

International conference

Landscapes of everyday life

Intersecting perspectives on research and action

16 - 18 March 2011, Perpignan (France) and Gerona (Spain)

First call for papers and posters

The conference is mainly intended for scientists in natural and social sciences, landscape practitioners and elected officials from European countries, but is also open to similar communities from non-European countries

Although a large majority of Europeans live in urban and suburban areas today, it would be difficult to surmise that the landscapes they live in were the object of serious, intentional efforts on the part of policymakers. These landscapes are often considered to be degraded and inhospitable, and are frequently associated with social exclusion and the deterioration of living conditions. The French Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Sea, the Generalitat of Catalonia, the Perpignan urban authority, cities of Girona and Perpignan are organising a conference for 2011. Its aim is to reconsider these landscapes that are home to millions of people in Europe and abroad from the standpoint of, on the one hand, improvement projects of which they were the focus, of “the particular values assigned to them by the interested parties and the population concerned” and, on the other hand, from the standpoint of efforts made by the latter to redevelop these landscapes.

The numerous member states of the Council of Europe which have ratified the European Landscape Convention committed themselves, in particular, to giving priority to everyday landscapes and to establishing “procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies”. But what is the reality? What is the role that the procedures implemented by public institutions and territorial authorities actually assigned to stakeholder negotiation and participation in the improvement of landscape quality? Among these experiences, which ones make it possible to affirm that these forms of negotiation and participation are a guarantee for success? And beyond projects initiated by political institutions, what about those developed by community-based associations that aim at contributing to the improvement of living environments? Moreover, landscape projects are increasingly considered as processes that evolve through the acquisition of knowledge provided by the collective experience of analysis and action. Does a landscape project designed as a process over time and space require specific methods, and if so, which? Finally, everyday landscapes are strongly influenced by land-use or economic development projects. What, therefore, does the landscape dimension fit into?

These different questions are not just addressed to the scientific community. They also concern institutional actors and landscape practitioners. This conference is therefore open to dialogue between operational methods and cognitive methods. This possibility obviously brings with it a dual requirement. On the one hand, it aims to give a voice to landscape “manufacturers”, whoever they may be (professionals, elected officials, experts, NGO members or simple citizens), as well as to researchers, and above all, to encourage the dialogue between these two categories. On the other hand, it aims to enrich the debate with data that will make it possible to assess the effectiveness of the methods implemented, and among them, the methods based on participation or the exchange and sharing of knowledge or action objectives. However, when we speak of effectiveness, we must not limit the issue of landscape quality to its aesthetic aspect alone. We must also know if the methods implemented in the projects made it possible to address the demands of sustainable development and, in particular, if they were able to guarantee generational and intergenerational social equity or the quality of living environments and biodiversity, while allowing individuals and social categories to find their place within society and to think of the future with optimism, for themselves and their descendants. How do the notions of landscape and sustainable development interact and influence each other? How is the time dimension taken into account in landscape projects and public policies? What is their impact on the projects, their means of production and their governance? How are these notions integrated into professional practices?

Although this proposal initially focused on densely populated landscapes, that is, urban, suburban and peri-urban, it in no way excludes rural, mountain and coastal landscapes from the collective reflection. These landscapes are also home to their inhabitants and maintain relationships with the former that involve complementarities or antagonisms that must be justified and identified. Just like urban landscapes, these landscapes also bear witness to many experiences involving participation and social negotiation.

Conference organisation

The debate will be enhanced by scientific analyses but also reserves a place for the description and discussion of projects already carried out or in progress and their means of development. The conference will be divided into five sessions, alternating plenary sessions (1 and 2) with simultaneous ones (A, B and C) while leaving sufficient time for general and collective discussion. **Only sessions 2 and parallel sessions A, B and C will involve an open call for papers.**

Plenary session n°1: Landscape projects and the respective roles of decision-makers, citizens and experts

The development of operations for landscape improvement and landscape projects has existed for a long time and is based on a variety of methods in which the role of the stakeholders varies extensively. The purpose of this session will be to describe five projects carried out within specific contexts and managed according to methods that will be the subject of presentations by the stakeholders concerned and discussions of the research involved. Particular emphasis will be given to the roles of the stakeholders, that is, the population concerned and landscape practitioners.

