

Concepts of Landscape

EMERGENCE AND PERSPECTIVES

ONLINE SEMINAR SPRING 2017 | LECTURE A.2 | APRIL 10TH, 2017



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This lecture aims to discuss

- nuanced understandings of landscape,
- that are based on **people-centred landscape concepts**,
- developed in relation to **pluralistic societies**,
- in order to appreciate people's **diverse landscape values**
- and also disparities in access to landscape.



Theory

1. Concepts, understandings (how something works)
2. Models, explanations (how something works)
3. Results of abstract or generalising thinking



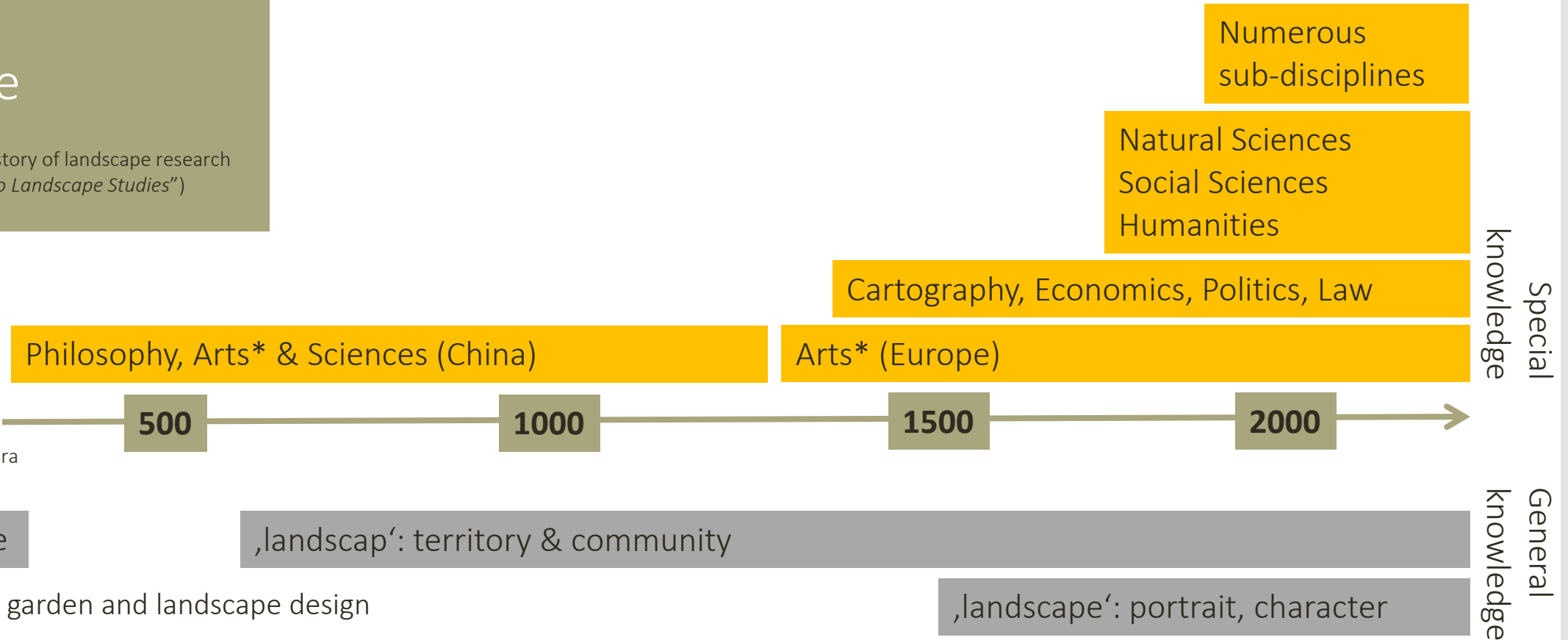
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A brief history of landscape knowledge

Antrop, M., 2013: A brief history of landscape research
(in „Routledge Companion to Landscape Studies“)



http://www.latmos-felsbilder.de/pics/karadere/karadere_8m.jpg



* Including garden and landscape design



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Landscape Theory

Landscape concepts: People-centred landscape concepts.

Example of physical landscape model

not people-centred

Ibraheem A. Th. et al. Coupling GIS and Photogrammetry for the Development of Large-Scale Land Information System (LIS). *Journal of Geosciences and Geomatics*, 2014, Vol. 2, No. 1, 1-10. doi:10.12691/jgg-2-1-1

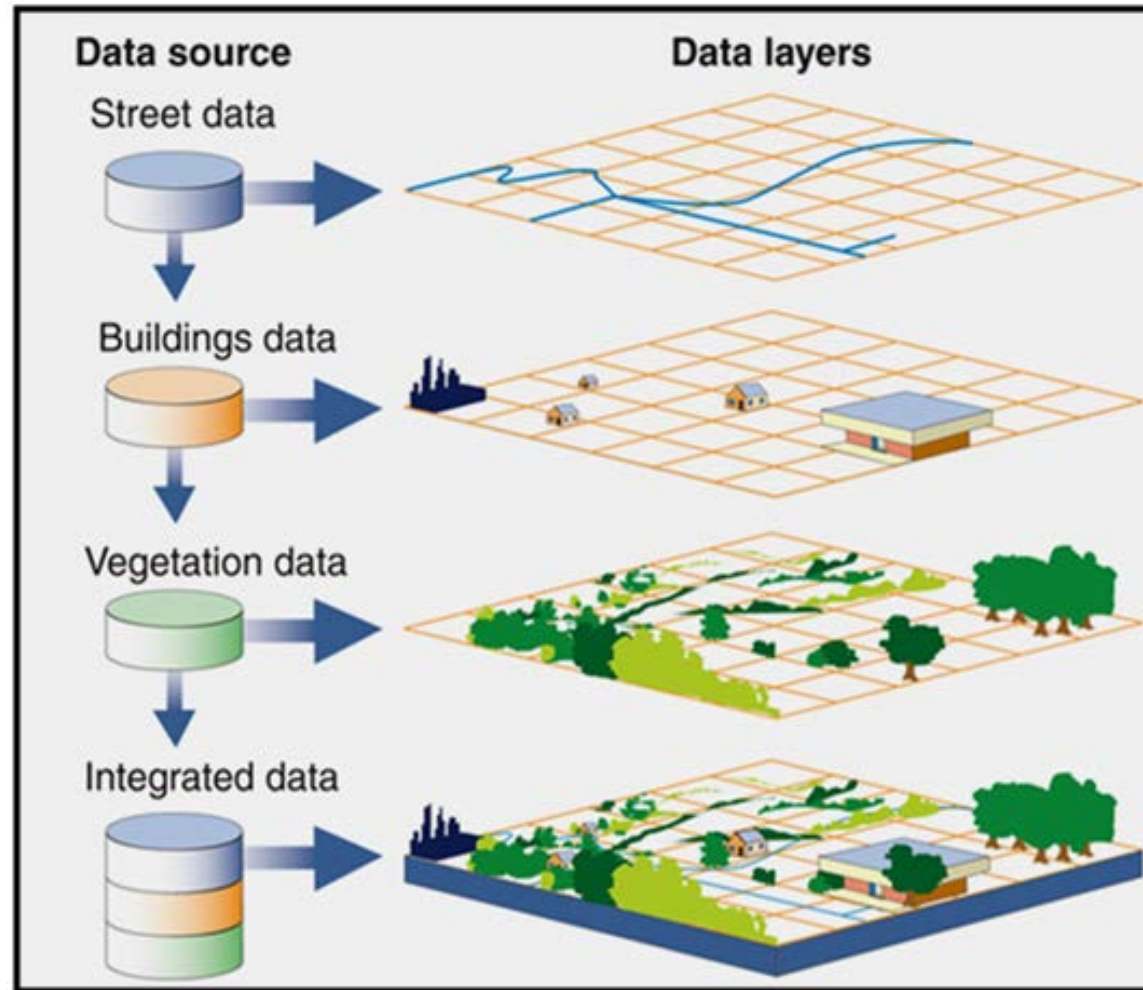
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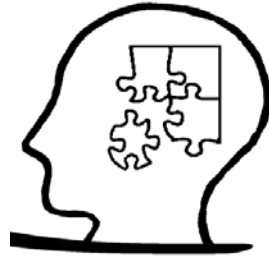
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People centred landscape concept: based on landscape knowledge

