



Bulletin

International Association for Landscape Ecology

INTERNATIONAL PHD MASTER CLASS: INTEGRATIVE RESEARCH FOR THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

by Eva Boucnikova¹, André Jellema² and Julie Nimmo³

As participants of the recent Master Class we would like to share with others our experiences. The PhD Master Class "Integrative research for the planning and management of sustainable landscapes", took place from 1-6 June 2004, at Bakkeveen, in the Netherlands.

The aim was to put together students who wished to integrate knowledge across disciplinary boundaries and between knowledge cultures. The class included 30 PhD students from 15 countries selected out of 60 registered students. The participants had a unique opportunity to meet with other PhD colleagues and professors across a range of disciplines. By participating in the Master Class, students were able to share their experiences, discuss problems associated with their PhD projects and receive precious feedback. The professors, ten experienced scientists, Jack Ahern (Univ. of Massachusetts), Marc Antrop (Univ. of Ghent), Gary Fry (Agricultural Univ. of Norway), Terry Hartig (Uppsala Univ.), Richard Hobbs (Murdoch Univ.), David Miller (Macaulay Institute), Paul Opdam (Alterra Institute), Janet Silbernagel (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison), Bärbel Tress (Wageningen Univ.) and Gunther Tress (Wageningen Univ.) had arrived to tutor the students. Tutoring included techniques for overcoming practical and theoretical problems and discussion of participant's projects.

For participants the course started a few months before 1 June. Preparation for the course included writing an article for publication and a 10-minute talk about

the content of the participants PhD, including the problems that arose. Students presented their work, followed by discussion. Two tutors and a student opponent providing insightful and pertinent comments on the presentation and paper deepened this discussion. In the evenings after the presentation the students discussed their projects in detail with their appointed tutors (but also with other tutors and students).

The tutors gave presentations based on their area of specialty including Landscape Ecology, Landscape Planning, Landscape Architecture, Landscape Perception, Psychology and integrative research. There was a large focus on what it means to be a PhD student and how to publish through refereed journals. For the latter, an editor of a publishing house was invited to talk. For all participants the end result of this course is a chapter in the book "From Landscape Research to Landscape Planning" published in spring 2005. The highlight of the course was definitely the Saturday night party that was packed with sketches and laughter. However what happened in detail we will not reveal here, but might still be spoken of on future occasions. Our summary evaluation of the course:

Was the course a success?

The course was a great success for several reasons:

- o The smooth organisation of the course.
- o The wide scope of topics covered e.g. from landscape perception of visually disabled people to more technocratic modelling approaches.
- o The focus on people's own work and the enormous amount of feed back from both tutors and students, deepening the insight of the participants in their own project.
- o The freedom for PhD students to mingle with the tutors.
- o The possibility to publish.

Addresses of the authors: ¹Eva Boucnikova, University of South Bohemia, Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic, evi@email.cz; ²André Jellema, Wageningen University, Netherlands, andre.jellema@wur.nl; ³Julie Nimmo, University of Sydney, Australia, jnimmo@ssc.nsw.gov.au

...continued from page 1 (PhD class)

What did we get from the course?

- o New ideas for our work and a better understanding of what is happening in other fields of research.
- o Improved understanding of integrative research and its difficulties.
- o Better knowledge of what it means to be a PhD student and how to survive.
- o Understanding of how to publish articles and how peer-review works.
- o Students got feedback on their project but also learned to give critical and fair feedback.



Were there highlights during our time in Bakkeveen?

- o Highlights included making friends and establishing contacts across the globe, meeting in a friendly atmosphere and with a great group of people.
- o Enthusiastic and committed teaching and supervision often until very late into the nights (and morning).
- o A magnificent attendance by staff and students at all sessions.
- o The fabulous 15km site visit ended with a civilised tea on the terrace and was augmented by some with a late night exploration of the remnant sand dunes and ice age landscape processes.



