Urban and Landscape Perspectives

Volume 8

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Aims and Scope

Urban and Landscape Perspectives is a series which aims at nurturing theoretic reflection on the city and the territory and working out and applying methods and techniques for improving our physical and social landscapes.

The main issue in the series is developed around the projectual dimension, with the objective of visualising both the city and the territory from a particular viewpoint, which singles out the territorial dimension as the city’s space of communication and negotiation.

The series will face emerging problems that characterise the dynamics of city development, like the new, fresh relations between urban societies and physical space, the right to the city, urban equity, the project for the physical city as a means to reveal civitas, signs of new social cohesiveness, the sense of contemporary public space and the sustainability of urban development.

Concerned with advancing theories on the city, the series resolves to welcome articles that feature a pluralism of disciplinary contributions studying formal and informal practices on the project for the city and seeking conceptual and operative categories capable of understanding and facing the problems inherent in the profound transformations of contemporary urban landscapes.
Landscape Modelling

Geographical Space, Transformation and Future Scenarios

Jiří Anděl · Ivan Bičík · Petr Dostál · Zdeněk Lipský and Siamak G. Shahneshin
Editors

Springer
The contemporary community of geographers largely accepts the DPSIR scheme, adopted by the European Environment Agency, which denotes the sequence of variables leading from a factor exerting pressure with a particular consequence in a landscape and its reverse impact feeding back on the initial factor. Such a sequence of causal relationships can be studied at different levels of time and spatial scales. One cycle of the sequence in a specific space results in a differential between two states over a period of time, i.e. a change (Antrop, 2005), and when several such cycles are repeated, a development takes place (cf. Present Changes in European Rural Landscapes by Lipský or Memory of a Landscape - A Constituent of Regional Identity and Planning by Balej et al., this volume) in which there may be turning points that are more or less significant. At the end of the Cold War by the end of the 1980s, a large part of Europe, particularly in the countries in East Central and Eastern Europe, entered a new period of societal transition. This transition included changes in political, social, economic, intellectual and environmental values and it also started to reshape the environment in which the societies concerned are living. At the same time, however, these changes had an impact on other parts of Europe and the whole of Europe as well, as each of its countries had to reflect the new development. The actual changes in the landscape that this process caused at various hierarchical scales form part of the long-term formation processes of the European landscape. With regard to the different time and spatial scales and given the aspects we observe, these changes can be perceived as more or less marked. In any case, the changes document the fact that the landscape is a truly living entity which incorporates countless networks of relations and mechanisms.

In 2004, a team of researchers from the Department of Geography, Faculty of Science, J.E. Purkyne University in Ústí nad Labem, coordinated by Jiří Anděl, made a successful application to start a research project entitled Methodical Procedures of Social and Ecological Linkages Assessment in Economic Transformation: Theory and Application. Its purpose was to identify ecological and social aspects of the transition process in the Czech Republic and to propose methodological procedures for its assessment. The processes of landscape changes (ecological and social subsystems of the landscape) and the forces driving these processes, as well as their consequences, were studied in their historical context.
at several spatial hierarchical levels (country, region, and survey areas in different types of landscape). In 2008, when the project entered its final stage, the team began to prepare an international scientific event to facilitate presentations of different approaches to current landscape research, as well as allow specific discussions concerned with the subject matter in terms of space and time, and intellectual understanding of a landscape as a living entity. A conference entitled Living Landscape: Memory, Transformation and Future Scenarios which was held in Ústí nad Labem in November 2008 and attracted a large audience from different parts of the world, for example from the US, South Korea, Switzerland, Austria, Slovakia, etc. This book is a selection of contributions presented at the conference and also includes some other papers relating to the conference issue.