Kühne, O., 2013. *Landschaftstheorie & Landschaftspraxis*, Wiesbaden: Springer VS

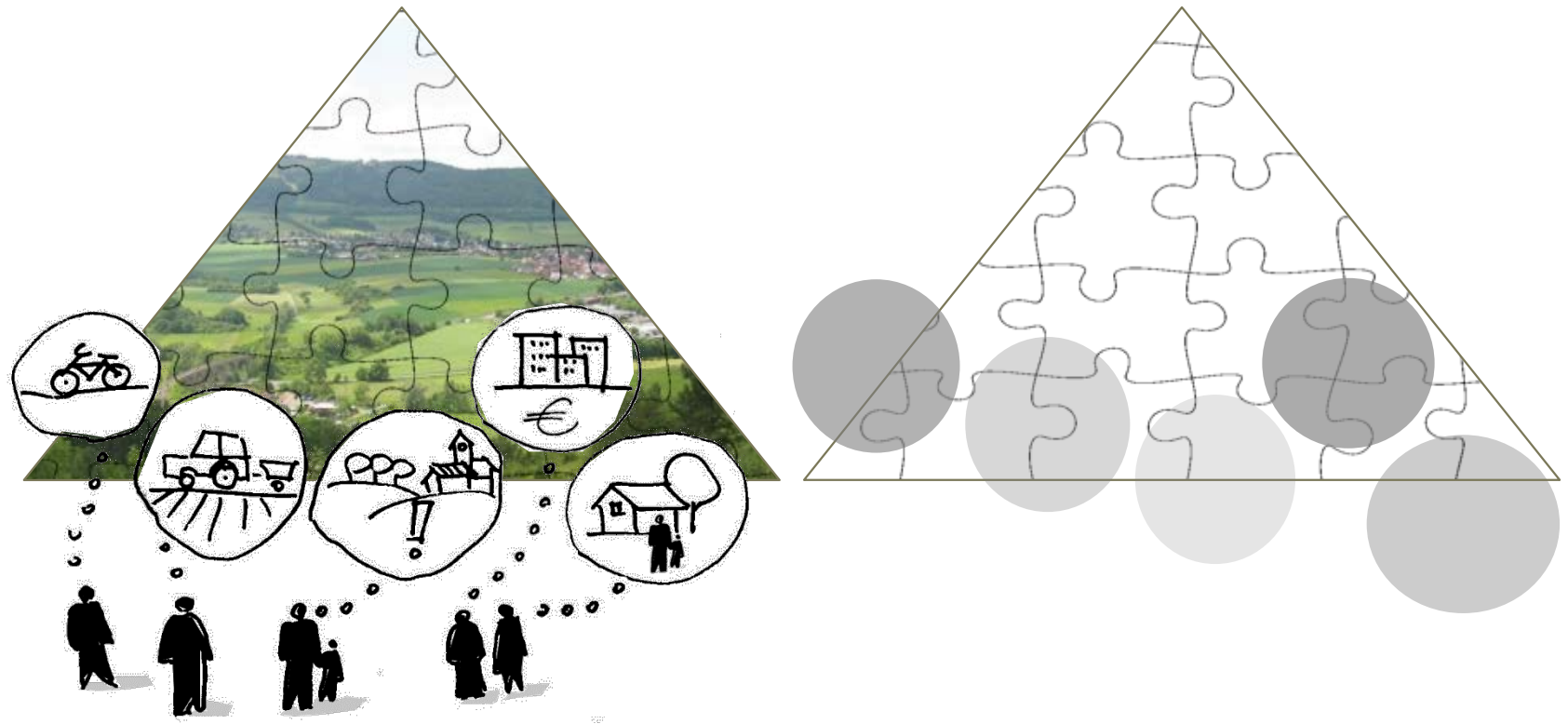
Gailing, L., Leibenath, M., 2015. *The Social Construction of Landscapes: Two Theoretical Lenses and Their Empirical Applications. Landscape Research*, Volume 40, Issue 2, pages 123-138



rather than being mere assemblages of physical objects, landscapes are “constructed” in people’s minds.