30 PhD students from 15 countries from Europe, America and Australia and 10 international teachers.

We thank the organizers Bärbel Tress, Gunther Tress, Gary Fy and Paul Opdam for preparing the PhD Master Class and for providing us with such an enriching experience. As someone said at the course evaluation "it was very intensive but still within a relaxed atmosphere: a holiday with a purpose!" For more impressions see <http://www.wur.nl/delta/phd2004.html>.

THE IALE WEBSITE

by Rob Jongman⁴

The IALE website (<http://www.landscape-ecology.org>) is regularly updated. We distinguish three categories of links: general links, Landscape Ecology links and software links. If you want your links to be included, you can send them to Rob Jongman (rob.jongman@wur.nl). Depending on their added value for Landscape Ecology they will be included.

New publications are added as well as links to the publication sites of some chapters. If your link is missing, please inform me. Soon IALE will be publishing material that is important for Landscape Ecology, but could (can) not be published through a commercial publisher. Distribution will be organized via the Web site. Members or chapters with publications or publication plans that fall into the category described above are kindly invited to contact the President of the Executive Committee (Dr. Bob Bunce, bob.bunce@wur.nl) to discuss their ideas.

Members or chapters that plan to publish regional announcements are kindly invited to use the IALE Web site. Information can be in any language, but must be accompanied by an English translation. Please contact Rob Jongman for further details.

The directory 2004 is available for all members. Distribution as a pdf file was done via electronic mail in July 2004. Members without e-mail address will receive it via surface mail. The directory contains name, address and e-mail of all members, the Executive Committee and the regional boards. Due to privacy reasons the Directory is not freely available, but members can order it through the web (see "News" or "About us").

In September the first announcements for the IALE 2007 congress will be placed on the Web. First meetings have been taken place and the process of setting up the congress has been started. We will keep you informed through the Bulletin.

Address of the author: ⁴Dr. Rob Jongman, ALTErrA Green World Research, Wageningen UR, Postbox 47, 6700AA Wageningen, The Netherlands, e-mail: rob.jongman@wur.nl



INTERNATIONAL PHD COURSE

“Landscape Ecology: Its Methods
and their Application”

Linked to the European IALE Congress 2005 in
Faro, Portugal; <http://www.apep.pt>

Contact: Marion.Potschin@Nottingham.ac.uk

Detailed information: [ftp://ftp.wsl.ch/pub/kienast/iale/
phd_faro.doc](ftp://ftp.wsl.ch/pub/kienast/iale/phd_faro.doc)

Aims:

- o to explore the global aspects of Landscape Ecology
- o to make contact with more established scholars
- o to further the professional background
- o to train young scientists in formal and informal rules of scientific communication through attendance at an international scientific meeting
- o to focus on the tools and methods of Landscape Ecology, with theoretical considerations applied to Mediterranean Landscapes

Themes: Landscape Ecology and its Nature, Cultural Landscapes, Introduction to the Algarve Landscape, Research design and hypothesis testing in Landscape Ecology, The use of GIS and Scenarios in applied Landscape Ecology, Understanding Pattern and Processes, Transdisciplinary approaches in Landscape Ecology.

Field Trip: Portuguese Landscapes in Transition

Instructors: Marion Potschin, Roy Haines-Young, Marc Antrop, Francisco Moreira, Richard Aspinall, Jesper Brandt, Rosário Oliveira, Jacinta Fernandes, Teresa Pinto Correia



MEETINGS

October 28–30, 2004

Mesopotamian Marshes & Modern Development, Practical Approaches for Sustaining Restored Ecological & Cultural Landscapes; Pre-Conference discussion panels in New York City on October 26th and in Cambridge, Massachusetts on October 27th and photographic exhibitions at Harvard University starting on October 20th. Hosted by: The Harvard Design School Center for Technology and Environment, the Harvard University Center for the Environment, the Center for International Development at Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, and the Harvard Design School Department of Landscape Architecture; Co-Sponsored by: Applied Ecological Services, Canadian International Development Agency, CH2M HILL, Dharma Living Systems, Design Workshop, Ducks Unlimited, Iraq Foundation-Eden Again Project, Jones & Jones, Michael Baker Corporation, Montgomery Watson Harza, and North American Wetland Engineering, United States Agency of International Development.

