

CECT Theoretical Seminar: *Landscape, Things and Theories*

Time: 14. September 2011; 14:00–18:00

Place: Tallinn University, Uus Sadama 5 - M-648

Speakers: Prof. Hannes Palang (Tallinn University), Prof. Mats Burström (Stockholm University), Tarmo Pikner (Tallinn University), Patrick Laviolette (Tallinn University), Arvi Haak (University of Tartu)

Organisers: Patrick Laviolette, Helen Sooväli-Sepping; Tarmo Pikner, Mari Lõhmus

Thinking principally through landscape studies, archaeology and contemporary cultural studies, this theoretical seminar will consider, discuss and reflect upon the ways in which 'landscape', as an analytical category, can (or cannot) also exist as a thing. In other words, is landscape an item or object of material culture?

Welcome session (13:45–14:20)

Arrivals, coffee, etc.

Opening remarks & presentations, Chaired by Prof. Hannes Palang (Director EHI, TLÜ)

Short provocations by **Patrick Laviolette**

Introductory Lecture into the Recent Past (14:20–15:00)

Prof. Mats Burström (Professor of Archaeology, University of Stockholm, Sweden) “Artefactual Memories. Family Belongings Hidden in the Ground in Estonia during World War II”

Many Estonians who abandoned their homes during the Second World War hid objects in the ground, hoping to return and recover them later. These objects sometimes included valuables, but more often the family 'treasures' contained objects that were important for other reasons than their pure economic value. Sets of glass or china, cutlery, and books were, for example, common objects to be buried. As history turned out, it was impossible to go back and during the many years in exile telling stories about these hidden 'treasures' was a way to remember the old native home and to keep alive the hope of return. After the fall of the Soviet Union some people went back to Estonia and were in some cases also able to recover their family belongings. For others, the objects were most important as long as they were unreachable. This paper discusses the relation between material objects and memory, and how the stories of individual families connect to the larger and official history to give that a human face.

Response to the paper by **Arvi Haak**

Discussion

15:30 Break

Auxiliary presentations (16:00–17:15)

Landscape and Materiality Issues

Short introduction & discussion moderated by **Hannes Palang**

Interfaces Between Nature and Urbanity

Short presentation + case studies summary & discussion moderated by **Tarmo Pikner**

Short break

Bridging different fields: Roundtable discussion session.

Suggested readings before the seminar (<http://www.ut.ee/~cect>, available by Sept 6)

Burström, M. 2008. Looking Into the Recent Past: Extending and Exploring the Field of Archaeology. *Current Swedish Archaeology*, Vol. 15–16, 21–36.

Burström, M., Gustafsson, A. & Karlsson, H. 2006. The Air Torpedo of Bäckebo. Local Incident and World History. *Current Swedish Archaeology*, Vol. 14, 7–24.

Kaika, M. & Swyngedouw, E. 2000. Fetishizing the modern city: The phantasmagoria of urban technology networks. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, Vol. 24(1), 120–138.

Macnaghten, P. 2003. Embodying the environment in everyday life practices. *Sociological Review*, Vol. 51, 62–84.