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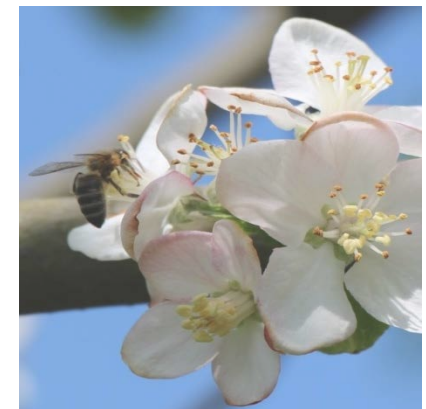
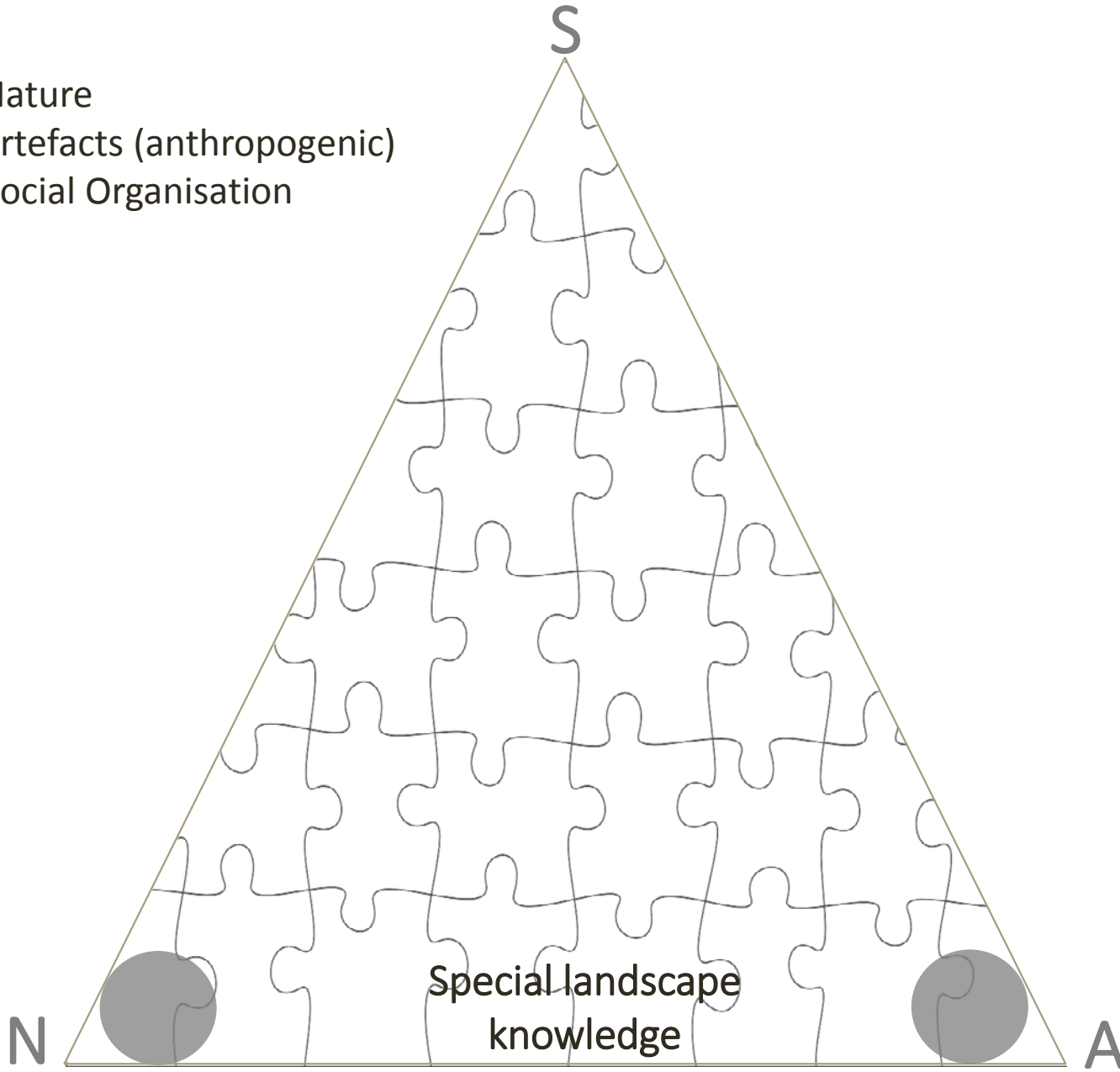




N = Nature
 A = Artefacts (anthropogenic)
 S = Social Organisation

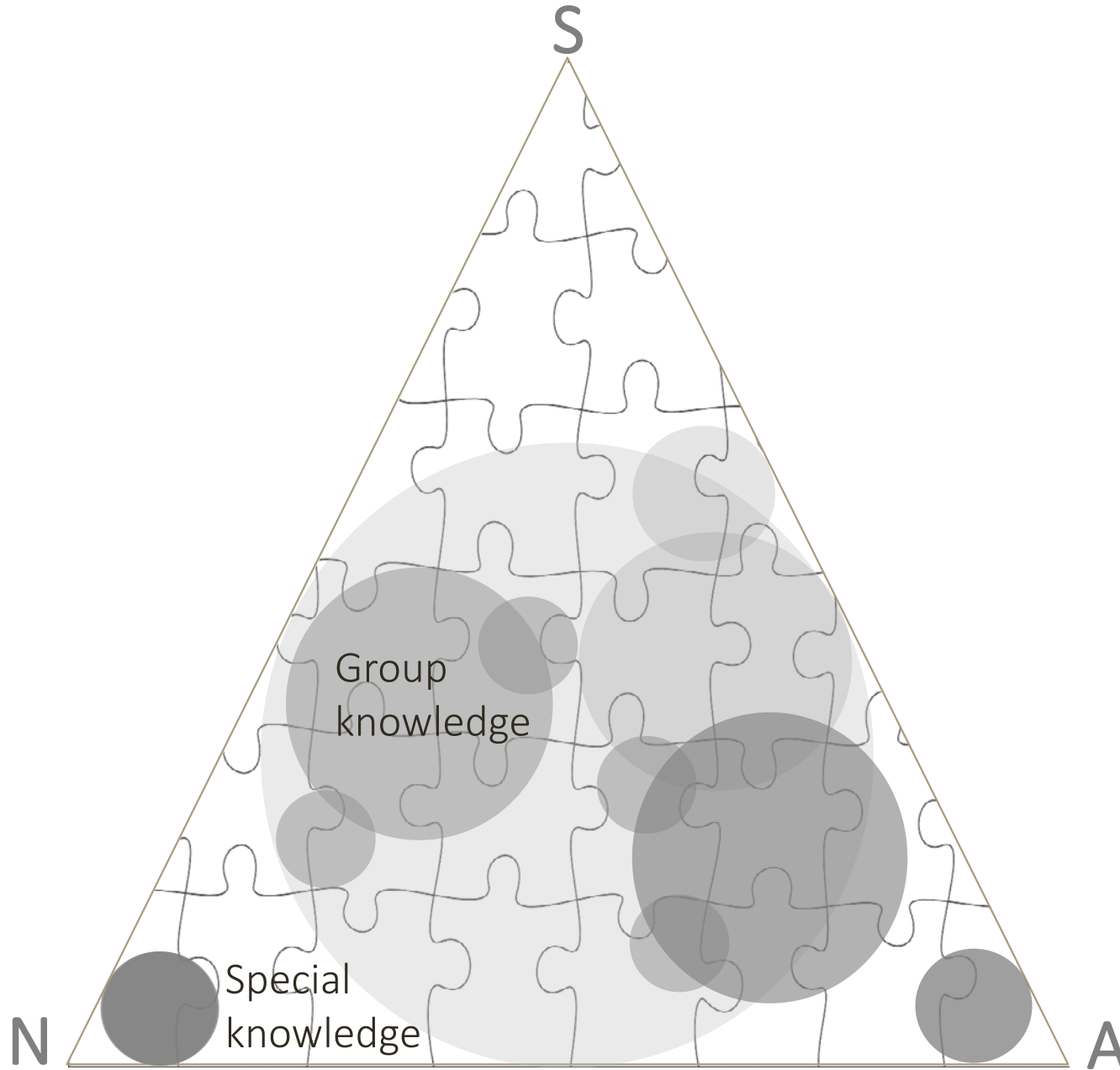
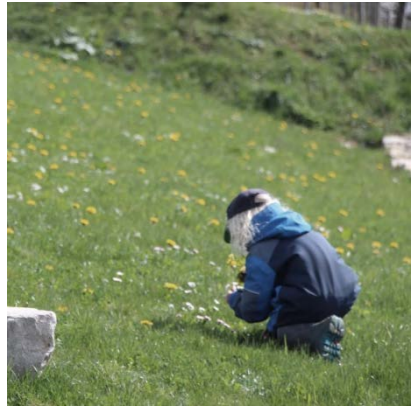


