

Landscape and History

PhD Research Course in Human geography, spring 2022, 7.5 ECTS

SYLLABUS

Course organizers

- Tom Mels, Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University – Campus Gotland (course convener)
- Don Mitchell, Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University
- Tomas Germundsson, Department of Human Geography, Lund University

Aim

With its focus on key concepts of landscape and history, the course seeks to combine two broad fields of research, i.e. landscape studies and historical geography. Our prime concern will be with landscape geography, but with a keen eye to the various ways in which landscapes always also require historicization.

Why landscape and history?

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 history. Landscapes are inextricably linked to historically shifting modes of production, ideologically motivated notions of modernization, waste and improvement, backwardness and enlightenment. We accentuate throughout the course the cultural, political, and economic complexities of the ways landscapes are historically transformed, including various ways in which such transformation is materially and discursively expressed, contested, negotiated, embodied and academically scrutinized. Ongoing and historical processes of landscape change, such as the rationalization of agriculture and rural labor, the mobilization of the countryside as a resource, the aestheticization and conservation of nature, and links to the formation of urban spaces will be explored. Processes like these occur on different geographical scales, which in turn involve different scales of historical transformation.

Location and time table

The course consists of three parts:

- Short individual assignment in early May, before the meeting in Visby (cf. below).
- Intensive period in Visby, Gotland, May 16 to May 20, 2022. The intensive period starts with an introduction at the University, after which we'll spend much of the week in the field, combining lectures with seminars and field trips.
- Essay writing June–September, examination September 2022 (webbased)

Swedish National Program in Human Geography PhD Education:

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 EC

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

Module 4: Peer review on other essays 0.5 ECTS

Guest lecturers

We have a list of interesting scholars on our provisional and still expanding list, with invitations pending decision on financing and with gender issues taken into consideration.

Provisional reading list

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

Cosgrove, D. 2006. Modernity, community and the landscape idea *Journal of Material Culture* 11 no. 1-2, pp. 49-66.

Duncan, J.S. & Duncan, N.G. 2001. The aestheticization of the politics of landscape preservation. *Annals, Association of American Geographers* 91 no. 2, pp. 387-409.

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.

Olwig, K. 1996. Recovering the substantive nature of landscape *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 86 no. 4, pp. 630-653.

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: 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.

Olwig, K.R. 2019. *The Meanings of Landscape. Essays on place, space, environment and justice*. Routledge.

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

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 history in a geographical perspective.

Swedish National Program in Human Geography PhD Education:

Course evaluation will be organized on the web

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 fees apply for covering costs for field trips.

How to apply

Write an email to Tom Mels (tom.mels@kultgeog.uu.se) or Tomas Germundsson (tomas.germundsson@keg.lu.se), 1st of March 2022 by the latest, and give a very brief motivation for wishing to take this course and how it relates to your ongoing doctoral project.