

Landscape Democracy and the making of a just city

A brief introduction to the intersections
of environmental design, political philosophy,
and civic engagement

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LD and the
**struggle for Human
Rights**



Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood”

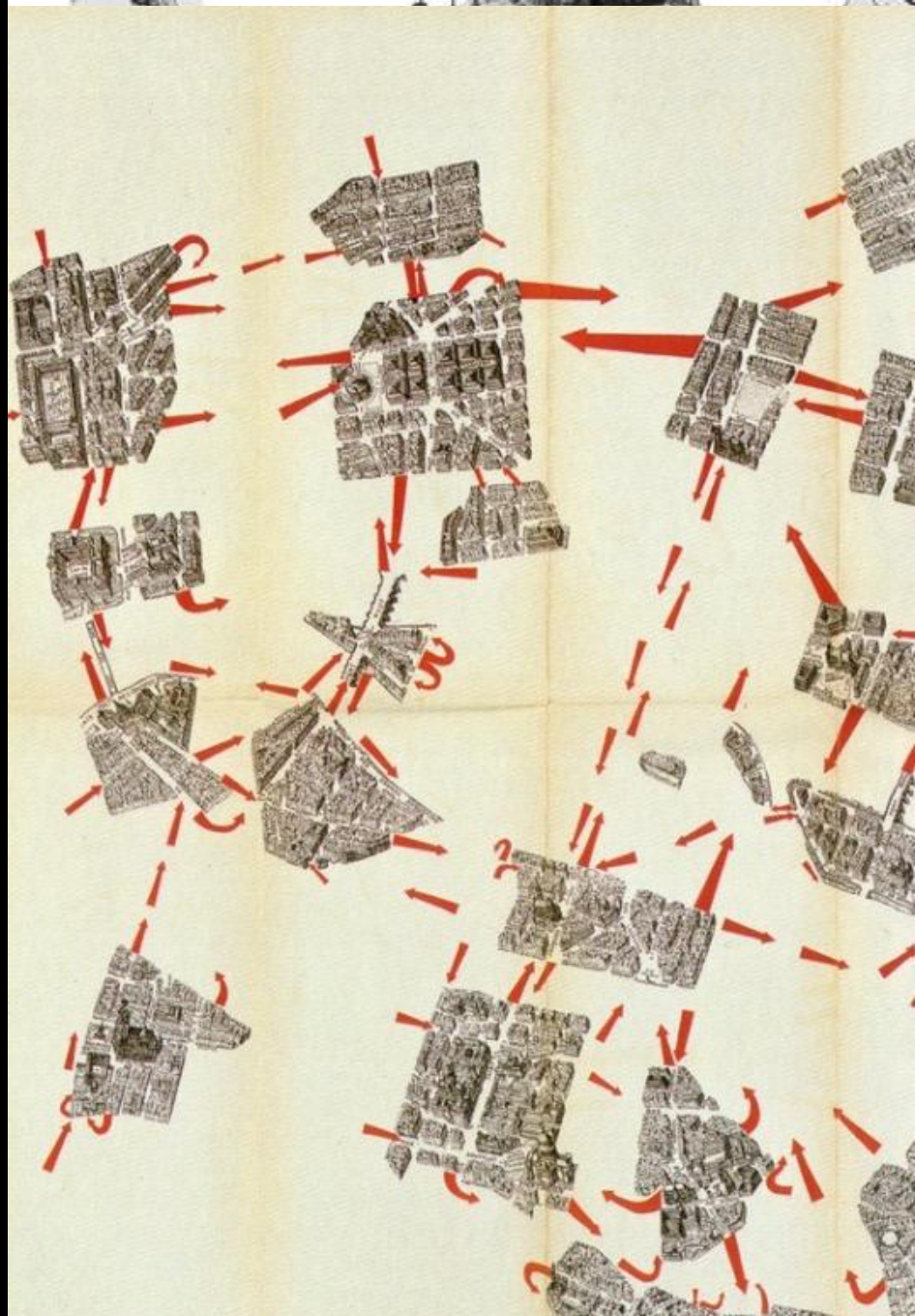
Article 1 of the 1948 UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Right to the city

- Henri Lefebvre (1968) "*Le Droit à la ville*"
- Recognizes an 'estrangement' of many people from the city
- A call to action to reclaim the city as a shared resource
- **"the right to change ourselves by changing the city more after our desires"**
- A never-ending struggle between conflicting visions of society



Georges-Eugène Haussmann's Paris (1853-1870).