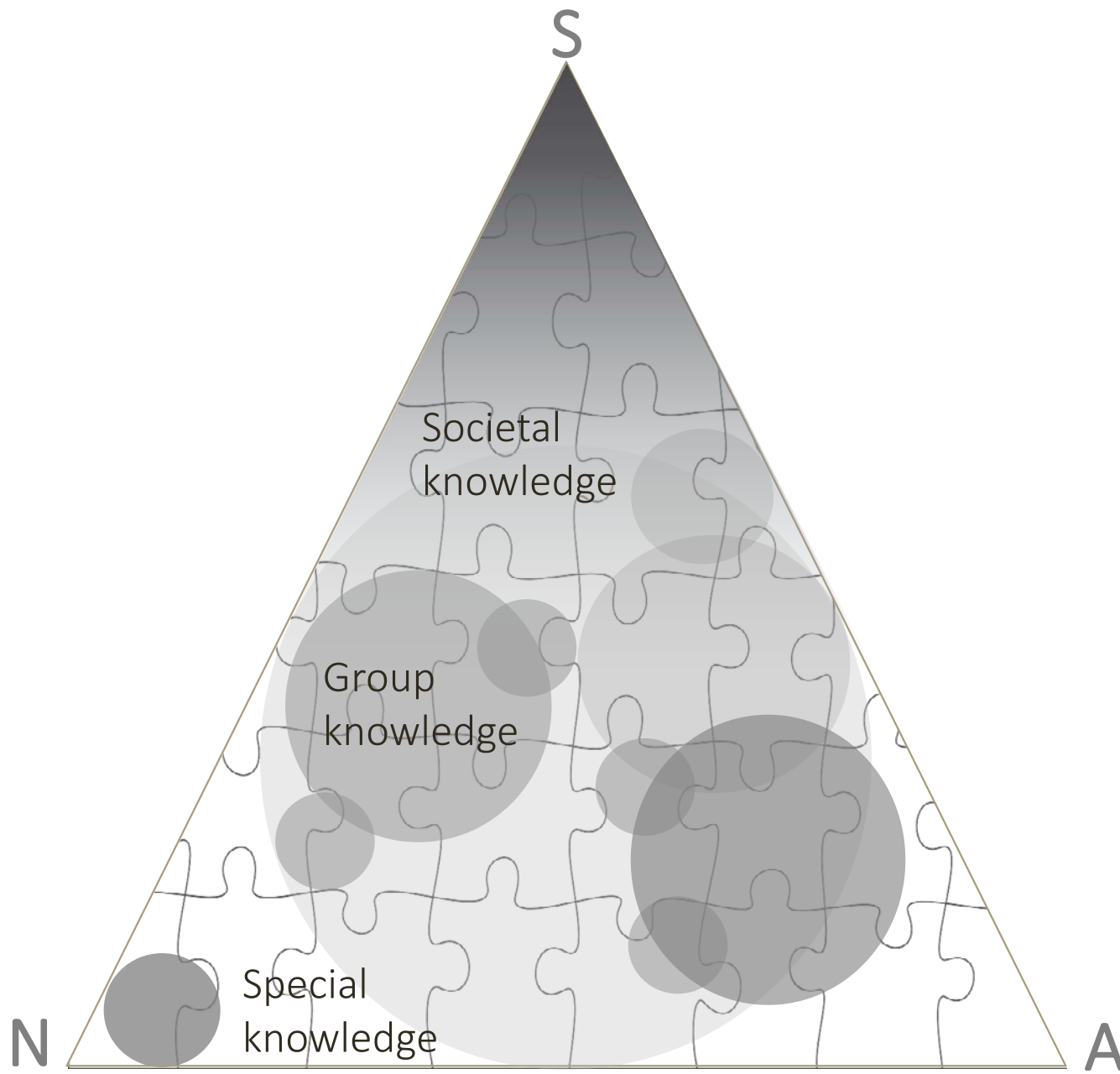
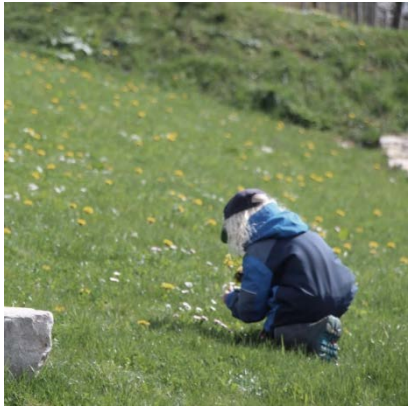
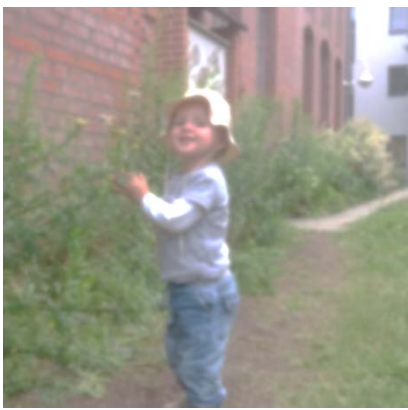
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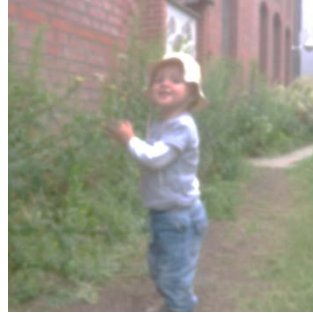




"Landscape is both the "phenomenon itself and our perception of it."

