

WE AIM TO DEVELOP UNDERSTANDING OF PLACES

Our focus is on places that contest conventional divisions between culture and nature – in particular, understandings based on ecological beliefs and practices, and the traditions that these draw inspiration from. We promote and support ways of working that explore, examine, and analyse the relationships of human and non-human constituents of place, and seek out possibilities for sustainable, future-oriented human agency.

We are interested in supporting and developing projects examining 'tradition' as a process of intergenerational, interregional, and intercultural transfer of knowledge, skills and values; that look at the creative potential of living traditions in their socio-ecological contexts, and at the role of the ethnologist in the tradition process.

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE(S)

The working group is interested in approaches that both explore the cultural meanings of past, present, and future(s) of places in various forms, and the constant change that occurs in places.



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THE FOUNDATION OF THE PLACE WISDOM

The Place Wisdom Working Group was founded 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).

Currently the Place Wisdom Working Group has 25+ active members who come from multiple universities from different parts of Europe. Warmly welcome to our working group!



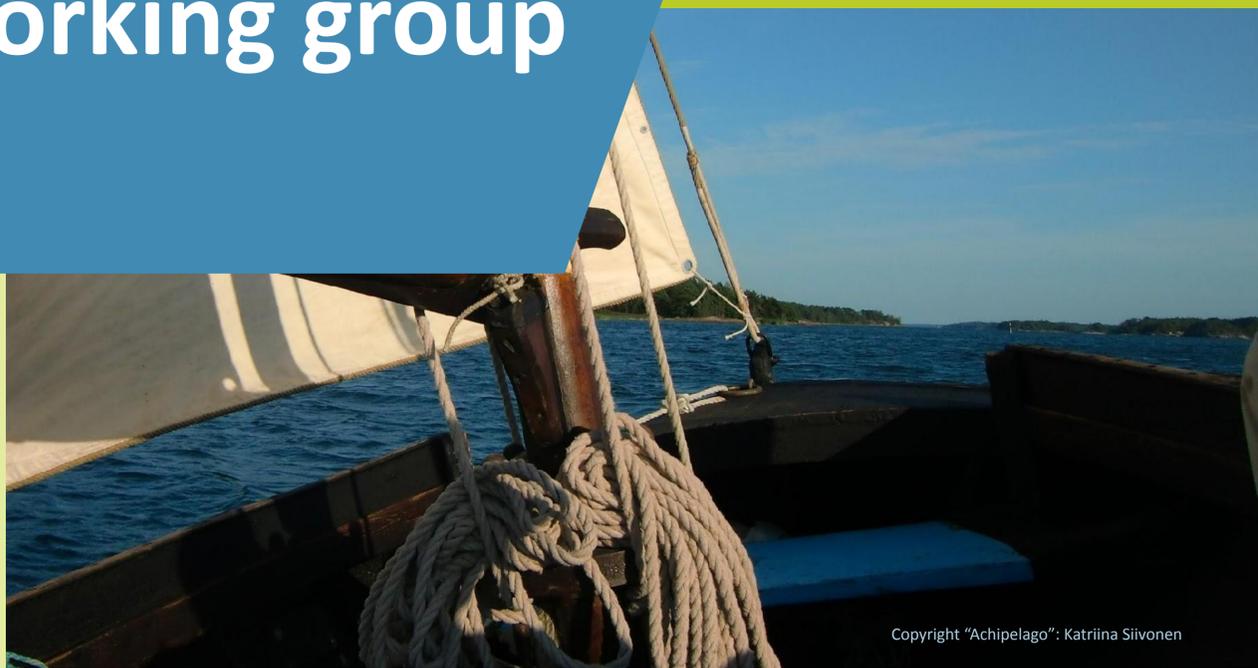
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THE PLACE WISDOM working group

SIEF



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RESEARCH PROJECTS/ ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

