

# ANTHROPOLOGY OF LANDSCAPE

FSS, Masaryk Univ. Brno

Course Code: SOCN 5018

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 14:30-16:00 ( Or by Zoom appointment (Office Room: FSS 3.48, Joštova 218/10. 602 00 Brno)

COURSE When: Autumn 2021 Wednesdays from 18:00 - 19:40 Where: JO U43 (until further notice then Zoom sessions)

## Course Description / General Overview:

Landscapes are felt, lived-in, moulded. Some are bought and sold, threatened by development, built to new heights as well as reclaimed from or pushed into the sea. Increasingly, with investments in bioengineering, nano/molecular research as well as astro-physics and virtual technologies, landscapes are not just 'terrestrial'. A composite word, whose etymology originates as a complex linguistic hybrid, the notion itself is a pastiche with origins in the arts and the earth sciences. It is therefore easy to overlook many of the vested interests that the humanities (if not so much the social sciences) have stocked up in the study of human shaped worlds.

The first half of this course deals with historical developments of the field, with a focus on various theoretical and methodological approaches. The second looks at certain themes through an exploration of case studies. Overall, the course provides moderate to advanced considerations of the major trends, ideas, methodologies/theories for studying landscapes from both anthropological and multi-disciplinary perspectives. Through a series of lectures, seminar discussions, audio-visual screenings and short field visits grounded in readings for each session, the course gives an appreciation for understanding the socio-cultural environment ethnographically. It is suitable for those with some prior experience in anthropology as well as for those with moderate experience in cognate fields of study (Geography; Env. Studies; History; Philosophy; Political Science; Psychology; Sociology, etc) who wish to improve their ways of seeing, experiencing and writing about the world around them.

Through 'bio-geographical' accounts of place and space, the course acts as a portal to understanding the histories of socio-political landscapes. And as such we shall venture into exploring such ethnographic/ethnological case studies as those dealing with i) belonging/exclusion; ii) cultural diversity and power; iii) gendered and remembered spaces; v) virtual/non-earthly regions; vi) eschatologies of dystopias and nowheres.

## Learning outcomes:

On successful completion of this course, students shall be able to:

i) critically assess key texts and thinkers to have shaped the study of landscape from an anthropological perspective over the past century; ii) engage with selected relevant readings that reflect key debates and analytically consider such debates; iv) apply skills of writing to engage in critical debate at a moderate to advanced level.

## Assessment:

Students will be assessed on the basis of a written essay 50% and their participation in implementing a group project/event. Attendance is thus compulsory since roughly half of each class is dedicated to developing this joint endeavour (this can take the form of an art installation; co-authored media or scholarly output; demonstration/protest; short film/documentary production; mini-symposium; etc...). The essay consists of a 3000 word piece, which can be a report on the group project or a more 'conventional' essay addressing one or more of the course's themes.

**ESSAY DEADLINE you may submit up to 2 drafts for comments during Dec/Jan only. The final version is due no later than 25 JAN 2022. All late submission thereafter will be marked down for each late day. No hand-ins after Monday 7 Feb.**

**Please note:** In text citations always require a page number or 'NP' for online sources. When presenting your bibliography for your essays, follow the style below or something similar. The key is to be consistent with the details of the presentation format you choose. Pay attention to capitalisation and include the following information, listed alphabetically by the author's surname: date; title of chapter or article; book or journal title (in *italics* or underlined); volume, issue number; page range; the place of publication (only one) and the publisher's name for books. Cite films, newspaper pieces and online sources separately (include DOI and hyper-links if necessary).

**Week 1) Wednesday 15 Sept.** Introduction to the course outline; readings and assignment 'design'

Homage to Maurice Merleau-Ponty, who died at the age of 53 in 1951 (i.e, 60 years ago in 2021).

Merleau-Ponty -- The World of Perception and the World of Science (French with Eng. subtitles) (8 minutes)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uf9TtYdxy3A>

*They Roam Together* (Doco-Film by Antony Fredriksson (Finland) & Veronika Janatková (Czech Republic)  
17:53 mins, (English, with English Closed Captions) <https://vimeo.com/482719550>

+ Trailer screening to the film *The Dig*.

**Week 2) 22 Sept** Archaeology/ history / geology

Johnson, M.H. (2012). Phenomenological Approaches in Landscape Archaeology. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 41: 269-84. <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/10.1146/annurev-anthro-092611-145840>

Parker Pearson, Mike (2013). Researching Stonehenge: Theories Past and Present. *Archaeology International*, 16: 72-83.

