscape in Language:
 - Syntax – form;
 - Meaning, semiotics, metaphor;
 - Mythology, narrative, literature;
 - Comparison of languages;
 - Preservation of languages.
- Toponymy/place names:
 - History and evolution;
 - Interpretation of place names;

- Relationship to generic landscape terms;
- Comparison of methodological/thematic approaches: regional differences?

GROUP E:

- Methods of investigating landscape and culture:
 - Ethnographic methods of data collection;
 - Complexity of data;
 - Artifacts: maps; text; navigation systems, gazeteers, archives, painting;
 - digital landscape: information infrastructure; GIS; heritage/storage; multimedia; linked data (metadata?);
 - Comparison of methods;
 - Tractability to research of different aspects of landscape and specific research questions;
 - Ethics of research.
- European diversity:
 - Different types of landscape, language, culture, societies, admin/policy;
 - Testing relationships via case studies.
- Trans-disciplinary approach to Europe Landscape Research:
 - How to achieve this high level of collaboration?
 - Potential role of Philosophy (e.g. Phenomenology);
 - Can it be extended to post-disciplinary (where disciplines disappear)?
 - Alternative definition of trans-disciplinary, which emphasises input from non-academic participants.

The convenors are currently reflecting on the most appropriate ways of building on the discussions and results of the workshop. As mentioned, follow-up activities considered so far include a publication in the form of a special issue, with white papers on a number of emergent themes, and a larger conference.

4. Final programme

Tuesday, 1 May 2012

Afternoon	<i>Arrival</i>
20.00	<i>Welcome Reception, 'Magalia'</i>
21.00	<i>Dinner</i>

Wednesday, 2 May 2012

08.30	Breakfast
09.30-11.00	Session 1: Chair: Niclas Burenhult
09.30-09.50	Welcome by Convenors Niclas Burenhult (Lund University, Lund, Sweden) David M. Mark (University at Buffalo, Buffalo, US) Werner Kuhn (University of Münster, Münster, Germany) María Catedra (Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain)
09.50-10.10	Presentation of the European Science Foundation (ESF) Graham Fairclough (ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities- SCH)
10.10-10.30	Self Introductions
10.30-11.00	"Cultural and Linguistic Variation in the Conceptualization of Landscape" David M. Mark (University at Buffalo, Buffalo, US)
11.00-11.30	Coffee
11.30-13.00	Session 2: Chair: María Catedra
11.30-12.00	"The rural landscapes of Europe: the PECSRL perspective" Hannes Palang (Tallinn University, Tallinn, Estonia)
12.00-12.30	"The difference a prefix makes: Land contra Pays in the Semantics of the European Landscape Convention" Kenneth Olwig (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Alnarp, Sweden)
12.30-13.00	"The LACOLA project: toward a linguistics of landscape" Niclas Burenhult (Lund University, Lund, Sweden)
14.00	Lunch
17.00-18.30	Session 3: Chair: Ross Purves
17.00-17.30	"Spatial concepts and terms: ontology and lexical types" Laure Vieu (Université de Toulouse, Toulouse, France)
17.30-18.00	"Landscape classification by Function" André Frank (Technical University Vienna, Vienna, Austria)
18.00-18.30	"Landscape ontology – basic distinctions and open issues" Werner Kuhn (University of Münster, Münster, Germany)
18.30-19.00	Coffee
19.00-20.00	Session 4 Chair: Kenneth Olwig
19.00-19.30	"Modelling influences of landscape terminology and interpretations via phenomenology" Andrew Turk (Murdoch University, Murdoch, Australia)

- 19.30-20.00 **"What do people talk about when they talk about landscape? On the relationship between the notion and the term landscape"**
Marie Stenseke (University of Göteborg, Göteborg, Sweden)
- 21.00 Dinner