CHRYSES: Mapping Environmental Health Crises – Public Understanding through Myths and Science (2025-2026) will provide an interdisciplinary approach to mapping environmental health crises by unifying the perspectives of myths and science using the versatile representation medium of maps to foster public understanding of such crises. The project joins leading institutions across Finland (Aalto University), Estonia (Estonian Literary Museum), the UK (UCL and University of Edinburgh), and Ireland (University College Cork) and through cross-cultural analysis, creative workshops, and an immersive digital exhibition, it will explore the intersections of folklore, geography, health, and visual design. CHRYSES opens new ground for thinking with narratives from the past, and creating more inclusive, culturally attuned ways of understanding new challenges. <https://chryses.aalto.fi/> (WG Member M. Kõeva.)

Multilocal living style and cultural ecosystem (related to the project EKM 8-2/20/3). The purpose of the study in Estonia is to create a more detailed understanding of the diverse relationships in the house-garden-plants-animal complex and provide a conceptual framework that will help understand trends and processes in the world around us. It focuses on parks, gardens, forests, and bodies of water; bogs (cover about 7% of the land) as the multipurpose places. (WG Member M. Kõeva.)

The "SISU" consortium consists of research teams from the University of Eastern Finland, Demos Helsinki, LUT University, University of Turku and XAMK South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences. Museums co-create sufficiency solutions for people, culture and society by using Heritage Futures Workshops. <https://sisu-stn.fi/en/>. (WG Member K. Siivonen.)

Planetary Health Network. DFG-Funded research network. (WG Member A. Dippel.)

CO-CHAIRS 2023-2025

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LATEST PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

Dippel, Anne & Warnke, Martin 2024. *The Depths of Illusion. Knowing Reality Through Computer Simulation.* Translated by Steven Corcoran. Bielefeld.

Dippel, Anne & Thomas, Renny 2024. Conjugated Universalities in/of Sciences: Ethnographic Engagements. Special Issue: Universality in Pieces. In: ZfEJSCA - Zeitschrift für Ethnologie/Journal for Social and Cultural Anthropology 150 (2): 147–154.

Koskinen-Koivisto, Eerika, Äikäs, Tiina & Latvala-Harvilahti, Pauliina 2024: Introduction: Connecting with ambivalent heritage: Creative uses of postindustrial spaces. Äikäs, Tiina & Matila, Tuuli (Eds.) *Connecting with Ambivalent Heritage: Creative Uses of Postindustrial Spaces.* Bloomsbury. Critical Cultural Heritage Series.

Laurén, Kirsi & Seppä, Tiina & Venäläinen, Juhana 2025. Capturing the Invisible: The Digital Aestheticization of Mires. *Svetovi / Worlds*, 3(1), 75–94. <https://doi.org/10.4312/svetovi.3.1.75-94>

Laurén, Kirsi & Kaukio, Virpi & Latvala-Harvilahti, Pauliina (eds) 2023. Special number: Cultural heritage of mires today. *Folklore – Electronic Journal of Folklore* 89. <https://www.folklore.ee/folklore/vol89/index.html>

Siivonen, Katriina & Cantell, Hannele & Ihanainen-Rokio, Outi & Kurenlahti, Mikko & Laakso, Senja & Latvala-Harvilahti, Pauliina & Pietikäinen, Jaana & Salonen, Arto O. 2024. [A chapter] The means of achieving sustainability transformation. In Halonen et al. (Eds.) *The Avenues to Sustainability. Key Lessons from Sustainability Science.* Helsinki: Gaudeamus, 215–254. <https://www.gaudeamus.fi/teos/the-avenues-to-sustainability/>

Paaskoski, Leena & Siivonen, Katriina & Vähäkari, Noora & Latvala-Harvilahti, Pauliina & Pelli, Päivi & Granlund, Maria & Hujala, Teppo 2025 (to be published online in June). *The Dynamic Museum and Heritage Futures Workshop. A Handbook for Eco-social Bildung Work in Museums.* Publications of Lusto 9. Savonlinna: Finnish Forest Museum Lusto.