Guy Debord (1957-1972) Psychogeographic Paris Map



Robert Moses



Jane Jacobs



Tahrir Square, Cairo, Egypt 2011/2020

Black Lives Matter Plaza (2020)

Democracy

A short poll on your
democracy experience

Democracy

noun

de·moc·ra·cy | di-'mä-krə-sē

Definition of *democracy*

1a: government by the people *especially*: rule of the majority

1b: a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections

2: a political unit that has a democratic government

3 *capitalized* : the principles and policies of the Democratic party in the U.S. from emancipation Republicanism to New Deal *Democracy*— C. M. Roberts

4: the common people *especially* when constituting the source of political authority

5: the absence of hereditary or arbitrary class distinctions or privileges

Democracy is an idea rooted in
free debate in public space

**The public landscape is the
spatial materialisation of
democracy**

It is a visual reminder of a
community's identities, values,
and ambitions



Democracy as reflected in the Greek Agora.



The Öxará River in Iceland intercepting the *Thingvellir* (assembly field).



The Allegory of Good and Bad Government by Ambrogio Lorenzetti (1338-1339)



Alexandre Dunouy painted Rousseau meditating in the Park of Rochemorin near Lyon in 1770.



The social contract guarantees equality and liberty as the superior social values.

ROUSSEAU
The Social Contract

Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1762) *Du contrat social; ou Principes du droit politique*



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

A DECLARATION

BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that the Reasons which impel them to the Separation should be stated in plain, simple, and unambiguous Terms, that the Truth may be so manifest, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

The Declaration of Independence - July 4, 1776



Reidar Aulie (1950) "The labor movement's history" Rådhus Oslo, Norway



According to the **"Rights of Nature"** doctrine, an ecosystem is entitled to legal personhood status and as such, has the right to defend itself in a court of law against harms, including environmental degradation caused by a specific development project or even by climate change.

Democracy

Representative Democracy

*Parties
Parliament
Regional and
local councils,
the core of
policy*

Direct Democracy

*Referendums,
local Measures
to complement
representative
democracy*

Deliberative Democracy

*Future
Councils
Participatory
processes*

Participation

Responsibility and engagement of every citizen

Three columns model of contemporary democracy

Christian Felber (2010) *The economy of the common good*, 109

representative democracy

Source: pixabay

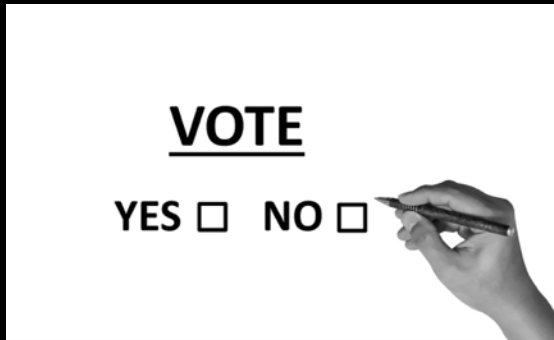


Representative democracy

Citizens delegate decisions for a defined period of time to representatives. Representation at the national, state/region/province, and local levels.

Advantages?	Disadvantages?

direct democracy



Direct democracy

Citizens decide directly via referendums, propositions, and local ballot measures.

Mostly at the city level, but regional and national level

Advantages?	Disadvantages?

Deliberative democracy

Source: pixabay



Deliberative democracy

Decisions are made upon deliberation of all possible viewpoints

Decisions are made on the basis of debate and argumentation, not by vote.

This requires information, active listening, reflexive value construction

Advantages?	Disadvantages?

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Direct Democracy

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Democracy

A diagram illustrating the 'Three columns model of contemporary democracy'. At the top is a light blue triangle pointing downwards, containing the word 'Democracy' in bold black text. Below this triangle are two rectangular boxes. The left box is yellow and contains the text 'Representative Democracy' in bold, followed by 'Parties' in italics, and 'Parliamentary, State/regional and local councils, the core of policy-making' in italics. The right box is light blue and contains the text 'Responsibility and engagement of every citizen' in bold. The two boxes are positioned as if they are supporting the triangle above them.

