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Call for Papers

The Centre for Landscape Democracy (CLaD) at the Department of Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning Norwegian University of Life Sciences invites abstracts for a cross-disciplinary international conference in collaboration with UNISCAPE. The conference will take place between the 3rd to the 6th of June 2015 at Oscarsborg Fortress in the Oslofjord, south of Oslo.

Defining Landscape Democracy

Constitutional ideals of democracy, human rights, equality and freedom have a tangible landscape dimension. Democracy is rooted in free debate in public spaces – landscape is the spatial materialisation of democracy. At this time of global environmental and economic challenges driving increasing social tensions, there is urgent need for sustained discussion and debate about the role of landscape in society and for relevant knowledge and insights that address and tackle complex situations.

The notion of Landscape Democracy is anchored in the European Landscape Convention's aspirations for civil society democratic values. Democracy and landscape converge where landscape, whether natural or built, is recognised to be the infrastructural physical environment we inhabit – a vital support system that sustains social and cultural wellbeing of all inhabitants.

In the last decade the landscape convention has driven generation of a rich body of knowledge on the multiple complex aspects of landscape, and ways in which the convention might be implemented. At the same time Landscape Democracy is a problematic zone underpinned by philosophical questions and ideological and political tensions. There is a need for epistemological studies and more intellectual discourse on landscape as the spatial meaning of democracy, and the role of democratic values in protecting, managing and planning landscapes.

The study of democracy's relationship to space is significant because space and landscape are tangible expressions of society: they have an impact on daily living and their quality affects wellbeing. Both policy makers and urban and landscape planners play an instrumental role in facilitating and affecting democratic processes and social issues. The knowledge that will support their task will derive from multi-disciplinary scholarship. CLaD is hosted by the department of Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning, however this call is cross-disciplinary – recognising that the elasticity of the conceptual dimension of landscape holds opportunities to inspire and contribute to creative solutions to current environmental and social challenges. Joining forces across disciplines provides fertile ground for creativity and innovation by acknowledging that complexity is at the heart of the idea of landscape.

Our approach to tackling the problematic of Landscape Democracy is inclusive and we invite presentations from the following areas of expertise (this list is not exhaustive, it is open to any

other area that will illustrate relevancy): aesthetics, anthropology, archaeology, built environment, cultural studies, development studies, disability studies, ecology, economics, environmental studies, forestry, gender studies, geography, heritage studies, history, indigenous people studies, land tenure studies, legal studies, nature conservation, occupational justice science, philosophy and ethics, political ecology, political science, psychology, public health, sociology, spatial and landscape planning, urban studies.

In order to elicit robust discussion we invite proposals for thought-provoking and insightful presentations that address theoretical questions, as well as relevant case studies and examples that will contribute to knowledge dissemination and inspire fruitful debate on landscape democracy.

Suggested questions and key themes for potential authors to organise their presentations around:

Ethics and Landscape Democracy

- Landscape democracy: an abstract ideal or a professional ethos?
- Should we consider democracy when making decisions about landscape change?
- How do professionals understand their role in facilitating democratic processes?

Public spaces as manifestation of democracy

- Conflict and tension between public and private spaces;
- How accessible are public spaces?
- Property rights and democracy;
- Landscape as commons;
- Wellbeing and public space;
- Universal accessibility to landscape;
- The significance of green spaces;

Climate change and threats to democracy

- How will environmental crises affect democratic practices?
- Endangered landscapes and vulnerable populations;
- Climate change refugees and landscape identity;

Bottom up spatial initiatives

- Claiming a right to landscape;
- Space occupation and protest movements;

Planning philosophies and democracy

- Analyses of planning acts in relation to democracy;
- The power of decision-making processes;

Public participation in Planning

- Challenges and opportunities.

Further key words to be linked to Landscape Democracy:

Activism and spatial occupation; bottom-up processes; climate vulnerability; colonialism and post-colonialism; community involvement; conflict zones; detention and space; dimensions of

urbanisation; education and pedagogy; empowerment; future generations; gender; gentrification, ghettoisation; global trends; human rights; immigrant identity; Indigeneity, land tenure and property rights; landscape assessment and quality; legal issues; marginalised social groups; migration and borders; multiculturalism; nationalism; nature protection; occupational justice; political structures; power relations (spatial manifestation/planning and governance; public participation; refugees and asylum seekers; re-imagined futures; social integration; spatial justice; sustainability; technology; theories and philosophies.

Criteria for acceptance of presentation proposals:

Relevance to Landscape Democracy and contribution to eliciting robust discussion, new knowledge and insights.

CLaD is committed to the publication of selected papers based on the conference theme *Defining Landscape Democracy* in a scientific publication.

Please submit an **extended abstract** (800–1200 words not including references) and a one page CV to shelley.egoz@nmbu.no by **15 November 2014**.

Notification of acceptance by 1 February.

More information will be posted in due time on CLaD's webpage.

If you would like to join our mailing list, please write to: shelley.egoz@nmbu.no

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