

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPRESSIONS

Thanks !

- I first wish to thank Prof. Zoran Roca, Maria Nazare, his wife, Prof Oliveira and all the team which organized this Conference: it was an extraordinary achievement to plan so huge a Conference, offer 4 different field trips and hold the meeting in two different places!
- Thank you for all you did, and the friendly atmosphere you created

Half a Century !

- I wish now to remind all of us that the PECSRL is more than half a century old; it was born out of a Conference held in Nancy in 1957, and which attracted mainly German, Swedish and French colleagues
- Xavier de Planhol, now 82 years old, transformed this Conference into a permanent even if informal structure
- I think good to remind of his role, and of that of all those who succeeded in transforming the PECSRL into a flexible institution

The structure of this conclusion

- 1- The changing ambitions and contexts of PECSRL action
- 2- The aim of the Lisbon-Obidos meeting
- 3- Transversal remarks
- 4- What unified the different themes
- 5- Landscapes and identities
- 6- Landscapes as resources
- 7- Landscape planning and monitoring

1- Changing ambitions

- (i) Agrarian landscapes as a central theme in human geography
 - Agrarian landscapes conceived as structural realities shaped by the logics of agricultural systems
 - The homogeneity of landscapes and the lack of communication facilities in traditional societies
 - (ii) Landscapes were conceived as stable realities either in the natural field (climax) or the human one (agrarian landscapes)

- (iii) Modernization and the new dynamics of landscape:
 - The universal availability of concentrated forms of energy
 - From higher mobility to higher competition,
 - Suburbanization and rurbanization
 - Better communication facilities and glocalization
 - Landscapes never are stable structures

- (iv) The cultural turn and the new conception of landscape
 - The end of positive approaches
 - Landscapes are perceived realities
 - The necessity to develop new approaches and methodologies

2- The 23rd PECSRL Meeting

- New landscape perspectives
 - (i) The identity crisis of modern society: partly linked with the destruction and disruption of traditional landscapes
 - (ii) The global imbalance of the Earth's system, resulting from the increased use of fossil fuels □
 - (iii) The exhaustion of fossil fuels reserves and the necessity to increasingly rely on renewable forms of energy

- A new institutional environment: the European Landscape Convention
 - Each European country is involved in the implementation of landscape policies
 - The management of landscapes : a more central theme
 - How to conceive the new landscape policies ?

- Hence the themes of this Conference:
 - Landscape as a constitutive element of territorial identities
 - Landscapes as development assets and resources
 - Landscape history and landscape heritage
 - Landscape research and planning

3- Transversal results and remarks

- (i) Landscape history as a basic tool for understanding landscapes, assessing their dynamics and looking for their future
 - The exploration of new archeological evidence
 - The idea of landscape biography
 - The exploration of landscape history as a way to understand their structure and choose what has to be conserved
 - A fundamental question: how to base normative policies on historical results?

- (ii) New methodologies for analysing the perception of landscapes
 - Landscape research is increasingly relying on interviews in order to explore the way landscapes are perceived and valued
 - Landscape research is more closely linked with cognitive research

- (iii) GIS and the introduction of increasingly innovative cartographic techniques
 - Landscape cartography relies on statistical sources, remote sensing and interviews
 - Landscape cartography is increasingly imaginative
 - Landscape cartography as a fundamental tools for planning : comparative perspectives, overall patterns, the vulnerability of landscapes...

- (iv) The idea that landscapes never are stable realities is today widely accepted, which changes the role of experts: they have ceased to be those who depict the only good possibilities; they are those who try to facilitate transformations and minimize disruptions

4- A unifying approach

- Teresa Pinto Correia's approach:
 - Landscapes are generally multifunctional realities
 - Landscapes offer (i) goods and (ii) services
 - 1- It is a fundamental distinction in order to understand the economics of landscapes:
 - (i) The assessment and financing of landscape goods can be provided by market mechanisms

- (ii) Landscape services are rooted in the (mainly visual) externalities offered by landscapes: amenities; tourism; identities, etc. Hence the difficulty in evaluating and financing them
- The problem of identities as a consequence of an undervaluation of the symbolic services provided by landscapes

2- Hence the necessity to develop research on property rights and property regimes, i. e. the combination of property rights and administrative regulations

What about the landscape regimes of Europe?

5- Landscapes and identities

- (i) Landscape conservation and management as a way to create territorial identities
 - The link between identities and territory is not evident: Haesbaert's analysis of deterritorialization and reterritorialization
- (ii) The link between identity building and the local landscape is mainly strong in vernacular societies
 - In our society, it is stronger for the teenagers, whose culture remains vernacular: cf. the Italian example

- (ii) The mechanisms on which are built the identities of imagined communities are different
 - They were sometimes based on the images of symbolic landscapes, as in 19th century Britain, as shown by Agnew, but it was not true for Italy - or France

- (iii) How about the idea to build a new European identity on European agricultural landscape
- Question: what is the symbolic of traditional rural landscapes for the urbanized urban populations of today?

- (iv) Related question: how to teach landscape values in contemporary societies ?
- Interesting remarks about the way landscape identity is perceived:
 - The role of shape and texture in landscape perception

- Hence the significance of the reflection on land art:

Landscapes are significant since they are made of signs inscribed on the Earth's surface.

Is not geography a reflection on the way human beings are writing on the earth (Pinchemel)?

6- Landscapes as resources

- Landscapes are repositories of both material and intangible resources (Teresa Pinto Correia's analysis)
- (i) Because of the energy crisis, they are valued for the energy resources they offer, which have ceased to be only those based on photosynthesis: wind or photovoltaic or photothermic energies

The problem of these new resources is that they generate disturbing landscapes - and networks

(ii) The exploitation of intangible resources - amenities, touristic, identitary - is often conducive to their destruction

How to manage them?

7- Landscape planning today

- (i) In order to understand the problems of landscape research and development planning today, it is good to distinguish two phases in the genesis of contemporary problems:
 - The explosion of modernity and the decline of traditional landscape forms
 - The energy crisis and the search for new forms of modernity - and landscape management

- (ii) The impact of the European Landscape Convention
 - How to develop participation in the preparation of landscape plans?
 - How much participation is a reliable procedure?

- (iii) The question of expertise
 - The whole process of landscape planning was based on expertise, either in the ecological field or in the human history field.
 - Today, new forms of expertise are required in order to evaluate the value and limits of participation`
 - In a way, it is the idea of expertise itself which undermined by the participation project

- (iv) A new reality: the landscape planner as an interpreter and a mediator