

# CULTIVATING CONTINUITY OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE

## New Challenges for the ELC

**UNISCAPE International Conference**  
**Florence, 16-17 October 2020**

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the European Landscape Convention**

### **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS** **Thematic Sessions**



J. Simon, Soucis et bleuets, *installation paysagère éphémère à Turny, 1990*  
ph. courtesy of D. Colafranceschi



# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the signing of the European Landscape Convention in Florence (20 October 2000), UNISCAPE is organizing a major event with the aim of bringing the landscape dimension to the center of a international debate as a cornerstone of 21<sup>st</sup> century Europe, combining the participation of representatives and collecting contributions from the scientific community and policy-making institutions.

The event will be shaped as a two-day Conference inspired by the theme : “Cultivating the Continuity of European Landscapes”, with a very diverse programme that will include masterclasses, thematic sessions, roundtables and workshops.

The present Call is open to all landscape researchers and professionals and it aims to select 20 contributions on the topics described by the three thematic sessions: **Landscape Policy and Governance; Landscape Design and Time; Observing Landscape**.

Contributors who are selected will be required to submit a full paper to be included in the Conference publication.

*Please note that the selected contributions could be presented as posters during the Conference.*

## ABSTRACT REQUIREMENTS

- Abstracts for consideration (2000 characters maximum, including spaces), must be submitted in English, which is the language of the Conference, and formatted in an editable version (.docx).
- The first line of the heading must indicate which of the 3 thematic session and sub-topic the abstract refers to and 3 keywords.
- The heading must include the title of the work, name of the author or authors, qualification, affiliation or institution they represent (if necessary), e-mail address.
- Authors should also submit a CV of no more than 1500 characters (including spaces).
- The abstract and the CV must be sent to [info@uniscape.eu](mailto:info@uniscape.eu) by the 28 February 2020.

## PAPER REQUIREMENTS

- Selected authors are expected to submit a full paper (12000 characters maximum, including spaces), in English.
- The first page must include the title of the paper, name of author or authors, affiliation or institution they represent (if necessary) and e-mail address.
- Up to 10 color or black and white images may be included, 150 dpi, jpg.
- Do not include any extra formats, such as logos or borders.
- Authors having received the notification of acceptance must provide the full paper by 10 June 2020.

*Please note that Even if an abstract is accepted, the full paper will not be published if it does not meet the requirements (deadline, format, length, etc.).*

## CALENDAR & DEADLINES

- 20 January: publication of the Call for abstract
- 28 February: deadline abstracts submission
- 31 March: review and feedbacks abstracts
- 10 June : submission of full papers
- 30 July: review and feedback full papers
- 1 September: deadline for return of papers

## *Setting the scene*

# CULTIVATING CONTINUITY OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE

The anniversary of the European Landscape Convention creates an occasion for UNISCAPE to discuss the main achievements and lessons learned in the 20 years from its adoption in Florence, as well as future objectives and challenges. Today we can appreciate that notable progress has been made in its implementation, which has meant empowering the European landscape dimension.

National and international relations have gradually taken into account the landscape dimension, contributing to the introduction of landscape issues in different sectors of society. This in turn has led to increased involvement in the protection, management and planning of both outstanding and ordinary landscapes. The European Landscape Convention has catalyzed the generation of an all-encompassing, systematic effort to build a generalized shared dimension of multiple landscape preservation and design strategies at national and international level that are progressing towards true inclusiveness. The landscape model has stimulated traditional scientific, educational and productive categories to systematically acknowledge the need to redesign their boundaries, step out and engage with paradigms that fully embrace that complexity of life in a globalized world so clearly evidenced by environmental and social issues.

Landscape has become a powerful model of thinking. It has now pervaded traditional academic disciplines with a new “ecology of thought”, impelling them to rethink the relationship between us and others and shifting the focus from the single elements making up the mosaic of our “art of living” to the glue binding these elements together into a coherent “ensemble” of many different voices. New effort has involved educational and research sectors in thinking of those forms of continuity that are cultivated entirely within and in-between diversity.

Actually, perhaps the most fortunate and explicit expression of the implementation efforts of the ELC today, 20 years after its adoption, is in its rich and diverse constellations of protected areas, natural reservoirs, heritage sites etc., representing the most authentic and diverse articulations of our distinctly European art of living with (rather than against) nature, its resources and the various actors that make up our extended community of living beings.

However, any thoughtful celebration, as UNISCAPE'S 20th anniversary of ELC aspires to be, needs to avoid entrapment into commemoration and must be driven by a judicious dosage of “philosophy of suspicion”. In the interest of the continuity of our common future, we can launch the following challenge :

If Landscape is a relational model driven by a glue seamlessly bonding the observed to the observer, the “background” to the actors, in a cycle of reciprocal influence affecting and transforming each other, then how should new patterns of connection among the different patches composing the European landscape be established and integrated? And how should these forms of continuity be adopted, keeping all the components of the Landscape model bound together and in-relation although in friction with the world and history?

