

LANDSCAPES, IDENTITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

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INTRODUCTION

Landscapes

- treasure past, frame current and affect future change;
- are custodians of the time-space interface and of the sense of place;
- encourage our spatially steered memories, emotions, perceptions, knowledge, interests, decisions and actions;
- provide support to the spatial fixes and flows;
- are witnesses of the local/global (re)production and consumption of material and immaterial features of territorial identities;



INTRODUCTION

Landscapes

- reflect modern societies' identity crises;
- are not any more just visual translations of economic activities;
- have economic values of their own;
- contribute to the attractiveness of places;
- are threatened by pressures on places and regions which thrive on their attractiveness;
- are deeply and increasingly affected by such transformations.



INTRODUCTION

Key dilemma:

How to reconcile these changes with the preservation of valuable inherited features and the (re)shaping of harmonious new forms?



PECSRL - THE PERMANENT EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
FOR THE STUDY OF THE RURAL LANDSCAPE 23rd Session

Held under the High Auspices of His Excellency the President of the Portuguese Republic

LANDSCAPES,
IDENTITIES
AND
DEVELOPMENT

1 - 5 September 2008 - Lisbon and Óbidos, Portugal



MAIN THEMES

Landscapes as a Constitutive Dimension
of Territorial Identities

Landscapes as Development Assets
and Resources

Landscape History and Landscape
Heritage

Landscape Research and Development
Planning and Management

<http://tercud.ulusofona.pt/PECSRL2008.htm>

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MUNICIPALIDADE DE ÓBIDOS

Municipality of Óbidos
Edifício dos Paços do Concelho
Largo de S. Pedro, 2510-086 Óbidos

Poster idea: Karman Radovic. Poster realization: Ana Filipa Gonçalves, ULIHT

384 participants from 38 countries
236 papers, 22 posters
6 Pleanaries, 6 Special Sessions
44 Parallel Sessions
4 fieldtrips, 1 post-conf.trip

Thematic keynotes by
J. Agnew, T. Correia, H. Palang,
J. Rennes and M. Saraiva

Concluding keynote
by P. Claval





LANDSCAPES AS A CONSTITUTIVE DIMENSION OF TERRITORIAL IDENTITIES

Landscapes are the media through which the existing and emerging identities of places and regions are forged, recorded, assumed, or claimed.

Many traditional landscape features have been underestimated because the services they offer in identity building at all levels, from local to national, have been ignored until recently.



LANDSCAPES AS A CONSTITUTIVE DIMENSION OF TERRITORIAL IDENTITIES

Landscapes and the construction of identities

What aspects of the landscape do people prefer: as a whole or partially, specific forms, or regional attributes?

What roles play specific landscape features, such as trees, or cultures, in the representations that prevail in specific geographical settings?

How European landscapes are modernized by new forms of farming, growth of tourism, and urban sprawl?

How are identities affected and new ones forged by these changes?



LANDSCAPES AS A CONSTITUTIVE DIMENSION OF TERRITORIAL IDENTITIES

Landscapes and “nested identities”

- hierarchically structured;
- differ according to scale;
- local identity building - vernacular values;
- regional and national identity construction – arts.

Teaching landscapes as a tool for identity building

- urban people ignorant and with no feeling for rural landscapes;
- concept of landscape is almost unknown to lay people;
- Eucaland Project.

Special Sessions “Emerging Energies, Emerging Landscapes” and
“European Culture in Agricultural Landscapes”.



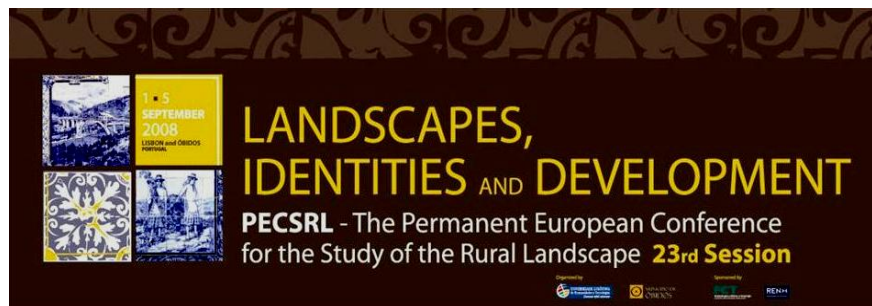
LANDSCAPES AS DEVELOPMENT ASSETS AND RESOURCES

- landscapes as repositories of material and intangible resources;
- energy crisis prompted new landscape valuation for energy resources;
- visual pollution vs. visual consumption;
- intangible landscape amenities.

Special Session “Landscapes, Regional Products and Regional Tourism”.

- post-productivist landscapes - multifunctional realities, offering goods and services.