**Week 3) 29 Sept** Care / Gender/ Power Theories

Bender, B. & M. Winer (eds) (2001). *Contested Landscapes: Movement, Exile and Place* (Oxon: Berg).  
(Select a chapter)

Knight, Gail & Jo-Anne Bichard (2011). *Public Accessible Toilets. An Inclusive Design Guide*. London: RCA.  
(Cross-ref week 2 Care + Design + Waterscapes)

**Week 4) 6 Oct** Environmental Art

Singer, Andre dir. & prod. (1985). *Franz Boas - The Shackles of Tradition*. Part of the series 'Strangers Abroad: Pioneers of Social Anthropology' (written and presented by Bruce Dakowski). Princeton, NJ (52mins).

**Week 5) 13 Oct** Animism, Belonging, Deep/Human-Ecology

Kockel, Ullrich (2017). On Becoming Indigenous... : In Hieta, H. et al (eds), *RAJAAMATTA Etnologisia keskusteluja*. Helsinki: Ethnos (367-98).

Leete, Art (2017). Animism, the Forest and Komi Identity. In Hieta, H. et al (eds), *RAJAAMATTA Etnologisia keskusteluja*. Helsinki: Ethnos (210-39).

**Week 6) 20 Oct** Affect / Memory

Bednar, Robert M. (2011). 'Materialising Memory: The Public Lives of Roadside Crash Shrines'. *Memory Connection Journal*, 1 (1): 17-33.

Soga, Eiko dir. (2020). *Ainu Huner, Mon-chan* (doco film 25mins 50). Bagri Foundation / At Home in the World).  
Link: <https://vimeo.com/491870510>

**Week 7) 27 Oct** **READING WEEK**

**Week 8) 3 Nov**

Start Group Interviews

**Week 9) 10 Nov. Urban Places/Spaces -- Climate and Pollution**

Mars, Roman & Kurt Kohlstedt (2020). *The 99% Invisible City: A Field Guide to the Hidden World of Everyday Design*. New York: Mariner Books. [link for articles, media clips, podcasts, etc](https://99percentinvisible.org/) <https://99percentinvisible.org/>

Palang, Hannes; Sooväli-Sepping, Helen & Anu Printsman (eds) (2007). Introduction. *Seasonal Landscapes*. Dordrecht: Springer (1-16). [case study examples from Japan (K. Lindstrom) as well as Europe, Brazil...]

Tilley, Chris (ed) (2019). Holland Park: An Elite London Landscape. In *London's Urban Landscape: Another Way of Telling*. London: UCL Press (353-402)

**Week 10) 17 Nov. No Class (National Holiday)**

**Week 11) 24 Nov Sea/water-scapes**

Kato, Kumi (2009). Soundscape, cultural landscape and connectivity. *Sites*, 6(2): 80-91.

Muru-Lanning, Marama (2009). River Ownership: Inalienable Taonga and Impartible Tupuna Awa. *Sites*, 6(2): 32-46.

**Week 12) 1 Dec Medieval Mining Landscapes?? Guest Lecture: Laszlo Ferenzi (Charles Univ. Prague)**

Kesküla, Eva (2014). Temporalities, Time and the Everyday: New Production Technologies as Markers of Change in an Estonian Mine. *Series: History Philosophy (Серия «История. Философия)*, 2(74): 33-41.

Orange, Hilary (2018). Artificial light, night-work and daycentrism in post-medieval and contemporary archaeology. *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, 52(3): 409-414.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00794236.2018.1515414?journalCode=ympa20>

Smith, Huhana M. (2009). Mana Taonga and the Micro World of Intricate Research and Findings Around Taonga Māori at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. *Sites*, 6(2): 7-31.

**Week 13) 8 Dec Utopia / Nowhere / Placelessness: Anthropocene: Global, Extra-Terrestrial & Virtual Landscapes**

Swanson, Heather A., Nils Bubandt and Anna Tsing (2015). Less than one but more than many. Anthropocene as science fiction and scholarship-in-the-making. *Environment and Society*, 6(1): 149-166.

**Major Journals**

*Env. & Planning (A to E Series)*

*Landscapes* ( <https://www.tandfonline.com> )

*Landscape Journal: Design, Planning, and Management of the Land*

*Landscape Online*

*SITES: A Journal of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies* ( <https://sites.otago.ac.nz/Sites/issue/view/25> )

**Additional Readings and Literature:**

Conradson, D. (2005). Landscape, care, and the relational self: therapeutic encounters in rural England. *Health and Place*, 11, 337-48.

Cowling, Wendy E. (2009). The Lapita Motif That Got Away. *Sites*, 6(2): 57-79.