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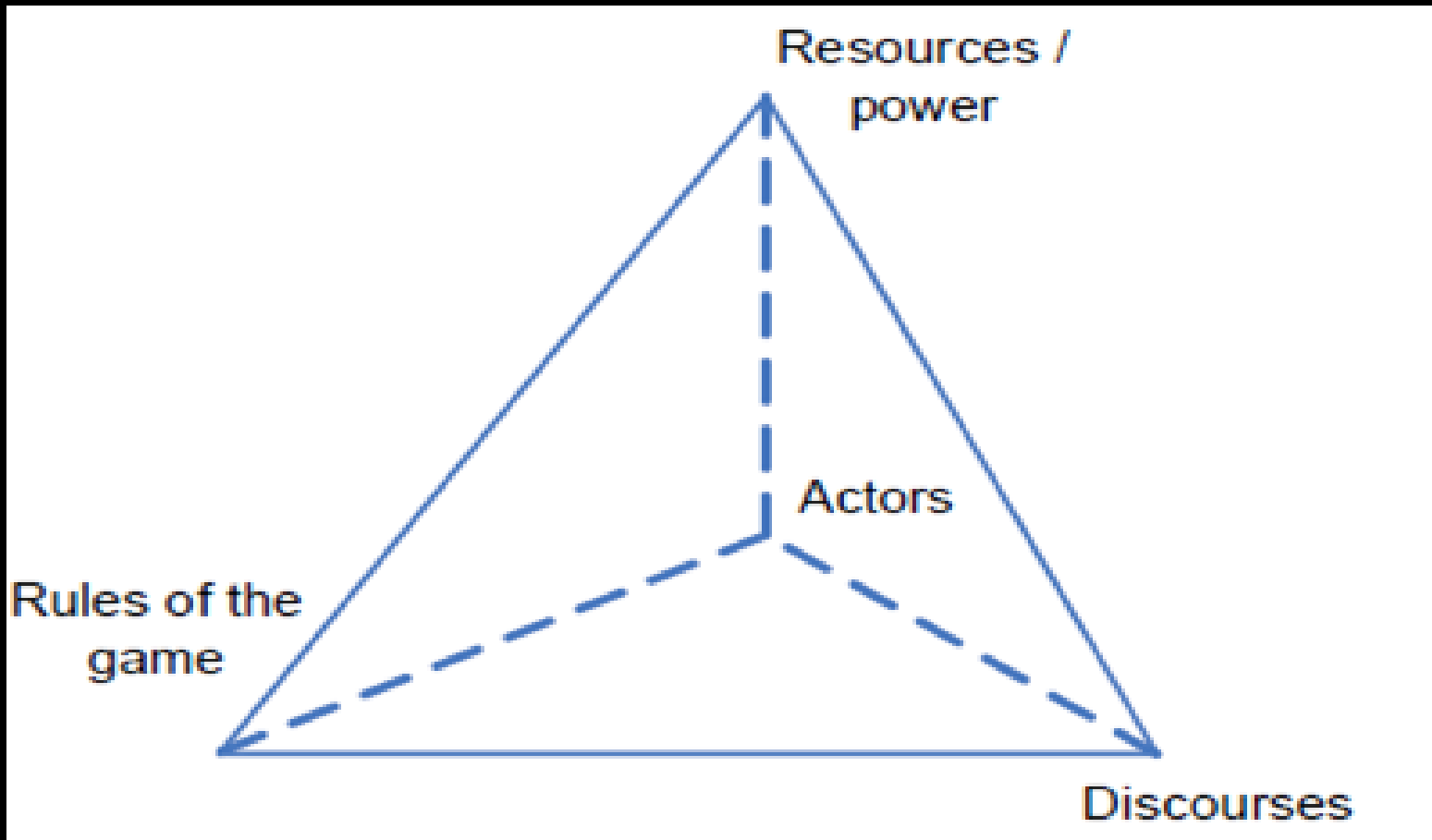
Participatory Democracy

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Landscape democracy as policy arrangement



Policy arrangement visualized as a tetrahedron from Duncan Liefferink (2006).

Landscape

A wide-angle photograph of a Dutch landscape. In the foreground, a paved path runs through a lush green field, bordered by a wooden fence. Two people are riding bicycles on the path. In the middle ground, a small town with a prominent church spire is visible. The sky is clear blue with some faint white lines.

LANDSHAFT / LANDSCHAP / LANDSKAP / LANDSCAPE

A dutch "landschap", originally defined as a self-reliant unit of civic life

Constitutional ideals of democracy,
human rights, equality and freedom
have a tangible spatial dimension in
the landscapes of our communities,
which are **activated** and rendered
operational through their collective
practices and experiences.



“Osmington Village,” oil on canvas by John Constable, 1816-17. Image courtesy Clark Art Institute/ Yale Center for British Art



André le Nôtre (late 1600s) the Gardens of Versailles, France



The Merced River flowing through Yosemite Valley



RED BARN
NATURAL GROCERY

ORGANIC SMOOTHIES
TEA & ESPRESSO

BUY LOCAL
PRODUCE
MEATS &...

