

SIEF – 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 three themes: “Waterscapes”, “Scales of Home in Today’s Europe”, and “Sacred Places/Routes”.

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.



MEMBERS AND BACKGROUND

Currently the Place Wisdom Working Group has 48 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).



“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-arcs.html>

SIEF WORKING GROUP ON PLACE WISDOM

“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 2017: Panel “Temporalities of dwelling elsewhere: placing and displacing home” (Organisation: Vitalija Stepušaitytė, Christos Kakalis)
- SIEF 2017: Panel “(Dis)Comforts of Home: Historical and Cultural Perspectives” (Organisation: Zuzanna Bulat-Silva, Stella Butter, and Nourit Melcer-Padon)
- SIEF 2017: Workshop: “The Changing Time and Rhythms of Water” (Organisation: Katriina Siivonen, Jaana Kouri, and Ullrich Kockel)
- International Workshop "Scales of Home: NSM Approach" at the University of Wrocław/ Poland, 27–28 March 2015. (Workshop organisation: Zuzanna Bulat-Silva)
- Panel “Scales of Home in Today’s Europe” at SIEF 2015. (Panel organisation: Zuzanna Bulat-Silva, Stella Butter)



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)

- August-Zarebska Agnieszka & Bulat Silva Zuzanna (2016) “Recalling the Past. The Linguistic and Cultural Images of Kurtijo, Sephardic Courtyard”, *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures*, Vol. 25, Nº 1 (2016), p. 96–117.
- Butter, Stella (2016) “Representations of Ideal Homes in English Culture: Gracious Living and the Creative Self in Matthew Reynolds’ *Designs for a Happy Home*.” In: Nora Kuster, Stella Butter & Sarah Heinz (eds.) *Subject Cultures: The English Novel from the 18th to the 21st Century*. Tübingen: Narr, p. 251–268.
- Butter, Stella (2015) “No place like home? Conceptualizations of ‘Home’ in Salman Rushdie’s ‘At the Auction of the Ruby Slippers’ and Roshi Fernando’s *Homesick*.” In: Florian Kläger & Klaus Stierstorfer (eds.). *Diasporic Constructions of Home and Belonging*. New York: De Gruyter, p. 349–365.

Chairs: Stella Butter, butter@uni-landau.de and Katriina Siivonen, katriina.siivonen@utu.fi
Meeting Wednesday 29 March 12:30-14:30 Mensa am Turm