Of course, it is necessary for the publication purpose to give creative and somewhat unrestrained discussions a consistent integrating shape with a comprehensible message. This is why both the title of the book and its parts and contents had to be adjusted. The parts of the book bring together contributions concerned with related subject matter and which are loosely connected with each other. Each part begins with a synopsis posing questions that the papers concerned try to answer. The editors made an effort for each paper to reflect hierarchical levels of the issues being addressed with their specific spatial dimension and a time horizon. The contribution by Siamak G. Shahneshin in the first part, entitled Where the Moral Appeal Meets the Scientific Approach, gives an overall framework outlining connections between the transformation of a specific landscape and people’s moral bearings, thus unveiling the deeper context of the scientific study of a landscape as a living entity as presented in the subsequent parts of the book. The second part, The Concept of Landscape in Contemporary Europe, attempts to look at various ways of interpretation of the landscape as a system, its changes (Zdeněk Lipský) and its possible classification and assessment in contemporary Europe (Jiří Anděl et al.). When Richard Hobbs (1997) speaks of the landscape as the best scale for measuring local effects of global changes, one must add that for an actual landscape and for management and planning policy, it is often essential to conceptually organise landscape components – internally heterogeneous, functionally variable and spatially fluctuating – into regions or localities. Considering the close linkages between natural and social phenomena, impacts in landscape can only be evaluated on a clearly delimited spatial-temporal level, i.e. based upon a conceptual and data framework. Linking landscapes and multi-scale regions is the subject matter of the third part entitled Between Landscapes and Multi-Scale Regions, in which the authors are concerned with both regional differentiations in perceptions of selected phenomena at macro scale across the European Union (Petr Dostál) and at regional and local scales of geographic systems considering significance and consequences of their internal transformation (Hartmut Kowalke et al.; Ivan Bičík et al.). Various issues of regions and localities influenced by internal and, particularly, by external forces, are discussed specifically in the fourth part of the book, The Changing Face of a Landscape: Identity and Perception, in which the authors are also concerned with reverse effects of specific changes in the landscape and consider the question to what extent a sequence of changes can be understood as a continuum and when
and where a turning point begins. The authors look for answers to such questions through analyses of changes in regional identities and social perceptions of the landscape (Martin Balej et al.; Martin Prinz et al.; Milan Jeřábek). Finally, the fifth part, entitled Modelling and Geovisualisation in Landscape Planning and Management, is a collection of papers discussing applications of modern technologies to the issues analysed in the preceding parts. The authors deal with the issues of retrospective geovisualisation and future landscape development scenarios for the purpose of landscape planning (Tomáš Oršulák and Pavel Raška), landscape structure analysis for the purpose of sustainable planning (Christa Renetzeder et al.), landscape modelling in biodiversity studies (Stefan Schindler et al.), and geoinformational means of representing selected phenomena in the landscape (Jana Svobodová and Vít Voženílek).

The editors of this book are grateful to all those who participated in its preparation and who made this project happen. At the very beginning, this was the team that cooperated in the above-mentioned research project and organised the November 2008 international conference, supported by a grant from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic. Acknowledgements are also due to all the participants, of whom some contributed to this book. We thank them all for their efforts and for their consistence in observing the purpose of this book. Its quality was significantly improved by the expert co-editors through comments and recommendations they made. We wish to thank Pavel Raška and Tomáš Oršulák for maintaining communication with the editors of the Springer publishing house and the authors from the very beginning, as well as for the technical processing of the contributions. Last but not least, we would like to thank the Springer team, headed by Geosciences editor Robert Doe, and publishing assistant Nina Bennink, as well as the Series editor, Giovanni Maciocco, and his colleagues and project assistants, Monica Johansson and Lisa Meloni for their tireless help in drafting this book.

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Prague, Czech Republic
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Prague, Czech Republic
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Siamak G. Shahneshin
## Contents

### Part I  Where the Moral Appeal Meets the Scientific Approach

1  **The Weeping Landscape** ........................................... 3  
Siamak G. Shahneshin

### Part II  Landscape Concept in Contemporary Europe

2  **Present Changes in European Rural Landscapes** ............... 13  
Zdeněk Lipský

3  **Environmental Stressors as an Integrative Approach to Landscape Assessment** ................................. 29  
Jiří Anděl, Martin Balej, and Tomáš Oršulák

### Part III  Between Landscapes and Multi-Scale Regions

4  **Environment and Regional Cohesion in the Enlarged European Union – Differences in Public Opinion** ............ 45  
Petr Dostál

5  **Cross-Border Relationships of Small and Medium-Sized Businesses** ....................................................... 61  
Hartmut Kowalke, Olaf Schmidt, Katja Lohse, and Milan Jeřábek

6  **Land-Use Changes Along the Iron Curtain in Czechia** .......... 71  
Ivan Bičík, Jan Kabrda, and Jiří Najman

7  **Landscape Function Transformations with Relation to Land-Use Changes** .................................................... 87  
Ivan Bičík, Jiří Anděl, and Martin Balej

### Part IV  Changing Face of a Landscape: Identity and Perception

8  **Memory of a Landscape – A Constituent of Regional Identity and Planning?** ........................................... 107  
Martin Balej, Pavel Raška, Jiří Anděl, and Alena Chvátalová
9 Landscape Change in the Seewinkel: Comparisons Among Centuries ............................................. 123
Martin A. Prinz, Thomas Wrbka, and Karl Reiter

10 Conditions of Living – Reality, Reflections, Comparisons and Prospects ..................................... 133
Milan Jeřábek

Part V Modelling and Geovisualisation in Landscape Planning and Management

11 Geovisualisation of an Urban Landscape in Participatory Regional Planning ....................................... 145
Tomáš Oršulák and Pavel Raška

12 Does Landscape Structure Reveal Ecological Sustainability? ......................................................... 159
Christa Renetzeder, Thomas Wrbka, Sander Mücher, Michiel van Eupen, and Michiel Kiers

13 Landscape Approaches and GIS for Biodiversity Management ......................................................... 171
Stefan Schindler, Kostas Poirazidis, Aristotelis Papageorgiou, Dionisios Kalivas, Henrik Von Wehrden, and Vassiliki Kati

14 Relief for Models of Natural Phenomena ............................................................................................. 183
Jana Svobodová and Vít Voženílek

Name Index ........................................................................................................................................ 197

Subject Index ....................................................................................................................................... 201
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