

Modernisation of Rural Landscape. Workshop in Pori, Finland 12 - 13 December 2011

Organisers: Universities of Turku, Tampere and Oulu and the Nordic Network for Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies (NIES).

Rural landscape is often represented as unchanging and continuous, whereas townscape stands for change and modernisation. In national discourses countryside is framed as an intermediate zone between core areas and nature peripheries, acting as a site for (invented) traditions. Consequently, modernisation of rural landscape may be seen as a threat to the alleged harmony, to be dismissed and criticised.

The workshop will look at the modernisation of rural landscape, already begun in the 18th century and accelerating in the postwar period. Different angles will be examined: The technolandscape of rural infrastructures, the introduction of centralised regional planning, the institutional redefinition of rural architecture and the evolving of large-scale agriculture driven by technological innovation. Other relevant topics are welcome as well.

Short (20min + 10min discussion) presentations will be invited from the doctoral students in NIES and doctoral students or researchers outside it. Standard audiovisual equipment will be available, please inform in advance about any special requirements. The workshop will be led jointly by Maunu Häyrynen/ University of Turku, Arne Kaijser / Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) and Arne Finn Jørgensen / University of Umeå.

The workshop will take place in Reposaari, an old port and fishing community in the vicinity of Pori on the West Coast of Finland, at a former research station. The work will start on Monday 12 afternoon by an introduction by Maunu Häyrynen and finish by a talk by Finn Arne Jørgensen. The work will continue on Tuesday 13 morning with a talk by Arne Kaijser and end up with a summing up discussion. A detailed programme will follow shortly after 11 November.

A public seminar will follow on Tuesday afternoon at the Pori University Consortium with Arne Kaijser and Finn Arne Jørgensen as keynote speakers. After that, the workshop will end in an excursion to the rural areas around Pori, including sites discussed in the presentations.

Participants will take care of their own travelling arrangements with the exception of invited speakers. For PhD student members of the NIES network compensation will be available to cover at least partly their travelling costs (by the cheapest alternative).

Compensation for travel costs up to a predetermined limit can be arranged after the workshop by submitting appropriate documentation to Susanna Lidström / NIES KTH (suslid@kth.se). Eligible PhD students from NIES's Nordic member groups should retain receipts for their travel expenditures as well as their redeemed tickets and submit them to Susanna to receive their compensation. Participants from outside the NIES network will take care of their own travelling costs. Accommodation and catering at the Reposaari research station as well as transports in Pori will be taken care of by the organisers.

Abstract: Minimum 200 words in English, contact information and special diet if needed. ***Deadline: Friday 11 November.***

Location and connections: Pori is 210km from Helsinki (public connections by bus, rail and flight), 140km from Turku (bus connection) and 190km from Vaasa (bus connection). Daily ferries from Stockholm to Turku and Helsinki.

Contact information: Maunu Häyrynen, University of Turku, Landscape Studies, mauhay@utu.fi, +358-40-8649 406.

Find out more about NIES:

http://www.kth.se/en/abe/om_skolan/organisation/inst/philhist/tekhist/Forskning/nies2

Find out more about School for Cultural Production and Landscape Studies / University of Turku:

<http://www.hum.utu.fi/oppiaineet/satakunta/en/>