Special Session “Limits to Transformations of Place Identity” on landscape and heritage conservation vs. innovation, authenticity and integrity.



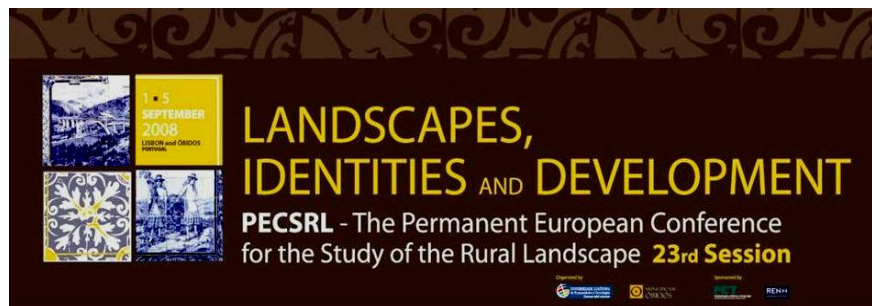
LANDSCAPES HISTORY AND LANDSCAPE HERITAGE

- modern and dynamic vs. ‘traditional’ and stable landscapes;
- multiple landscape transformations during the last millennia;
- factors of continuity and change;
- importance of landscape archaeology;
- “landscape biographies” ;
- how to base normative policies on historical results, when the social and economic forces at work are changing?



LANDSCAPES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

- to grasp landscape change as a part of territorial diagnoses and strategic planning;
- to reinforce and expand theoretical and applied, macroscopic and participatory landscape research;
- trans-disciplinary character of landscape research has provided for an attractive platform of knowledge on linkages between time-space interface, local-global nexus and development;
- policy orientations for landscape planning and management should be consistent with landscape research results.



LANDSCAPES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Landscape planning, modernity and post-modernity

- since 50/60s: explosion of modernity and decline of traditional landscape forms due to land use pressures;
- energy crisis and the search for new forms - i.e., post-modernity – of sustainable landscape management, with ecological and social concerns.

Special Session “Landscape and Public Policy”.

New methodologies for analysing the perception of landscapes

- the accelerated shift towards perceptual studies;
- innovative methods and sophisticated techniques.



LANDSCAPES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Innovative cartographic techniques and the use of GIS

- present landscapes: photos and remote sensing, combined with interviews;
- past landscapes: topographical or cadastral maps, sketches, paintings, novels, travel diaries and accounts;
- Identity building reconstruction of landscape dynamics, or planning future forms: GIS & multivariate analyses.

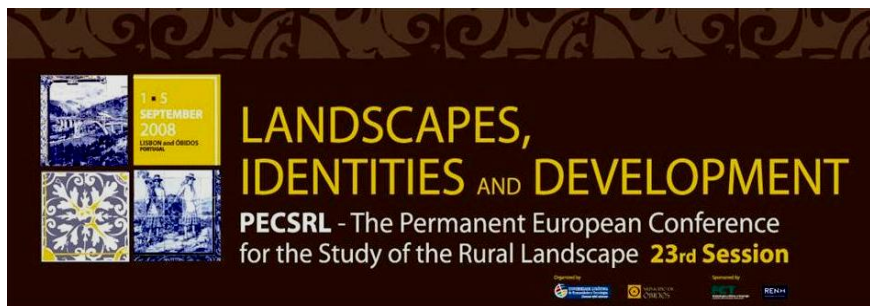


LANDSCAPES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

The impact of the European Landscape Convention

- Prior to ELC - landscape planning expertise was the domain of natural scientists, archaeologists, art historians and landscape architects;
- Responding to ELC - participatory planning vs. choice of scale; grasping the symbolic and economic value of local landscapes to wider populations;
- How to be certain that a reasonable protection of landscapes will be insured when most of the people do not know what a landscape means?

Special Session “European Landscape Convention and Participatory Development Planning”.



CONCLUSIONS

“Today, new forms of expertise are required in order to evaluate the value and limits of participation.

In a way, the idea of expertise itself is undermined by the participation project. The landscape planner appears increasingly as an interpreter and a mediator.

Expertise has taken a different meaning: experts have ceased to be those who design the best environments according to prevailing values; they are those who facilitate transformations and minimize disruptions in conflictual settings.”

(Claval, P., 2008. “Conclusions and Impressions”. p.9)



CONCLUSIONS

The basic common denominator and the central leitmotif of the conference - **that landscape changes affect territorial identity and, thus, economic and cultural development** - proved itself as ground-breaking in terms of combining theory and practice-related prospective.

Major emphasis was given to the multifunctional character of the landscape and the need for landscape perception studies as part of development stakeholder analyses, including participatory research and planning methods, and the use of innovative cartographic techniques and GIS as planning tools.



Thank you for your attention !

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