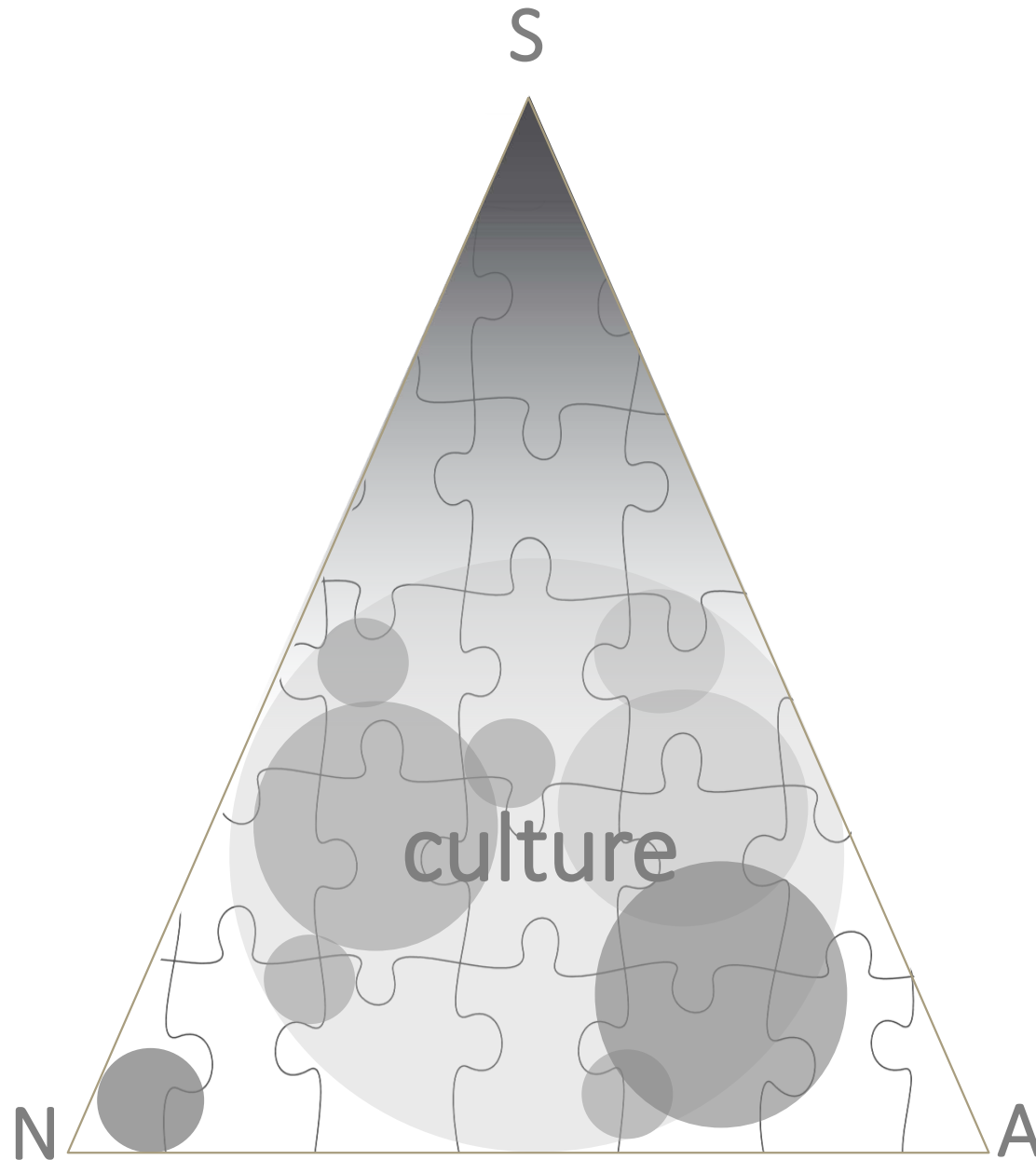
WYLIE 2007: 7

Ipsen, D. 2012. Space, place and perception: The sociology of landscape, in (ed.) Bell, S., Sarlöv Herlin, I., Stiles, R., *Exploring the Boundaries of Landscape Architecture*, London and New York: Routledge, pages 60-82.



"means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors."

ELC, article I, a



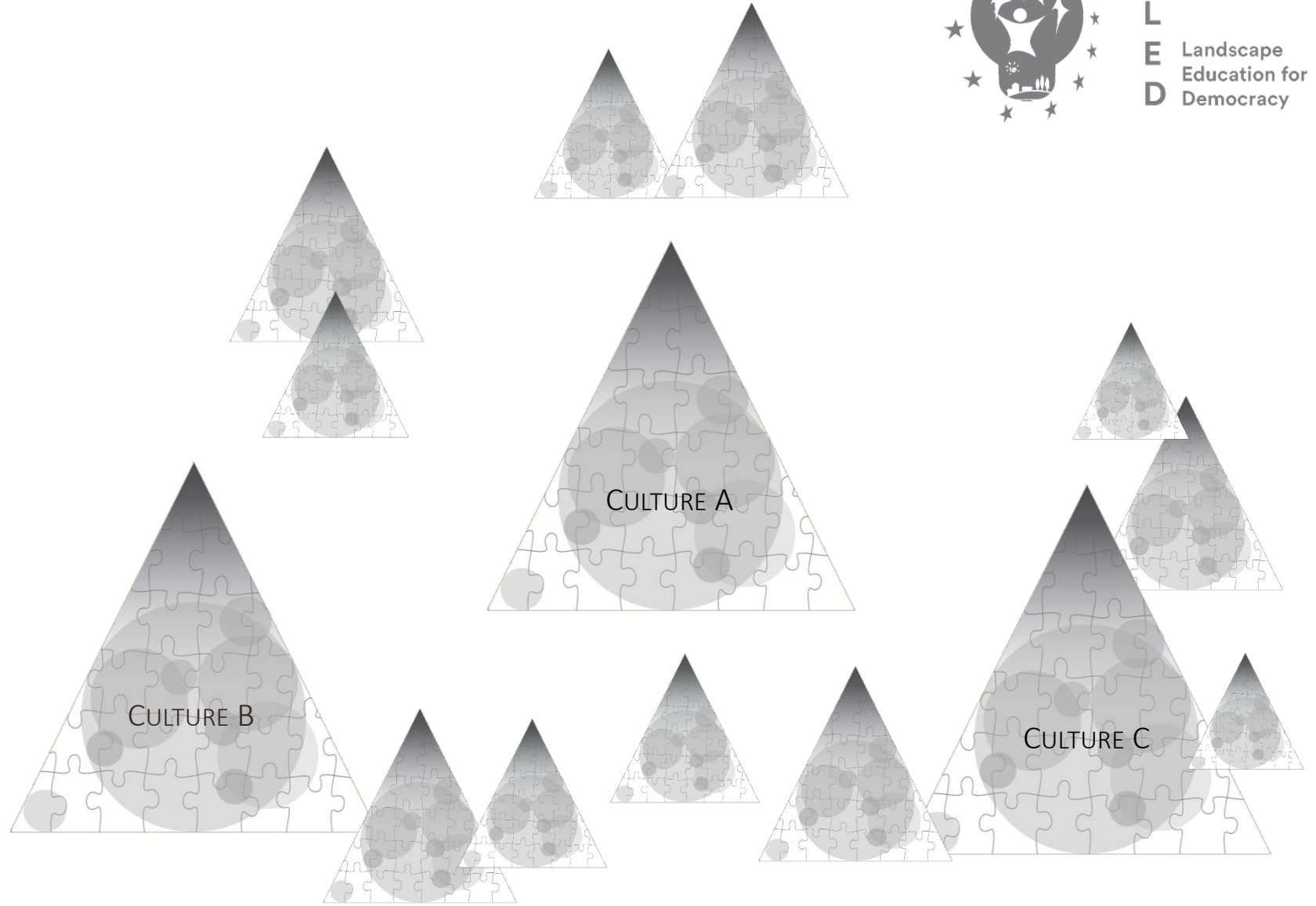
"Landscape is a cultural phenomenon that can be described by its three main constituting components: Nature, artefacts and social organisation."

