

European chapter of the International Association for Landscape Ecology



IALE-Europe was founded in 2009 during the European Congress of Salzburg. IALE-Europe has been created to represent consistently the common landscape ecology approach at the European scale. The goals of IALE-Europe are:

- To harbour all the individual members from regions or countries in Europe where there is no active national chapter, allowing their approaches and the landscapes they are working with, to be represented at a relevant scale.
- To collaborate actively with the existing and active national chapters to join efforts for the promotion of activities particularly relevant for European landscapes.
- To collaborate actively with the IALE International in order to strengthen the impact of the landscape ecology research, education and practice, partially by supporting the recognition of the existing differentiation of landscapes and perspectives worldwide.
- To contribute actively to the knowledge in society about the complex natural and cultural interactions of European landscapes; the added value of the landscape ecology integrative perspective; and the need for a much more systemic research approach. We aim do this through the permanent and open dialogue with European institutions and decision-makers.

Read more: Antrop, M., Brandt, J., Loupa-Ramos, I., Padoa-Schioppa, E., Porter, J., Van Eetvelde, V., Pinto-Correia, T., 2013.

How landscape ecology can promote the development of sustainable landscapes in Europe – The role of the European Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE Europe) in the 21st century. Landscape Ecology, 28, 1641-1647

© Antrop, M., Christensen, A.A., Loupa-Ramos, I., Van Eetvelde, V. (2019) 10 key messages of landscape ecology. IALE-Europe.

From pattern and process to people and action



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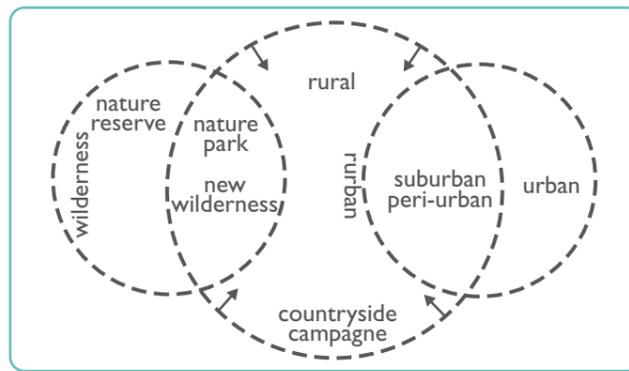
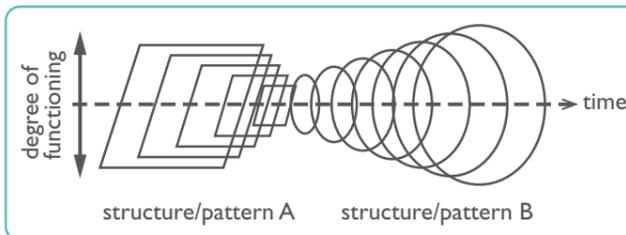
Landscape < > Land

The concept of landscape is broader than the concept land. A land area is a subsection of the planetary surface, delineated by people depending on its use and qualities. Landscapes consist of many land units, which form a functional whole, that is perceived and appreciated by people in different ways. Landscapes have physical and economic utilities as well as intangible values relating to heritage, history, identity and rights. Landscape is a common good for all. The unique history and character of different landscapes express the identity of local communities.



Landscapes change, naturally!

Landscapes are processual and change over time. The pattern of a landscape and the processes that created it, are linked in endless feedback loops. Current landscape patterns are the outcome of processes of the past, which structure processes of the future maintaining existing patterns or forming new ones. What is not functional anymore will gradually vanish and be replaced by new spatial structures, or will continue to exist as relics of the past.