## THEMATIC SESSION

### A. LANDSCAPE POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

The European Landscape Convention, signed in 2000 and entered into force in 2004, is nowadays ratified by 40 Countries. For the first time in history, all these countries, with rich and diverse cultural roots and institutional frameworks, agree on a legal definition of landscape and common goals for landscape policies.

The implementation of the ELC has had an impact on legislations, on governance and administrative processes, and on spatial planning systems, ushering in innovations as well as presenting challenges. This session will focus on innovations and impacts of the ELC on national frameworks, and current challenges at regional and local levels; and to show to what extent the ELC has contributed to creating a baseline and a common language.

#### TOPIC 1 | Landscape policies and juridical issues in implementing the ELC

A comparative perspective is always challenging. Nevertheless, this session proposes to review legislation and regulation across European Countries, under the following themes:

The legal definition of landscape and its multifaceted perspective, and the implications for institutions and related competences at the national level;

The relationship between landscape, cultural heritage, environmental law and urban planning law;  
Landscape protection systems and related categories of designation;

The role of landscape planning within the spatial planning system (sectoral/Integrated? Local/Regional?);

Landscape Monitoring systems, related bodies, how they function and the processes applied.

#### TOPIC 2 | Landscape democracy and rights

Participation and its content: the right to landscape?

The ELC is an initiative of the CoE Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, managed by the General Directorate of Democracy. Since its inception, democracy and participation are key principles of the ELC, yet remain the most challenging to be implemented. Recently, the concept of "common goods" has brought new insights, but is still to be debated as a legal topic.

From an institutional perspective, it would be interesting to see how and to what extent the States reply to the call for participation by ad hoc procedures.

#### KEYWORDS

LANDSCAPE POLICIES | LANDSCAPE GOVERNANCE | JURIDICAL ISSUES IN IMPLEMENTING THE ELC | LANDSCAPE PLANNING AND REGULATION | LANDSCAPE RIGHT AND PARTICIPATION

SCIENTIFIC COORDINATORS: G.F. Cartei, C. Cassatella,

## THEMATIC SESSION

### B. LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND TIME

Landscape as a continuous project assigns a decisive role to the integrated prefiguration of territory and of the spaces of life and production. The conformation of living space, of city and territory, as well of the formal process and integration between the different ecosystems, gives rise to ever wider, even global, responsibilities with regard to achieving a balance between the different determining factors.

It is evident how in the design, implementation and protection of landscape, including policies, good practices and perspectives, design tools have been prefigured over the last 20 years in to protect and adapt landscape in relation to changing environmental, economic and cultural conditions.

Making landscape is here intended in the sense of its production and its continuous transformation depending on a project, that is to say on a complex prefiguration of places, resources, spaces, nature, constructions, physical and cultural relationships, elaborated by design experts able to integrate competences on the basis of a shared vision of the future, from which the actions, processes and forms of the territory can derive their sense.

The interest focuses specifically on a landscape project that:

- infrastructures, conforms and produces sustainable realities;
- cares and takes care of the territory over the long term of transformation;
- cultivates visions and new imaginations;
- defines itself at different scales and in the continuous relationship between them;
- is inclusive and never finished because it is always open to new relationships, new processes and progressive adaptations.

#### TOPIC 1 | Infra-Structural Landscapes

The landscape project expressed through an active infrastructure, able to take care of places, to conform and produce sustainable realities, enhancing resources and production systems, to feed coordinated actions between interventions of transformation of the territory, irrespective of administrative boundaries. An open project that does not aim at completion of an arrangement, but at the creation of an articulated system capable of being inclusive and of welcoming progressive adaptation to continuously changing conditions.

#### TOPIC 2 | Landscape Time Designed

The making of the landscape over a long period of time, where time is considered as an agent of an open and adaptive form, capable of taking on the processes that qualify the landscape. The project unavoidably articulates its intervention across different scales of action that activates multiple relationships and an integrated vision. In this case, the ability of the project to overcome a one-dimensional vision of the territories to formulate possible relationships between innovation and tradition, to implant and cultivate integrated visions, feeding imaginations.

#### KEYWORDS

LANDSCAPE MAKING | CARE | TRANSITION | FORMS OF TIME | OPEN PROJECT

SCIENTIFIC COORDINATORS: R. Occhiuto, M. Vanore

## THEMATIC SESSION

### C. OBSERVING LANDSCAPE

According to the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe concerning the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention (CM/Rec(2008)3), LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES can significantly contribute to the continuous and systematic observation of the landscape and to the exchange of information serving the protection, management and planning of European Landscapes.