IPSEN, 2012

Cultural clusters



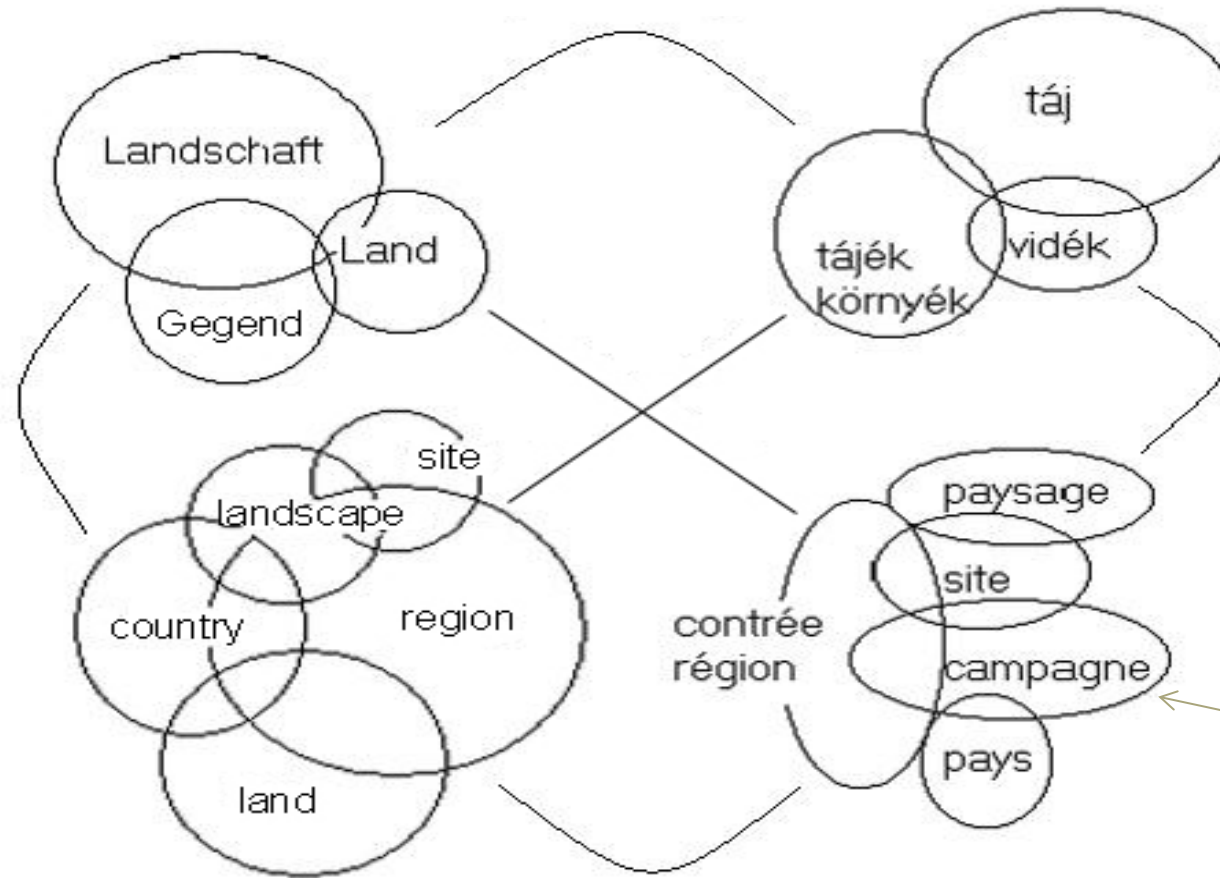
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Example: Languages (linguistic analysis)

Drexler, D., 2013. Landscape, Paysage, Landschaft, Táj: The cultural background of landscape perceptions in England, France, Germany and Hungary. *Journal of Ecological Anthropology* 16(1), pages 85-96.

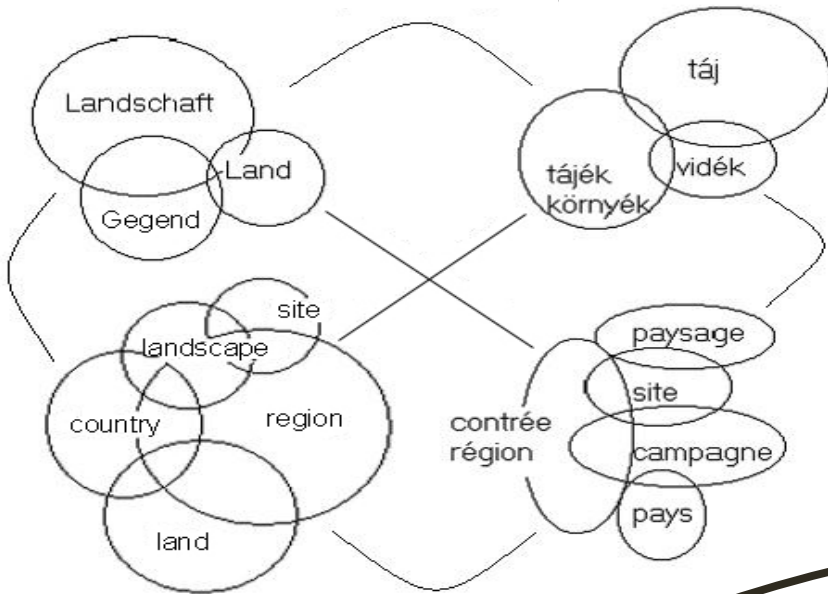


„Semantic Fields“:
Words grouped
by meaning

Communicating globally about landscape



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- Yuan Lin
- Feng Jing
- Jing Guan

