National Landscape Research Course in Human Geography:
“Landscape and Identity”

Spring semester 2016

Theme
With its focus on key concepts of landscape and identity, the course seeks to combine two broad fields of research. The prime concern will be with landscape geography, but with a keen eye to the various ways in which landscapes are connected to material and discursive processes of identity formation.

Course structure
- Short individual assignment before meeting in Uppsala May 13th
- Intensive period Uppsala –Visby, May 16th to May 20th, 2016. The intensive period starts with an introduction at Uppsala University, after which we’ll take the ferry to Visby and spend the rest of the week on Gotland, combining lectures with seminars and field trips
- Essay writing June–September, examination Sept 2016 (webbased)

Aims
A) In the first place, the aim of the course is to provide a methodological and epistemological foundation for research on landscapes. It will introduce the history of landscape research and offer an overview of current research themes in landscape studies, emphasizing the crucial importance of various forms of power relations and the politics of landscape.

B) In the second place, the course will pay particular attention to the connections between landscape and the social construction of identity, understood in terms of culture, class, gender, ethnicity, etc. We accentuate throughout the course the cultural, political, and economic complexities of individual and collective identity formation, including various ways in which identity is materially and ideologically expressed, contested, negotiated, embodied and performed, and academically scrutinized. Identity is to an extent constitutive of ongoing processes of landscape transformation, such as the rationalization of agriculture and rural labor, the construction of the countryside as a resource, the aesthetization and conservation of nature, and the formation of the city. Processes like these occur on different geographical scales, which in turn involve different scales of identity. The course will give attention to both the material, pictorial and scenic aspects of landscape, and historicize these in relation to identity.

Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of the course, participants should:

- have obtained in-depth understanding of how the concept of landscape is defined and applied within human geography.
- be able to relate their own doctoral studies to the field of landscape geography
- be able to connect the literature studies to field observations
have obtained knowledge on the formation of identity through the process of landscape transformation
be able to conceptualize and analyze the connection between landscape and identity in a geographical perspective.

Criteria for passing the course (7.5 ECTS):
Module 1: Short essay on landscape concept (1.5 ECTS).
Module 2: Active participation in seminars and assignments during intensive period (1.5 ECTS)
Module 3: Independent, reflexive essay on chosen topic (4 ECTS)
Module 4: Peer review on course colleague’s essay (web-based) (0.5 ECTS)

Course period
Module 1: April 2016
Module 2: May 16th to 20th. Intensive period in Uppsala and Visby, Gotland.
Module 3: June – early September 2016
Module 4: Mid-September 2016

Course evaluation will be organized on the web

Course conveners
Course leader: Tom Mels | Associate Professor of Human Geography | Uppsala University – Campus Gotland | Human Geography | tom.mels@kultgeog.uu.se

Participating teachers: Tomas Germundsson, Department of Human Geography, Lund University; David Jansson, Department of Human Geography, Uppsala university

Lecturers
Two international guest lecturers will be invited. Decision on financing and gender issues will be taken into consideration.

Fee
There will be a course fee of SEK 3000 including travel from Uppsala to Visby, accommodation on Gotland (incl. breakfast and dinner) and excursions. Travel costs to Uppsala and from Visby, and lunches, are paid by the course participants. For doctoral students at Swedish departments belonging to the National Network for Doctoral Courses in Geography the fee and travel costs will be covered by the home department.

Last date for application: 1 March 2016

Reading list
Module 1: Landscape concept: (to be read before course week in May)


**Module 2 (provisional):**


**Module 3: Individually chosen literature**