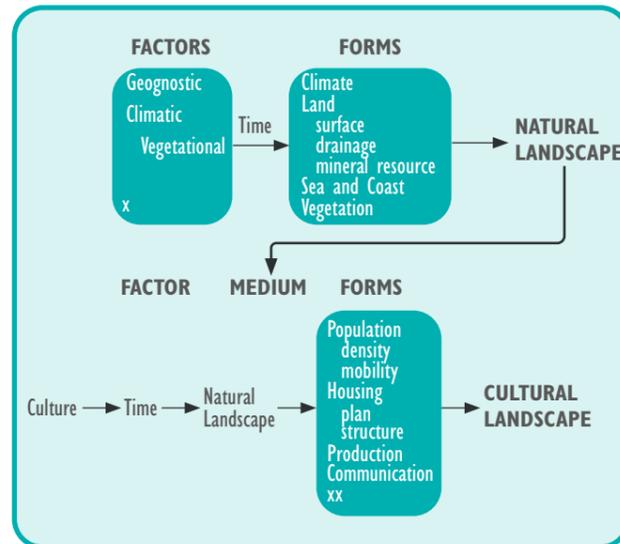


ALL is landscape

According to the European Landscape Convention, all is landscape. It includes "the entire territory and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes." (art.2)

Bridging nature and culture

The natural environment embeds human activities and land use that contribute to its development through time. Cultural landscapes are the result of long term processes of interaction between human culture and natural factors of the environment. All human societies depend on landscape for their existence.



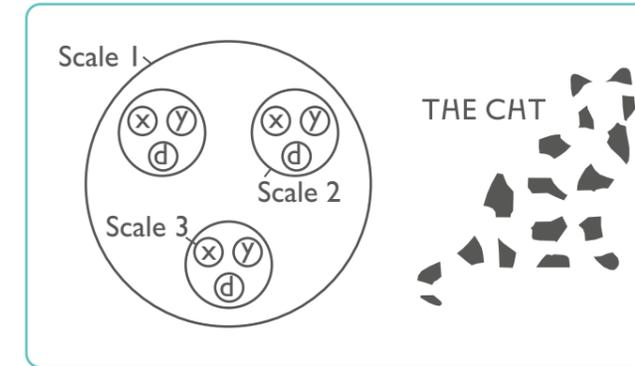
Layers of interaction

Humans interact with the physical, material landscape in different ways according to their goals, knowledge, perception and interpretation.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Landscapes of the mind (mindscapes) | the emotional landscape <i>landscape is what you believe</i> | ← the layer of interpretation |
| | the visual landscape <i>landscape is what you see</i> | ← the layer of perception |
| | the factual landscape <i>landscape is what you know</i> | ← the layer of knowledge |
| The physical, material landscape | the human-made landscape <i>landscape is what you make</i> | ← the layer of intervention |

Landscape is holistic and is seen as a Gestalt

The functionality of a whole landscape system is more than the sum of its composing parts. Each element attains its significance and functionality from its spatial context. Landscape is a hierarchically structured ensemble of open systems embedded at different scale levels. A landscape is characterised by the composition of its different elements and their spatial configuration.



Landscape is a common field of action

Different stakeholders have different perspectives on the landscape, depend on it in different ways, and have varied but equally relevant aspirations. Landscape is the common action field of human societies, enabling the integration of resources, rights, expectations, preferences, research and decisions.



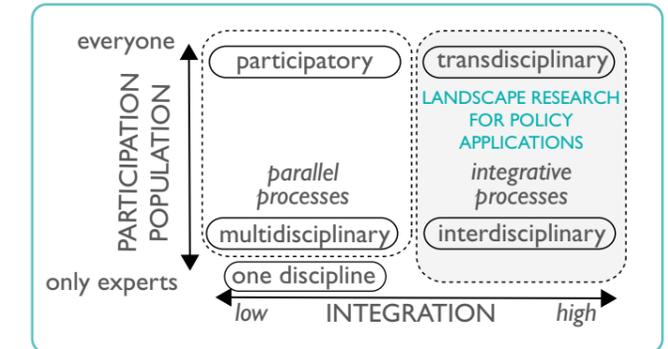
Landscape diversity and complexity

The qualities of a landscape depend on both the characteristics of its composing elements AND their spatial pattern.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B |
| | | B | A | C | D | C | A |

Transdisciplinary approaches are needed

Landscape research is an umbrella covering and combining a large number of disciplines and fields of policy, including their practical application. The studies and management of landscape demands an integrated perspective. Successful integration of multiple perspectives ensures sustainable outcomes.



Landscapes are layered

A landscape is a complex holistic spatial system. To facilitate easy understanding and analysis, landscapes are modelled as:
o superimposed thematic layers
o geometrical elements such as points, lines, areas and surfaces. Depending on the goals of the analysis, the landscape can be modelled in a variety of ways.