园林
风景
景观

- Feng Shui
- Shan Shui

Keikan / 景觀
Fukei / 風景

- Chonabot ชนบท
- Muang เมือง
- Baan บ้าน
- Sapabwadolom watthu
- Sapabwadolom kid jai

Landscape = لاندسکيب



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WHAT areas do people perceive as landscape?

Landscape is both the “phenomenon itself and our perception of it.”

WYLIE 2007: 7

Early meanings of landscape

“Polity and the land it governs”

Olwig, K. R. (2002) Landscape, Nature and the Body Politic, Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press.

Landscape Polity
(a politically organized unit)
and it's land, in Europe since
Medieval times.

Usually a town forms the core of a

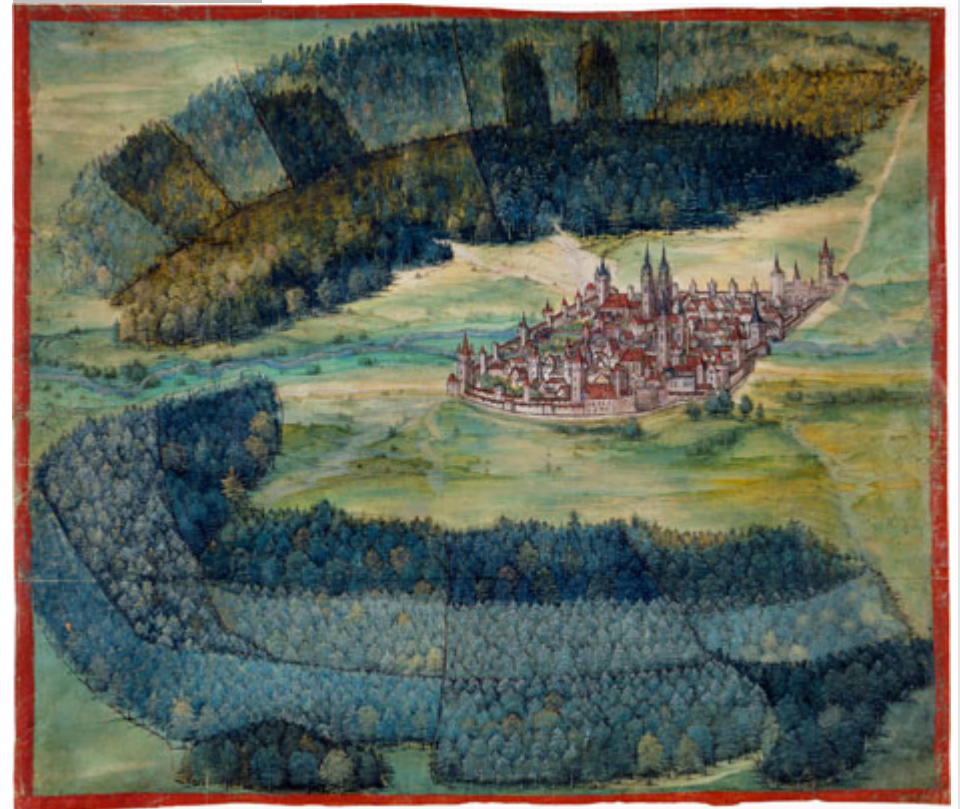
- Land- / Pays-
- -scape / -age

*„meaning something like character,
constitution, state or shape“*

OLWIG 2002

Nuremberg
and it's land

Erhard von Etzlaub, 1516



<http://www.stadtatlas-muenchen.de/stadtatlas-nuernberg/1516-waldplan.jpg>

Early meanings of landscape & Thai understandings of community



Khlong life with Wat
© Cuttaleeya Jiraprasertkun, Bangkok



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Baan, literally village, also a cluster of houses located in the same area

- refers to a community that includes **physical and social surroundings**
- illustrates a concept of the district of a group of people who have **something in common**
- portrays a concept of **unity** within the **community**
- illustrates a uniqueness that constitutes a **specific character of place**
- a sense of belonging and bonding to place (baan rao – our home)

Muang, comprises several Baans

- Baan contribute a fundamental concept in the constitution of Muang,
- both in structure and in character Muang denotes as much personal as spatial relationships.

Modernity:
character, state or
shape of the land



http://www.artble.com/imgs/d/5/c/924160/river_landscape.jpg



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Annibale Carracci „River Landscape“, 1590
(near Bologna, Italy).

Baroque style "idealized realism".

Landscape Painting, in Europe, since Renaissance times.

Concerned to capture the:

- character; a portrait of
- a “Land“ / „Pays“
- and it’s „scape“ / „age“

To be viewed and admired, including designed landscapes.



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<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/7/72/Poetonmountain.jpg>

Poet on a Mountain Top c. 1500, by Shen Zhou, tradition of blending of poetry and painting.

Alone in nature the figure seems to be looking out not over a chasm of rocks and clouds, but directly at the poem

Chinese:
character, state or
shape of the land

Landscape Painting, in China, since 10th century (and earlier)

Concerned to:

- convey the inner landscape of the artist's heart and mind,
- invite viewers to participate in the experience of a spiritual journey, to immerse one self,
- become one with nature (not descriptions of the visible world)



WHAT do people give value to in their surroundings?

People are, in the interpretation of their surroundings, subject to cultural (MITCHELL, 2000, 2005; Winchester et al. 2003) and institutional influences (GAILING & LEIBENATH, 2015). Our perceptions are socially and culturally contextualized, including memory (SHAMA 1996).