During the last 20 years and as a consequence of their direct connection to the specific needs and expectations of the places where they operate and of the communities for whom they work, landscape observatories have redefined or incorporated new functions to the ones initially foreseen.

Thus, in addition to the description of the condition and evolution of landscapes, the exchange of information and experiences, the definition of indicators to assess the effectiveness of landscape policies and analysis of trends and prediction of forward-looking scenarios, landscape observatories are now engaged in a wide palette of tasks that are often related to their origin, evolution or assigned role.

On the 20th anniversary of the ELC, UNISCAPE wants to open a critical, imaginative and constructive discussion about the contribution of Landscape Observatories in the implementation of the ELC. What has been learnt during the last years? What have been the main successes and failures? What can be the contribution of landscapes observatories in the future? What steps would be needed to achieve those future contributions?

#### TOPIC 1 | Landscape Observatories: concept, models and main contributions

This topic invites academic reflections on the Landscape Observatory concept and its evolution, the role of Landscape Observatories in landscape protection, management and planning and comparative analyses/studies of different landscape observatory models (structure, functions, methods, assigned roles, etc.). These reflections can be accompanied by an analysis of the main contributions generated by Landscape Observatories during their previous or current activity, either on a general level or with respect to some specific topics or studies. Descriptive but also propositive and critical approaches are welcome as well as references to existing theory in the presented topics.

#### TOPIC 2 | Landscape Observatories: post 2020 agenda and future roles

This topic welcomes reflections on the potential contribution of Landscape Observatories in the detection of emergent landscape dynamics and in the definition of potential solutions for new or acute challenges affecting European Landscapes such as land-use transformations, demographic and sociological shifts, climate change adaptation and mitigation, the need for new models of governance, sustainable development, etc. In addition, the contributions are invited that elaborate on the factors and models that could support a more effective involvement of Landscape Observatories in the evolution of the landscape. Critical analysis and identification of potential solutions for the presented topics are welcome.

#### KEYWORDS

LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORY | LANDSCAPE PLANNING | LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT | LANDSCAPE GOVERNANCE |  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

#### SCIENTIFIC COORDINATORS | J. Galan, J.M. Palerm

## GENERAL PROGRAMME

16 OCTOBER 2020

MORNING 9.00-13.30

### CONFERENCE MASTER CLASSES\*

- 1. Keynote 1
- 2. Keynote 2

\* Scientific approach

### THEMATIC SESSIONS

A.  
Landscape  
policy and  
governance

B.  
Landscape  
design and  
time

C.  
Observing  
landscape

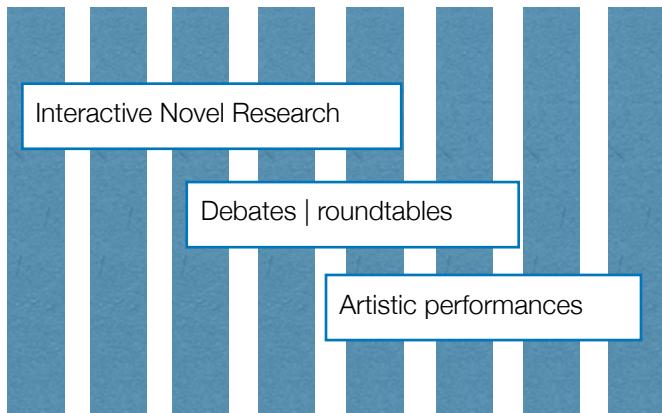
2 Invited speakers

2 Invited speakers

2 Invited speakers

AFTERNOON 15.00-18.30

### LANDSCAPE ATELIER | CULTIVATING INNOVATIVE VISIONS



CONCLUSIONS 1ST DAY

17 OCTOBER 2020

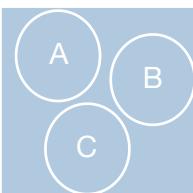
MORNING 9.00-13.30

### CONFERENCE MASTER CLASSES\*

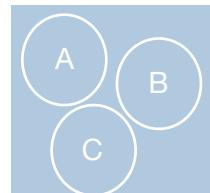
- 1. Keynote 3
- 2. Keynote 4

\* Political approach

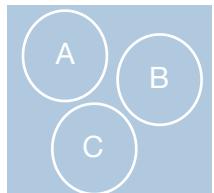
### THEMATIC ROUNDTABLES\* | FOSTERING THE CONTINUITY OF EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE



Education and  
Training  
associations



Local and  
Regional aut.  
ONG



National and  
International  
Institutions

AFTERNOON 15.00-18.30

### FINAL DISCUSSION | PATHWAYS TOWARDS A LIVING EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE OF THE FUTURE



### PRESENTATION AND SIGNING OF THE WHITE PAPER | “EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONTINUITY”



CLOSING CEREMONY

## UNISCAPE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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