Thursday, 3 May 2012

- 08.30 Breakfast
- 09.30-11.00 Session 5 Chair: Hannes Palang**
- 09.30-10.00 **"The landscape of cities: the anthropology of ruins"**
María Cátedra (Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain)
- 10.00-10.30 **"Gardens and time"**
Roberto Casati (CNRS, Paris, France)
- 10.30-11.00 **"Places versus spaces: alternative representations of cultural landscapes from historical sources"**
Humphrey Southall (University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth, UK)
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee
- 11.30-13.00 Session 6 Chair: Maria Stenseke**
- 11.30-12.00 **"Traditional ecological knowledge of herdsmen and peasants related to landscape and vegetation"**
Zsolt Molnar (Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Vacratot, Hungary)
- 12.00-12.30 **"Landscape as a cultural phenomenon – Linguistic and cultural-historical comparison of past and present meanings of landscape in England, France, Germany, and Hungary"**
Dora Drexler (Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Budapest, Hungary)
- 12.30-13.00 **"Place-based methods for image search"**
Ross Purves (University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland)
- 14.00 Lunch
- 17.00-18.30 Session 7 Chair: Humphrey Southall**
- 17.00-17.30 **"Landscape in Alemannic: Spatial description in a Swiss German dialect"**
Juliette Huber (Lund University, Lund, Sweden)
- 17.30-18.00 **"Whither the river? Position and movement in a variety of mainland Scandinavian"**
Felix Ahlner (Lund University, Lund, Sweden)
- 18.00-18.30 **"Analysing linguistic and cultural data in Geographical Information Systems (GIS)"**
Love Erikson (Lund University, Lund, Sweden)
- 18.30-19.00 Coffee
- 19.00-20.00 Session 8 Chair: Laure Vieu**
- 19.00-19.30 **"Time to scale up: building an archaeology of the English landscape from 1500 BC to AD 1086"**
Christopher Green (University of Oxford, UK)
- 19.30-20.00 **"Speaking Beyond Disciplines: Re-framing Landscape through a Dialogical Aesthetic Process"**
Deirdre O'Mahony (Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Ireland)
- 21.00 Dinner

Friday, 4 May 2012

09.30-11.00 **General Discussion Chair: Andrew Turk**

11.00-11.30 Coffee

11.30-13.00 **Plans for Publications and Research Projects Chair: David Mark**

13.00 *End of Workshop*

14.00 Lunch (optional) and/or Departure

5. Final list of participants

- Felix Ahlner** (Lund University, Lund, Sweden)
- Niclas Burenhult** (Lund University, Lund, Sweden)
- Roberto Casati** (CNRS, Paris, France)
- María Cátedra** (Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain)
- Dora Drexler** (Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Budapest, Hungary)
- Love Erikson** (Lund University, Lund, Sweden)
- Graham Fairclough** (ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities- SCH)
- André Frank** (Technical University Vienna, Vienna, Austria)
- Christopher Green** (University of Oxford, UK)
- Juliette Huber** (Lund University, Lund, Sweden)
- Werner Kuhn** (University of Münster, Münster, Germany)
- David M. Mark** (University at Buffalo, Buffalo, US)
- Zsolt Molnar** (Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Vacratot, Hungary)
- Kenneth Olwig** (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Alnarp, Sweden)
- Deirdre O'Mahony** (Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Ireland)
- Hannes Palang** (Tallinn University, Tallinn, Estonia)
- Ross Purves** (University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland)
- Humphrey Southall** (University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth, UK)
- Marie Stenseke** (University of Göteborg, Göteborg, Sweden)
- Andrew Turk** (Murdoch University, Murdoch, Australia)
- Laure Vieu** (Université de Toulouse, Toulouse, France)

6. Statistical information on participants

Numbers of Participants by Categories:

Age brackets:

Established scholar	14
Early-career Scholar	2
Post-Doctoral Fellow	3
Doctoral student	2

Countries of Origin:

Sweden	6
United Kingdom	3
Switzerland	2
France	2
Austria	1
Estonia	1
Germany	1
Hungary	1
Ireland	1
Spain	1
Australia	1
United States of America	1

Male/Female:

Female	6
Male	15

Scientific specialty:

Geography	5
Linguistics	4
Geoinformatics	3
Ecology	2
Humanities	2
Philosophy	2
Anthropology	1
Archaeology	1
Creative Arts & Media	1