Parallel session A: Participation in the decision-making process

Papers will propose an analysis of existing participation procedures and will draw conclusions about the means involved: at what point it occurs during the decision-making process, how participation is organised, levels of relevance, means for monitoring participation over time and how to assess its effectiveness, as well as the conditions necessary for its success.

Parallel session B: The ecological dimension of landscape projects and the contribution of participation to its recognition

This session will focus on the role played by specifically ecological or environmental concerns in landscape development projects and on how the stakeholders integrate these concerns into their projects. Papers should provide specific examples from which they will draw conclusions concerning the ability of participative procedures to integrate the ecological dimension of the landscape.

Parallel session C: Assessment of the action and its appropriate indicators, and its contribution to landscape quality

Using specific examples of development projects with a landscape dimension, regardless of whether or not the participation was effective, papers will propose methods for assessing the action implemented and for integrating the lessons learned into the development process. Particular emphasis should be placed on the indicators linked to the quality of the landscapes produced by the action or the evaluation of the role of those that are linked to the action, of those that make it possible to improve our knowledge of the landscape or those that do both at the same time.

Plenary session n°2: Landscape action and sustainable development

This session has a double aim, both theoretical and applied. By taking specific examples of development projects, we will examine how the different pillars of sustainable development are taken into account and the influence of this notion on project design and governance.

Language

English, French and Spanish with full translation

Instructions for proposals

Contributions will be accepted as oral presentations or posters in any of the three languages: English, French and Spanish. An abstract less than 2,000 characters (spaces included) must be submitted before **1 June 2010**. The file (Word or PDF format) must be sent to: conf.paysage@cemagref.fr.

Selection will be made by the Scientific Committee and authors will be informed of acceptance before 31 July 2010. Full text of papers and posters must be sent to organisers before 1 December 2011. Proceedings will be edited on electronic medium and given to participants at the beginning of the conference.

Scientific Committee (*provisional*)

ANTROP Marc (geographer, Belgium), BERLAN-DARQUE Martine (sociologist, France), BRIFFAUD Serge (historian, France), BUREL Françoise (ecologist, France), DALLA BERNARDINA (anthropologist, France), DAUTEL Christian (architect, France), GOMEZ MENDOZA Josefina (geographer, Spain), GUILLAUMIN Gérard (Ministry of Ecology,

Energy, Sustainable Development and Sea, France), Peter HOWARD (geographer, United Kingdom), GÜTTINGER Philippe, (lawyer, France), LUGINBÜHL Yves (agronomist, geographer, chairman of the scientific committee, France), MICHELIN Yves (geographer, France), MILANI Raffaele (philosopher, Italy), NOGUE Joan (geographer, Catalogne), OLWIG Kenneth (geographer, Sweden), PEDROLI Bas (ecologist, Netherlands), SALLES Jean-Michel (economist, France), TERRASSON Daniel (PDD programme coordinator), TOUBLANC Monique (landscape architect, sociologist, France), SEGUIN Jean-François (Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Sea, France)

Agenda:

| Day | Wednesday 16 March 2011 | Thursday 17 March 2011 | Friday 18 March 2011 | Saturday 19 March 2011 |
|------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Place | Perpignan Conference Centre | Landscapes of France and Catalunya, Girona Conference Centre | Girona Conference Center | |
| Morning | Plenary Session 1: Opening, round tables | Transfert Perpignan – Girona and field trip in French and Spanish Catalonia | Parallel session A, B, C Communications | Optional visits of Girona |
| Afternoon | Parallel session A, B, C Communications | Parallel session A, B, C Communications | Plenary Session 2: Closing ceremony | |
| Evening | Gala dinner | Free | Concert | |