“Areas” are perceived as “surroundings”

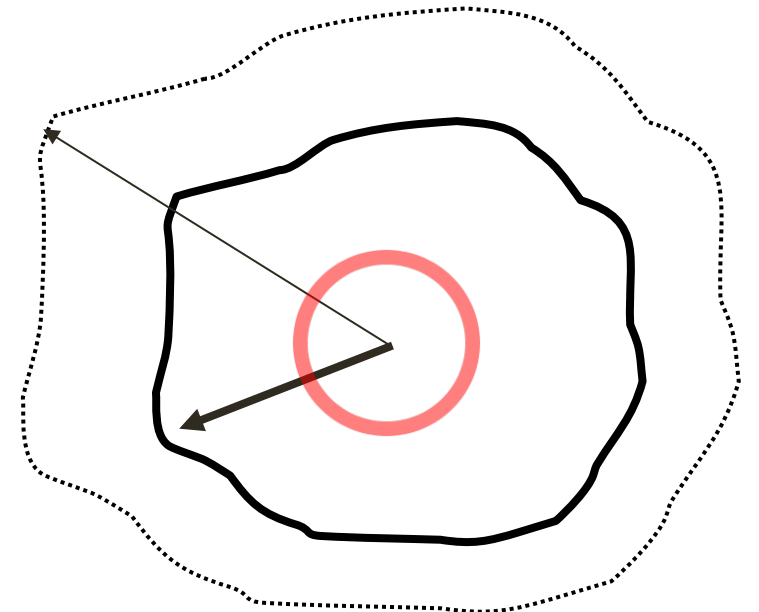


Caspar David Friedrich, „Wanderer über dem Nebelmeer“, 1818



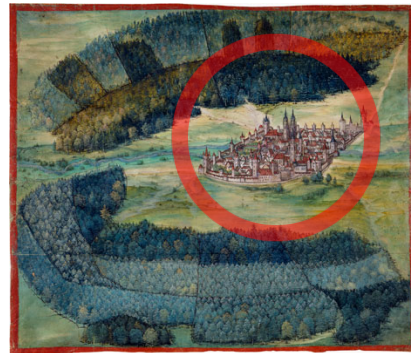
Poet on a Mountain Top c. 1500, by Shen Zhou,

We are the „Self“, centred in our „Mental Surroundings“.

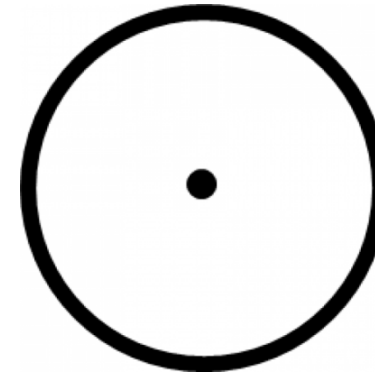


“Areas” are perceived as “surroundings”

http://master-architektur.ch/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/8_FS11_Birsstadt_Landschaftsraum_.jpg



Nurnberg, Germany



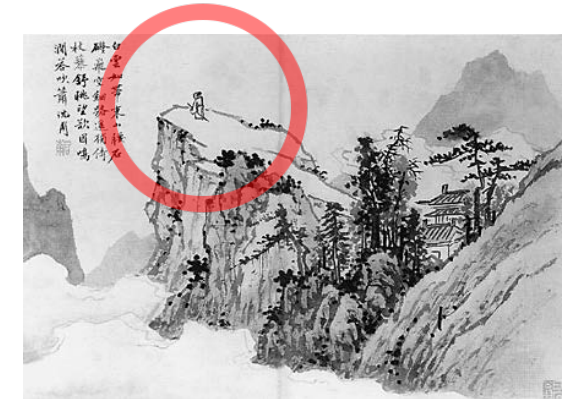
The “Circum Point” symbolizes centrality, such as sun and solar system, the “Self” in the world, city centre, etc.



Basel, Switzerland



Baroque style painting



Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)



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Selfie Assignment: „Symbolising my favourite place“

1st

Imagine, taking a 1 sec photograph, and then draw a 60 sec „Selfie Sketch“



2nd



3rd

Add two or three words expressing how this place symbolises „favourite“



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Selfie Sketches
grouped by symbols

Signifying “favourite”



A particular area may be one and the same physical thing, but it carries multiple meanings “that emanate from the values by which people define themselves” (GREIDER & GARKOVICH, 1994: 1, 10). While natural sciences are studying landscape generally as phenomena of physical materiality (positivist approach), social sciences conceive of landscapes as social concepts and, for the purpose of describing them, refer to human agency (GIDDENS, 1986), symbolic representation (COSGROVE and DANIELS, 1988; CRANG, M. (1998), and to all kinds of cultural and social practice (MITCHELL, 1994; KÜHNE, 2013; Winchester et al. 2003).



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Methods: learning about local landscape knowledge



- Digital Visualisation,
- Virtual Reality
- Social Media Analysis



- Observation, Social Practice
- Field Interviews
- Design Experiments



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Socially and culturally divers city area, high school class, teenagers

Example: Walking Interview

Evans, J., Jones, P., 2011. The walking interview: Methodology, mobility and place. Applied Geography, Volume 31, Issue 2, Pages 849–858



Example: Walking Interview Kassel-Rothenditmold „Intercultural REAL“ project



“A picture is worth a thousand words”



Visualizations and images of landscape have a long history. But they can also be used to generate transcultural knowledge that serves as basis for decision and policy making.

But who is in control of this?

- Pictures can empower people and enable them to voice their observations and opinions despite of language barriers or social marginalization
- They can help to use local knowledge and understand individual perceptions
- Pictures carry emotional and personal values that easily translate into political power, which has to be balanced equally for democratic decisions



“A picture is worth a thousand words”

Hou, J., 2005: Speaking Images: A Case Study of Photovoice Application in Community Design. Conference Paper

Wang, C. and M.A. Burris. 1997. Photovoice: Concept, Methodology, and Use for Participatory Needs Assessment. Health Education and Behavior, 24(3): 369-387.

“By giving the citizen the ability to produce images and represent their views [...] [visual research methods] provide the possibility to shift the power of representation and interpretation from the professionals to the citizens.”

Hou 2005: p.2

„The possibility of perceiving the world from the viewpoint of the people who lead lives that are different from those traditionally in control of the means for imaging the world.“

RUBY 1991:50, cited in WANG and BURRIS, 1997

New research methods for collecting and interpreting images are needed

New pathways for implementing results in planning and policy making should be established



Summary

This lecture aimed
to discuss

- nuanced understandings of landscape,
- that are based on **human-centred landscape concepts**
 - interaction of natural and/or human factors (ELC)
 - Dialectic concept of “General and special landscape knowledge”
 - “Constructivist landscape concepts”
- developed in relation to **pluralistic societies**:
 - diverse social groups exist (language, cultural history, collective memory, etc.)
 - within the confines of a common civilization
- in order to appreciate people’s **diverse landscape values**
 - members of socially diverse groups
 - maintain and develop their specific culture and/or interest
- and also disparities in access to landscape.



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