Edensor, Tim (2010). Arora Landscapes: Affective Atmospheres of Light and Dark. In Lund, K.A. & K. Benediktsson (eds). *Conversations with Landscape*. Farnham: Ashgate (227-240). (Chap 15)

Hirsch, Eric & Michael O'Hanlon (eds) (1995). *The Anthropology of Landscape* Oxon: Clarendon Univ. Press.

Hicks, Dan (2016). The Temporality of the Landscape Revisited. *Norwegian Archaeological Review*, 49(1): 5–22.

- Hicks, Dan & Sarah Mallet (2019). Introduction (Chap 1). *Lande: The Callais 'Jungle' and Beyond*. Bristol: Univ. Press (1-21)  
(Open Access book on publisher's website)
- Krause, Franz & Lukas Ley (2019). Ethnographic Conversations with Wittfogel's Ghost: An Introduction. *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*, 37(7): 1151-1160.
- Laviolette, P. (2009). Placeless Predicament. In Doherty, C. & D. Cross (eds) *OneDaySculpture*. Bielefeld: Kerber Verlag (96-105).
- Laviolette, P. & B. Labrum (2009), Introduction: Matter in Place (special issue). *Sites*, 6(2): 1-6.
- Laviolette, Patrick & Judith Okely (2020). Carporeality/carhesia: Whereupon the Road to Erewhon. In Laviolette, P. *Hitchhiking: Cultural Inroads*. London: Palgrave (59-84).
- De Nardi, Sarah *et al.* (eds) (2019). Introduction. *Routledge Handbook of Memory and Place*. London: Routledge (1-8).
- Merleau-Ponty, Maurice [1948 (2004)]. Man Seen from the Outside. *The World of Perception*. London: Routledge (61-68).
- Milligan, Christine & Janine L. Wiles (2010). Landscapes of Care. *Progress in Human Geography*, 34(1): 736-54.  
[DOI: 10.1177/0309132510364556](https://doi.org/10.1177/0309132510364556)
- Orange, Hilary & P. Laviolette (2010). A Disgruntled Tourist in King Arthur's Court: Archaeology and Identity at Tintagel, Cornwall. *Public Archaeology*, 9(2): 85-107.  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/233714442\\_A\\_Disgruntled\\_Tourist\\_in\\_King\\_Arthur%27s\\_Court\\_Archaeology\\_and\\_Identity\\_at\\_Tintagel\\_Cornwall](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/233714442_A_Disgruntled_Tourist_in_King_Arthur%27s_Court_Archaeology_and_Identity_at_Tintagel_Cornwall)
- Thomas, Tim 2009. Topogenic Forms in New Georgia, Solomon Islands. *Sites*, 6(2): 92-118.
- Tilley, Chris (1994). *A Phenomenology of Landscape*. Oxon: Berg.
- Tilley, Chris (1999). The Beach in the Sky (Chap 6). *Metaphor and Material Culture*. Oxon: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Tomić, Vicko; Relja, Renata and Toni Popović (2015). Ethnography of urban public transport: a tale of two cities in Croatia. *Anthropological Notebooks*, 21(1): 37-59.
- Trigger, Bruce (1980). *Gordon Childe: Revolutions in Archaeology*. London: Thames and Hudson.
- Wells, H.G. (1903). The New Republic (Chap 3). *Mankind in the Making*. London: Chapman & Hall.
- AV material**
- Brody, Hugh (dir) (2003). *Inside Australia* (with Anthony Gormley). Freemantle WA: Artemis (1hr 52mins)
- Fredriksson, Antony & Veronika Janatková (dirs) (2020) *They Roam Together* (17:54 mins. Pandistan: Finland & Czechia).
- Mackay, Yvonne dir (2006). *Aspiring* (Brian Brake camera; James K Baxter scriptwriter, Douglas Lilburn composer and painter John Drawbridge). Wellington, NZ: Gibson Group (50 mins)
- Persiel, Martin dir. (2012). *This Ain't California*. Berlin: Wildfremd Productions (1hr 40 mins)
- Stevens, Philip dir. (2014). *Sir Joseph Banks – Endeavour* (12 mins)  
(Usher Gallery Lincolnshire, Exhibition Intro by David Attenborough).  
<https://www.thecultureconcept.com/the-banks-endeavour-homage-to-sciences-great-panjandrum>
- Stone, Simon (dir) 2021. *The Dig* (UK: Magnolia Mae/Clerkenwell Films, distributed by Netflix). 112 mins
- Zhao, Chloé (dir) (2020). *Nomadland*. Highwayman Films / Searchlight (available on PrimeVideo).  
<https://www.searchlightpictures.com/nomadland/>