Classics in Theories of Space

National Ph. D. course in Human geography, Spring Term - 2019

Course Organizers
Mekonnen Tesfahuney, Professor, Karlstad University (mete@kau.se)
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Guest lecturer: Professor Gillian Rose, University of Oxford

Course 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) Humanistic Geographic Conceptions of Space, 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 the 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 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, students will also submit critical readings of a selection of course literature in writing.

Course Schedule

Module 1: 7-8 March 2019 - Theme: Spatial Science
Venue: Karlstad University
7th of March 10-12 Lecture Richard Ek & Mekonnen Tesfahuney
7th of March 13-16 Literature Seminar. Text: David Harvey Explanation in Geography (1973[1969])
8th of March 10-12 Literature Seminar. Text: Peter Hagget The Geographer’s Art (1995)

Module 2: 24-25 April 2019 - Theme: Humanistic Geographic Conceptions of Space
Venue: Lund University
24th of April 10-12 Lecture Tomas Germundsson
25th of April 10-12 Literature seminar Yi-Fu Tuan, Topophilia (1974)

Module 3: 14-15 May 2019 - Theme: Relational Theories of Space
Venue: Karlstad University
14th of May 13-15 Lecture/seminar Gillian Rose
15th of May 09-13 Paper Seminars
Readings (besides texts in the schedule above)

Tim Cresswell’s *Geographic Thought. A Critical Introduction* (2013) will be used as a general “reference and guide” to human geographic subject history for the course, complemented by:

Anne Buttiner’s *Geography and the human spirit* (1993).

Reference Literature


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


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


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


