THE PLACE WISDOM WORKING GROUP

The Group aims to establish a repository of multi-media, ethnographically-inflected records relating to understandings of place that contest conventional divisions between culture and nature. Members of ‘Place Wisdom’ have been working on themes “Waterscapes”, “Scales of Home in Today’s Europe”, “Sacred Places/Routes”, and as an upcoming theme “Forestscape”.

The research agenda of the working group is situated at the interface of human ecology, geography, anthropology, art, archaeology, performance studies, literature, linguistics, futures research and philosophy.

“WATERSCAPES”

A defining characteristic of a ‘waterscape’ – in contrast to a ‘landscape’ – perspective is the absence of any firm, stable vantage point for the narrative. The aim is better to understand fluctuating developments by looking at them quasi “from the inside” through a range of local lenses.

For current PhD projects, see for example:
http://irc.hw.ac.uk/research/jws2015.html
http://irc.hw.ac.uk/research/sgsah-archs.html

MEMBERS AND BACKGROUND

Currently the Place Wisdom Working Group has 50 members who comes from multiple universities from different parts of Europe.

The Place Wisdom Working Group was founded in 2008 by colleagues associated with the Academy for Irish Cultural Heritages (University of Ulster), the Ethnological Research Unit (UWE Bristol), and the Centre for Human Ecology (University of Strathclyde).

“SCALES OF HOME IN TODAY’S EUROPE”

This research project concentrates on how scales of home are imagined and socially constructed in Europe since the 1990s.

For further information, please visit our website:
www.scalesofhome.eu

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS (SELECTION)

• SIEF 2019: Panel “Cuteness: forms, politics, transformations, WG members Nourit Melcer Padon (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) and Zuzanna Bulat Silva (University of Wroclaw) as convenors
• SIEF2019: Panel “Traces of Tourism: global changes, local impacts? From sustainability to resilience, WG member Helena Ruotsala one of convenors.
• International Symposium “Challenging Comfort as an Idea(s) in Contemporary Literature and Culture” at the University of Koblenz-Landau, Campus Landau, 8. Dec. 2018, WP members Dorothee Birke and Stella Butter as conference organisers.
• Research project “Living with the Baltic Sea in a changing climate: Environmental heritage and the circulation of knowledge”, Tiina and Antti Herlin Foundation (2018-2019) and The Academy of Finland (2018-2022), WP member Jaana Kouri as postdoc researcher, led by Associate Professor Nina Tynkkynen, Åbo Akademi University, Finland.
• Research Proposal “COASTER – Cultural heritage of European coastal and maritime regions”, European Commission H2020, WG members Prof. Ulrich Kochel (Heriott-Watt University, Edinburgh) as PI and Adj. Prof. Katriina Siivonen (University of Turku) as WP Leader, work to be continued (first proposal on the reserve list, rejected 22. Jan. 2019)

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

We are very keen for this Working Group to develop an active research programme, and to engage with research users outside academia. To this end we encourage collaborative international research projects with the potential to attract significant financial support, and have already initiated a number of bids to different research funding bodies.

PUBLICATIONS (SELECTION)


Chairs: Katriina Siivonen, katriina.siivonen@utu.fi and Stella Butter, butter@uni-landau.de
Meeting Monday 15th April 13:00-15:00
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (main venue), Aula 22