

Landscape and Production

PhD Research Course in Human geography, spring 2018, 7.5 ECTS

SYLLABUS

With its focus on key concepts of landscape and production, the course seeks to combine two broad fields of research. Our prime concern will be with landscape geography, but with a keen eye to the various ways in which landscapes are always produced.

Aims

In the first place, the aim of the course is to provide a methodological and epistemological foundation for research on landscapes. It will introduce the history of landscape research and offer an overview of current research themes in landscape studies, emphasizing the crucial importance of various forms of (in)justice, (unequal) power relations and the politics of landscape.

In the second place, the course will pay particular attention to the relationships between landscape and the notion of production. Landscapes are sites of production and in that sense they are inextricably linked to historically shifting modes of production. Landscapes are also produced in the broader sense of that word. We accentuate throughout the course the cultural, political, and economic complexities of the ways landscapes are produced, including various ways in which such production is materially and ideologically expressed, contested, negotiated, embodied and academically scrutinized. Ongoing and historical processes of landscape production, such as the rationalization of agriculture and rural labor, the mobilization of the countryside as a resource, the aestheticization and conservation of nature, and the formation of urban spaces will be explored. Processes like these occur on different geographical scales, which in turn involve different scales of production.

Location and time table

The course consists of three parts:

- Short individual assignment before the intensive period, early May 2018.
- Intensive period Lund/Skåne May 14th to May 18th, 2018. The intensive period starts with an introduction at Lund University, after which we will spend the rest of the week in Skåne, combining lectures with seminars and field trips.
- Essay writing June–September, examination Sept 2018 (web based).

Course conveners

- Tomas Germundsson, Dept of Human Geography, Lund University (course leader)
- Tom Mels, Dept of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University – Campus Gotland

Lecturers

Two guest teachers will participate on the course with lectures and seminars:

- [George L. Henderson](#), University of Minnesota, USA
- [Don Mitchell](#), Uppsala University, Sweden

Our guest teachers will also join the field trip and other activities during the intensive week in May.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, participants should:

- have obtained in-depth understanding of how the concept of landscape is defined and applied within human geography.
- be able to relate their own doctoral studies to the field of landscape geography
- be able to connect the literature studies to field observations
- be able to conceptualize and analyze the connection between landscape and production in a geographical perspective.

Criteria for passing the course (7.5 ECTS):

Module 1: Short essay on landscape concept to be completed before the course 1.5 ECTS

Module 2: Active participation in seminars and assignments intensive period 1.5 ECTS

Module 3: Independent, reflexive essay on chosen topic, 4 ECTS

Module 4: Peer review on other essays 0.5 ECTS

Course evaluation will be organized on the web

Provisional reading list

Module 1: Landscape concept (to be read before course introduction in May):

Cosgrove, D. 2006. Modernity, community and the landscape idea. *Journal of Material Culture* 11

Duncan, J.S. & Duncan, N.G. (2001) The aestheticization of the politics of landscape preservation. *Annals, Association of American Geographers* 91.

Henderson, G. 2003. What (else) we talk about when we talk about landscape. For a return to the social imagination. In Wilson, C. & Groth, P. (eds.) *Everyday America. Cultural landscape studies after J.B. Jackson*, pp. 178-198. University of California Press.

Mitchell, D. 2008. New Axioms for Reading the Landscape: Paying Attention to Political Economy and Social Justice. Wescoat, J. L. & Johnston, D. M. (Eds) *Political Economies of Landscape Change – Places of Integrative Power*, pp. 29-50.

Olwig, K. 1996. Recovering the substantive nature of landscape *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 86.

Widgren, M. 2004. Can landscapes be read? In H. Palang, H. Sooväli, M. Antrop & Setten, G. (eds) *European rural landscapes: persistence and change in a globalising environment*, pp. 455-465. Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Module 2: Reference literature; definite reading list will be issued later

Cosgrove, D. 2003. Landscape and the European sense of sight – eyeing nature. In Anderson, K., M. Domosh and N. Thrift (eds.) *Handbook of Cultural Geography*, pp.249-268. Sage.

Daniels, S. (ed.) 2011. *Envisioning landscapes, making worlds: geography and the humanities*. Routledge.

Johnson, Nuala C, Schein, Richard H. & Winders, Jamie (red.) *The Wiley-Blackwell companion to cultural geography*. Chichester: Wiley.

Olwig, K.R. & Jones, M. (eds.) 2008. *Nordic landscapes: region and belonging on the northern edge of Europe*. University of Minnesota Press.

Wylie, J. 2007. *Landscape*. Routledge.

Module 3: Individually chosen literature

How to apply:

Write an email to Tomas Germundsson tomas.germundsson@keg.lu.se , 1st of March 2018 by the latest, and give a very brief motivation for wishing to take this course and how it relates to your ongoing doctoral project.

Fee

The costs incurred for participating doctoral students from Swedish geography departments belonging to the national program are paid by the respective department.

If places are available, the course is also open for postgraduate students in other departments and disciplines, but course fee apply (covering field trip and excursion costs – contact course convener!).

For further information, please contact Tomas Germundsson!

Very welcome with your application!