

Landscape Futures in the Twenty-First Century

Landscape leaders in an intergenerational dialogue



Current and ongoing poly-crises seem to be laying a heavy imprint on the landscape around the world, with grave, complex and unprecedented repercussions, in the realms of economy, energy, the environment, and society. Rising rates of globalization, consumerism and commoditization, increasing mobility, the 4th technological revolution etc. have been instigating a world-wide transformation in spatial organization and management, signaling an enormous transformation in the ways we live. Human landscapes are becoming increasingly vulnerable to uncontrolled climate change and related disasters, intense extractive and expropriating activities, rapid land-use changes, threats to public health and wellbeing, financial setbacks and depressions, etc. At the same time, these challenges may be viewed as opportunities for better future landscape stewardship and care, than in the past.

As crises challenging contemporary societies continue to evolve, the landscape may be seen to be regaining its place, role and purpose in land stewardship and socio-spatial decision-making; in human everyday lives and cultural change; in energy production; and in the evolving realms of tourism and recreation, through the growth of special-interest and alternative modes of travel and leisure, etc. Furthermore, landscape remains key to food security and primary sector production, both in terms of natural and cultural ecosystem service provision, but also in terms of its significance to the socio-cultural identity, heritage, well-being and quality of life of local communities.

The LRG posits its future research strategy priorities in the context of these challenges and prospects, and invites interdisciplinary exchanges in these directions, in terms of both theory and practice, dialogue and action. Towards this goal, we organize this first

‘Landscape Leaders Panel’ to exchange views and perspectives, in terms of the role, place and purpose of landscape in 21st century human lives and address the challenges and opportunities proffered by a rapidly changing, crisis-laden world.

The panel aims for interdisciplinarity, internationalism, and inter/multi methodological perspectives on landscape and landscape studies. It is meant to be intergenerational, in order to capture and chart the multi-faceted dynamic of our scientific field. Finally, it is left broad in scope, so that it may allow to carve out and tap into diverse perspectives and conflicting approaches towards landscape polysemy, values, stewardship, rights/ practices, and decision-making. To foster this discussion, the following questions are indicatively posed to the panel participants:

1. How do you anticipate and/or envision the future of landscape and of landscape research in our era of multiple crises?
2. What do you recommend in response to and remediation of these upcoming challenges and opportunities?
3. What could the role of LRG be in this?

Objective: To discuss the future of landscape and landscape research/ science in a rapidly changing world, among generations of landscape experts/ leaders in the field, in the context of the LRG main research strategy goals.

Specifics: Hybrid panel discussion. Each speaker has up to 10 minutes to address the 3 questions posed beforehand by the moderator (Theano S. Terkenli) and then dialogue/ discussion ensues among the speakers, involving also the audience.

Organizer and panel moderator: Theano S. Terkenli, LRG Chair

Thursday 5th December, 17:00 GMT