ONE WAY
ALLEY

SANDWICHES - SOUPS - SALADS
ORGANIC FRUIT SMOOTHIES
ICE CREAM - COCONUT BLISS
ESPRESSO - KOMBUCHA ON TAP

ORGANIC
PRODUCE
SEAFOOD

Sacred Landscape in the Whitaker Neighborhood, Eugene, Oregon



Waterbirds in flight over a tidal wetland on the U.S. Pacific coast. (Public domain.)

tangible & intangible landscapes

- The landscape is both the physical entity and the values, meanings, and stories people have imbued it with
- Landscape meaning is **socially constructed**
- Landscape is also the everyday practices and rituals that revolve around the landscape
 - **Democratic, participatory practices?**



"...people from different walks of life encounter one another and so acquire enough of a sense of a shared life that we can meaningfully think of one another as **citizens in a common venture**"

2017-09-02 19:11

Michael Sandel, Political Philosopher, Harvard University (2009)

The initiator: Council of Europe

Council of Europe (CoE)

- Strasbourg, France
- an inter-governmental organization founded in 1949
- 47 member states

Council of Europe objectives

to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law and to seek common solutions to the many problems facing European society today.

European Landscape Convention

- Adopted in Florence (Italy) on October 20, 2000
- came into force March 1, 2004
- to date (Jan 2021) ratified by 40 countries
- Norway was the first country to ratify on 23 November 2001
- Germany?



Any government wishing to implement the principles of good governance needs to give due emphasis to landscape in its national and international policies

Maguelonne Déjant - Pons

Head of the Spatial Planning and Landscape Division

Council of Europe 2006





European Landscape Convention "Landscape"
definition:

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





"LANDSCAPE is a key element of individual and social well-being and ... its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone."

Preamble to the European Landscape Convention



stewardship



The

"Right-to-landscape"

LANDSCAPE

TANGIBLES

PHYSICAL ELEMENTS
& RESOURCES

INTANGIBLES

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC
& CULTURAL VALUES

THE RIGHT TO LANDSCAPE

RIGHTS THAT SUPPORT
EXISTENCE

RIGHTS THAT SUPPORT
DIGNITY

HUMAN RIGHTS



LANDSCAPE as CULTURAL REALM

HEALTH & PHYSICAL WELLBEING

clean air and water,
food security, nature in
cities, natural heritage

PSYCHOLOGICAL & SPIRITUAL WELLBEING

sacred sites, scenery, aesthetic
fulfillment, sense of belonging
and identity, cultural heritage

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC & POLITICAL WELLBEING

social justice, equal
livelihood opportunities,
freedom of expression

THE RIGHT TO LANDSCAPE

individuals, communities, nations, the
economically disadvantaged, the politically
powerless, indigenous people, the marginalized

**SAFEGUARDING NATURAL PROCESSES
SECURING ECOSYSTEM HEALTH**
terrestrial, marine, riparian, eco-diversity

**SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES**
soil, water, air, biodiversity

LANDSCAPE as NATURAL SETTING

Landscape
+
Democracy



“Defining Landscape Democracy” Conference June 2015, Oscarsborg, Norway

Egoz, S., Jørgensen, K., & Ruggeri, D. (Eds.). (2018). *Defining landscape democracy: A path to spatial justice*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

From R2L to Landscape Democracy

- **Landscape democracy** builds on the right to landscape to promote human/ecological health, well being and **empower personal/collective capabilities**
- **Landscape Democracy** as the ultimate goal/idealized condition
+
- **l**andscape **d**emocracy as practices of participation towards equality, inclusion, reparation

Landscape democracy is both the ambition, our common goal, and the making of it, the daily, collective practices of democratic life that in turn affect our values, ethics, and actions.

to be continued...

Readings session 2



Kühne, Olaf (2015): Landscape Concepts
in Kühne, Bruns et al: Landscape Culture - Culturing Landscapes

Hester, Randolph (2006): Design for Ecological Democracy

Egoz, Jørgensen & Ruggeri (2018)
Defining Landscape Democracy: A Path to Spatial Justice

Access and assignment template for April 20:

https://ledwiki.hfwu.de/index.php?title=LED_Online_Seminar_Assignments_2021



See you in our lounge

<https://app.wonder.me/?spaceId=6ec0bd7f-11c0-43da-975e-2a8a4ab80f10>

Ideally via Google Chrome or Edge