The Mesopotamian marshes of southern Iraq, thought by some to be the original Garden of Eden, once provided habitat for millions of migrating birds and was inhabited since the time of the Sumerians by thousands of people living on artificial islands of mud and reeds and depending on sustainable fishing and farming.

Since the early 1990s, a series of water manipulations have devastated this ecologically and culturally crucial region, leading to one of the most severe “ecocides” in history. The challenge is to creatively design and sustain an environmental restoration endeavor that will allow both for the preservation of traditional lifestyles and for modern development.

Previous conferences have examined the feasibility of restoration efforts and the expected products that might ensue. The present conference will instead focus on practical approaches for sustaining the process of those restoration efforts, both during and after the reparation work.

The IALE Bulletin is distributed six times a year to the members of the IALE. The IALE - International Association for Landscape Ecology - was founded in 1982 to promote communication between scientists, planners and interdisciplinary scientific research. IALE Executive Committee: **President:** Bob Bunce 2003-2007; ALTErrA Green World Research, Wageningen UR, Postbox 47, 6700AA Wageningen, The Netherlands, bob.bunce@wur.nl; **Secretary General:** Marion Potschin 2003-2007, School of Geography, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD, Marion.Potschin@unibas.ch or Marion.Potschin@nottingham.ac.uk; **Treasurer:** Rob Jongman 1995-2007, ALTErrA Green World Research, Wageningen UR, Postbox 47, 6700AA Wageningen, The Netherlands, Rob.Jongman@wur.nl or rob.jongman@planet.nl; **Past President:** Richard J. Hobbs 2003-2007, School of Environmental Science, Murdoch University, Murdoch, WA 6150, Australia, rhobbs@essun1.murdoch.edu.au; **Vice Presidents:** Françoise Burel 1997-2005, Lab. Evolution, Université de Rennes 1, Campus de Beaulieu, 35042 Rennes Cedex, France, francoise.burel@univ-rennes1.fr; Margareta Ihse 1997-2005, Department of Physical Geography, Unit of Ecological Geography, Stockholm University, SE-106 91 Stockholm, Sweden, ihse@natgeo.su.se; Louis R. Iverson 2003-2007, USDA Forest Service, 359 Main Rd., Delaware, OH, 43015, USA, liverison@fs.fed.us; Nobukazu Nakagoshi 2003-2007, Hiroshima Univ., Dept of Environmental Studies, 1-7-1 Kagamiyama, Higashi-Hiroshima 739-8521, Japan, nobu@hiroshima-u.ac.jp; **Bulletin Editor and Deputy Secretary General:** Felix Kienast 1999-2007, Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Research, Division of Landscape Dynamics and Management, 8903 Birmensdorf, Switzerland, felix.kienast@wsl.ch; **Chairman of Council:** Jesper Brandt 1995-2007, Roskilde University, P.O. Box 260, DK 4000 Roskilde, Denmark, brandt@ruc.dk.

IALE on the Internet: IALE International: www.landscape-ecology.org

...continued from page 3 (Meetings)

Furthermore, where other conferences have focused primarily on either the natural or the cultural aspects of restoration, but not on both, we recognize that by its very concept and application, restoration blurs the lines between what is "natural" and what is "cultural." We hope to offer possible solutions to the sustainable development, both ecological and economic, of the restored Mesopotamian marshlands.

More information: <http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/mesomarshes>;
email: mesomarshes@gsd.harvard.edu;
conference phone line: 617-495-0647

March 12-16, 2005

20th Annual Symposium of the International Association for Landscape Ecology US Chapter, Syracuse, New York, USA

The 2005 US-IALE Symposium planning committee is developing a program of invited and contributed papers, posters, symposia, workshops and field trips emphasizing tangible landscape management goals that can be accomplished through the application of knowledge developed in landscape ecology. Join us in March 2005 to share your knowledge and experience. Abstracts due November 1, 2004.

More information and registration details: <http://iale.esf.edu/>



March 29- April 2, 2005

Landscape Ecology in the Mediterranean. Inside and outside approaches, Faro, