

Syllabus: Democratic Landscape Transformation

An open online course on landscape democracy and co-creative activation in community partnerships - part of OLA - the Open Landscape Academy

>>> [Seminar wiki page](#)

>>> [Seminar Recordings and Slides](#)

Mission and goals

Democratic Landscape Transformation is a semester-long international online seminar presented by a team of practitioners from universities and NGOs across Europe and the U.S. with presentations, discussions, and multimedia resources from around the world.

It is one of three components of the Open Landscape Academy, a participatory action research project on landscape democracy. The other two parts of OLA are:

- Intensive summer onsite workshops that test what you learned in the seminar
- Local Living Labs at several European sites where ideas, experiences and methods are tested, assessed, re-interpreted, and documented

The question driving the project is how we co-create a model for democratic landscape transformations -- grounded in theory, practices of landscape democracy and participation. Landscape democracy is an emergent aspect of our profession at the intersection of landscape and human rights. The OLA's biggest goal is to prototype a model that engages academic and local knowledge, professionalism and creativity, giving privilege to the perspectives of the historically underserved communities who have not had access to landscape democracy. We seek to think truly globally and apply local solutions.

The course is open to all but designed for students of the planning professions who want the tools and skills for how to create a more democratic, equitable, just, and sustainable world.

OLA Partners:

LE:NOTRE Institute, Netherlands

University of Bologna, Italy

University of Maryland, USA

Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Umwelt Nürtingen-Geislingen, Germany (coordinating institution)

Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Kulturaktiv, Hungary

Fondazione Flaminia, Italy

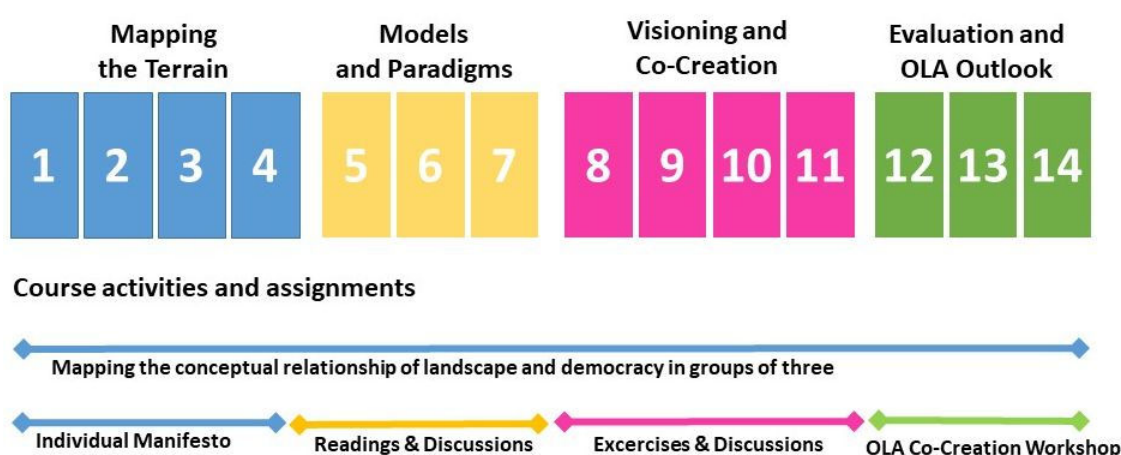
Commonspace, Greece

Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (MATE), Hungary

Agricultural University of Athens, Greece

Schedule

Our seminar group meets weekly from April 5 to July 5, 2023 at 18 pm CEST. Sessions are 90 minutes long and take place via zoom. Participants get introduced to theories and concepts related to democratic landscape transformation and develop their own conceptual understanding in small intercultural teams. Most sessions include interactive exercises so that theories and methods can be applied and reflected. The semester is divided into separate phases, each led by a different faculty team. For those who complete the seminar, the 2023 onsite programme will take place in Ravenna, Italy, from July 24 to August 1, 2023.



Overview of course sessions and activities over the summer term. The seminar meets weekly at 18 pm on Wednesdays starting on April 5 and ending on July 5, 2023.

Unit 1: Mapping the terrain

Instructors: Dr. Ellen Fetzner, Dr. Deni Ruggeri, Dr. Kristin Faurest

This unit will introduce you to some basic concept of democratic landscape transformation, explore different models of democracy and participation, and challenge you to create a map and a manifesto for democratic landscape transformation.

Pre-seminar assignment: Landscape democracy challenge

All participants are invited to share a landscape democracy challenge from their own local context on the seminar's global landscape democracy Padlet map. You can share an image, a drawing or a video, localize it on the map, and add a few sentences about which sustainability values and goals are at stake or if there are aspects of spatial justice that you want to address.

You can find the Padlet map [here](#): Please add your challenge before the seminar starts, Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

Meeting 1, 05.04.2023: Introduction to democratic landscape transformation**Lecture:** Introduction**Activity:** Review and discuss the Landscape Democracy Challenge Padlet map**Assignment:** Building your conceptual understanding of democratic landscape transformation. This is a cross-cutting, two-part assignment.

- Part 1: Landscape manifesto. In your manifesto, you will express your very personal and individual beliefs and understanding of landscape democracy. You can use any medium you like. Your manifesto should include visual evidence (photography, graphics, etc) of landscape democracy challenges in your context and/or home country. You are encouraged to refer to your everyday environment. **Due date: 26.04.23.**
- Part 2: Working in transnational trios, express your personal understanding of the relation of landscape and democracy in the form of a concept map with linking words or any other diagrammatic representation. Please make your maps very visual and not just verbal. Think critically about why one map differs from another. **Due date: 05.07.23 (last session of seminar).**

For more information please also visit [the seminar wiki](#).

Meeting 2, 12.04.2023: Introduction to democracy, landscape and its conceptual relations**Lecture:** Landscape Democracy and the Making of a Just City**Activity:** Discussion of lecture, questions or comments about assignments**Assignment for next time:** Continue working on manifestos and maps**Meeting 3, 19.04.2023:** Introduction to participation and its role in planning and design**Lecture:** How Can Game-Based Participation Enhance Neighborhood Development?**Activity:** Role-playing exercise for building empathy and understanding others' perspectives**Assignment for next time:** Final preparations for presenting your manifesto**Meeting 4, 26.04.2023: Sharing Your Own Landscape Democracy Story****Lecture:** None**Activity:** Discussion in small teams on Landscape Democracy Manifestos

You will be divided into breakout rooms and present your landscape democracy manifestos to one another. Show your manifesto and explain its origins. When the small group activity is finished, we will regroup and each group will present its most important findings.

Key readings for this unit:

- Faurest, Kristin. ["Listening to Nature - and Each Other"](#)
- Schneidewind, Uwe et al (2016): [Pledge for a Transformative Science](#)
- Council of Europe (2000): [The European Landscape Convention](#)
- Editors Shelley Egoz, Karsten Jørgensen, Deni Ruggeri (2018): [Defining Landscape Democracy](#) (first three chapters)
- LED Team (2019): [Landscape Education for Democracy](#) (Chapters 1-3, InBo)
- Kühne, Olaf (2015): [Landscape Concepts](#)

Unit 2: Entering the Process: A reflection on our role and agency

Instructors: Andrea Conti, Lia Marchi, Angeliki Paraskevopoulou, Arati Uttur

This unit will engage the students with a critical reflection on our role and agency, both as designers/process facilitators and citizens. While questioning our practice through the description of different approaches, the students will face round table discussion on the impact of perspective and individual values, and the limits of their technical expertise.

Meeting 5, 03.05.2023: Discussing different approaches to design by diverse practitioners/individuals

Plenary: 15 - 20 min: Introduction to the Role-play Assignment, with time for questions and clarifications. Assignment due on 17.05.23

Plenary Activity: 30-45 min :

First 20 mins: Introduction to activism through a short video, followed by more examples of types of activism in general.

Next 10-20 mins: Open plenary discussion on what the participants think about activism, how they relate to activism and what they think about the video and activism examples shown just before this discussion. Answering key questions like - Is activism democracy? what you keep in the process, what you leave behind?

Breakout Room Activity 15 mins

Further discussion in breakout rooms about activism, with the relation to readings that talk about activism

Plenary 15 mins: recap from the breakout rooms, explanation of the assignment for the next session.

Individual assignment for next time: 5 mins for each participant

Each participant will talk about an inspiring example of activism from their home country. The talk should be supported by images or references if available. If images and references are not available, the example should be well explained through a location map and the surrounding context.

Meeting 6, 10.05.2023: Reflecting on combining diverse instances and taking a democratic position

45 mins Breakout room presentations:

Presentation from each participant in breakout sessions (5mins each participant):

Inspiring example of activism from your home country

Plenary lecture followed by short open discussion 45mins (30+10):

30 mins Lecture:

How and when does a landscape architect or a designer become an agent of change?



How do activism and agency lead back to design?

Examples of when action was taken - does it take a tragic or negative event to activate the required change?

10 mins open plenary to exchange thoughts on agency and activism from a design perspective.

Meeting 7, 17.05.2023:

Breakout Room presentations 1 hour:

Role play assignment presented by working groups

Plenary discussion 30 mins:

What are your values? What do you care about? HOPE as a value

Different trends of landscape design over time that happened as response to change an existing problem

Field notes on design activism from the online journal PLACES

Open discussion on thoughts about design, agency activism and the role of the designer as an agent of change or activist or both and more.

Required readings for this unit:

- Rebecca Solnit, Hope in the Dark. Chapt. Grounds for hope.
- Jeff Hou, Deni Ruggeri, Kofi Boone, et al: (2020). Design as Activism: A Framework for Actions in Landscape Architecture Education. Retrieved from <https://designactivism.be.uw.edu/framework/>, pages 12-15, 29-37 and 56-68.
- American Society of Landscape Architects The Dirt blog on [activism in landscape architecture](#)
- List of movers and shakers for roleplay engaging with the landscape democracy challenges is [here](#) at the bottom of the page
- Podcast on how Dutch bicycling culture is the democratic result of citizen activism is [here](#)
- <https://placesjournal.org/article/field-notes-on-design-activism-1/?cn-reloaded=1>
- <https://frameworks.ced.berkeley.edu/2005/design-activism-for-whom/>
- <https://designactivism.be.uw.edu/framework/chapter-1/>
- Superblocks, Barcelona (Oriol Bohigas, Ildefons Cerdà)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kmlUjHL0zs>
<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/how-barcelonas-superblock-model-can-create-more-spaces-ahmad-helmi>
- Urban forests, Miyawaki method
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5jtq2q1qnU&ab_channel=Design-Essentialz
<https://urban-forests.com/en/>



- Vertical Garden, Patrick Blanc

<https://www.verticalgardenpatrickblanc.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=negbAr11JVA>

- Marjory Allen, Lady Allen of Hurtwood, adventure playgrounds

<https://files.websitebuilder.prositehosting.co.uk/d6/7b/d67bcd0-d557-4b4b-8448-da5780fb65b1.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pqMXpIAI9Y>

- Dimitris Pikionis, Greek Architect (Acropolis and the Hill of Philopappou)

http://www.eikastikon.gr/arxitektoniki/pikionis/en_txt_self_topography.html

<https://youtu.be/uelgarqjEvE>

Unit 3: Visioning and co-creation

Instructors: Zsófia Földi, István Valánszki, Eszter Tóth, Anna Szilágyi-Nagy

Meeting 8, 24.05.23

Lecture: Mapping the community and joint analyses of the site

Activity: Cartography of Social Perception ("Emotional Mapping") - about your childhood (sketching and interpretation)

Assignment for next time: none

Meeting 9, 31.05.23

Lecture: Planning with a community - Collaborative visioning and idea generation

Activity: Thought experiment on applying a method presented during the lecture in a given situation. Sharing: risks, benefits, how to manage expectations and what happens when aspirations are left out?

Assignment for next time: none

Meeting 10, 07.06.23

Lecture: Earth Forum - From personal to collective changes

Activity: We will have a joint three steps dialogue with 1. ourselves, 2. the group and 3. the earth to cultivate a new idea of future thinking. The methodology is based on the "Earth Forum" methodology of Shelley Sacks and further developed by Luigi Bartolomei, Karl Michael Drohsel and Sonja Hörster.

Assignment for next time: To reflect about, how the knowledge and the awareness about your personal ideas of the future shape or support the general or collective idea of the future.

Meeting 11, 14.06.23

Lecture: Prototyping as engagement and collaborative implementation.

Activity: After introducing the act of making with people in the different phases of design, the definition of prototypes follows. After studying low fidelity and high fidelity prototypes, we reconstruct various prototyping events. We finish the lecture with the topic of collaborative implementation providing examples on different spatial scales.

Assignment for next time: none

Required readings for this unit:

- Gaete Cruz, Macarena; Ersoy, Aksel; Czischke, Darinka & van Bueren, Ellen (2022) Towards a framework for urban landscape co-design: Linking the participation ladder and the design cycle, CoDesign, DOI: 10.1080/15710882.2022.2123928. Link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/citedby/10.1080/15710882.2022.2123928?scroll=top&needAccess=true&role=tab>
- Sanders, Elizabeth B.-N. & Stappers, Pieter Jan (2008) Co-creation and the new landscapes of design, CoDesign, 4:1, 5-18, DOI: 10.1080/15710880701875068. Link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15710880701875068>
- Sanders, Elizabeth B.-N. & Stappers, Pieter Jan (2014) Probes, toolkits and prototypes: three approaches to making in codesigning, CoDesign: International Journal of CoCreation in Design and the Arts, 10:1, 5-14, DOI: 10.1080/15710882.2014.888183. Link:



https://www.researchgate.net/publication/262851486_Probes_toolkits_and_prototypes_Three_approaches_to_making_in_codesigning

- Krebs, Roland; Mayr, Stefan (EDs.) (2023): Future Public Spaces. Urban Design in Times of Crisis. Berlin, Jovis.
- Szilágyi-Nagy, Anna; Mihály, Regina (2019) With children in all spaces. Online and offline community planning with young people. Tips and methodology for transforming young people's outdoor spaces for teachers and designers. Pécs, kultúrAktív Egyesület. ISBN 978-615-6382-01-6. Read online: https://kulturaktiv.hu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/211014_With-children-in-all-spaces_online.pdf
- McCann, Eugene J. (2001): Collaborative Visioning or Urban Planning as Therapy? The Politics of Public-Private Policy Making, The Professional Geographer, 53:2, 207-218, DOI: 10.1111/0033-0124.00280. Download here: <http://www.sfu.ca/~emccann/Professional%20Geographer%20Visioning.pdf>
- Hofmann, Susanne (2019): Architecture Is Participation. Die Baupiloten—Methods and Projects. Berlin, Jovis. Read online: https://issuu.com/detail-magazine/docs/architecture_is_participation
- Delbecq, Andre L.; Van de Ven, Andrew H. & Gustafson, David (1975): Group Techniques for Program Planning. A guide to nominal group and Delphi processes. Glenview IL, Scott Foresman and Company. ISBN 0-673-07591-5
- Deip, P., Thesen, A., Motiwalla, J., & Seshardi, N. (1977): Systems tools for project planning. Bloomington, Indiana: International Development Institute. Read online: https://www.aucd.org/docs/urc/Leadership_Institute/Subsequent%20Leadership%20Institute%20Materials/Nominal%20Group%20Technique.pdf

Unit 4: Evaluation and Outlook

Instructors: Jeroen de Vries, Ellen Fetzer

Meeting 12: 21.06.23

Lecture: collaborative evaluation of landscape democracy processes

Recap third phase with Anna et al,

Jeroen de Vries: an introduction on collaborative monitoring and evaluation of landscape democracy processes and projects (reflection on the process during the OLA-seminar).

Activity: all collecting two examples of main lessons learnt (in padlet or mural.co)

Assignment: completing the concept map

Meeting 13: 28.06.23 NB starts at 17h00.

Lecture: Landscape Forum keynote lecture and presentation of the prize winners

No additional assignment.

Meeting 14: 05.07.2023

Lecture: short introduction, looking back and future outlook.

Activity: Co-creation workshop on the future of the Open Landscape Academy with all participants.

Core questions:

- Which values do you want to see incorporated in the Open Landscape Academy?
- What do you want to experience in the Open Landscape Academy?
- What can you contribute to the Open Landscape Academy?
- How could your community link to it?

Required readings monitoring and evaluation

Landscape Democracy Tool Box; especially LD tool

https://ilias.hfwu.de/goto.php?target=file_27129_download&client_id=hfwu

Campilan, D., 2000. Participatory Evaluation of Participatory Research. Paper presented at the Forum on Evaluation of International Cooperation Projects: Centering on Development of Human Resources in the Field of Agriculture held on 6-7 December 2000 at the International Cooperation Center for Agricultural Education (ICCAE) of Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan.

Websites

https://www.betterevaluation.org/en/plan/approach/participatory_evaluation

https://www.publicconsultinggroup.com/media/1272/pcg_collaborative_evaluation.pdf

<https://www.betterevaluation.org/en/plan/approach/cort>