CLASSICS IN SPATIAL THEORY

PhD course within the Swedish National Program for Research Education in Human Geography, 7.5 ECTS
Spring semester 2021

Course Organizers
Mekonnen Tesfahuney, Professor, Karlstad University (mete@kau.se), course convener
Tomas Germundsson, Professor, Lund University (tomas.germundsson@keg.lu.se)
Richard Ek, Associate Professor, Karlstad University (richard.ek@kau.se)

Syllabus
The present course offers advanced knowledge of spatial theories by examining key/classical texts on the subject. It is broadly structured along three major conceptions of space: (1) Spatial Science, (2) Humanist, and (3) Relational conceptions of space. The course offers a (philosophical) history of conceptions of space as laid out by key protagonists. As such, the course is not only a journey through canonical notions of space but also a mapping of the geographies of the disciplinary canon as well. The course consists of readings of a selection of classical (canonical) texts, combined with parallel thematic lectures and seminars addressing the three key themes and related sub-themes. In addition to a final paper which will be presented in a course paper seminar.

Preliminary Schedule

Module 1: January 28-29, 2021
Venue: Karlstad University
Theme: Spatial Science

28th of January, 10-12
Lecture: Richard Ek

28th of January, 13-16

29th of January, 10-12
Lecture: TBA

Module 2: 22-23 March 2021
Venue: Lund University
Theme: Humanistic geography and Phenomenological Conceptions of Space

22nd of March, 10-12
Lecture: Tomas Germundsson

22nd of March, 13-16
Literature Seminar. Text: Seamon, D A Geography of the Life World (ca 160 pages); Dinner: TBA (own expense)

23rd of March 10-12
Literature Seminar. Text: Geography and Geographers 7th edition chapter 5; Yi-Fu Tuan, Space and place: the perspectives of experience.
Module 3: 24-25 May 2021,
Venue: Karlstad University

**Theme: Critical Conceptions of Space**

24th of May, 10-12
- Lecture: Mekonnen Tesfahuney

24th of May, 13-16
- Literature Seminar: Text: Lefebvre, H (1991) *The Production of Space* (ca 450 pages);

25th of May
- Presentation & Discussion of Synopsis for the Course Paper

**NB:** Anne Buttimer’s *Geography and the Human Spirit* will be used as a general reference guide

**How to apply**
Send an email to Mekonnen Tesfahuney ([mete@kau.se](mailto:mete@kau.se)) no later than 15 December 2020.

**Course Literature (preliminary)**


- Massey, Doreen (1994) *A Global sense of Place* (ca 200 pages)


Reference Literature


Crampton, Jeremy & Elden, Stuart eds. (2007) *Space, Knowledge & Power*. Aldershot: Ashgate (250 pages)


Deleuze, Gilles & Guattari, Felix (1987) *A Thousand Plateaus. Capitalism & Schizophrenia*. (chapters 1, 3, 7, 12, 14)


Foucault, Michel (1986/1967) “Of Other Spaces” *Diacritics* Spring, (6 pages)


Massachusetts: MIT Press


*Ord & Bild* (1998) *På Plats*. Nr. 3 [Special Issues on Place]


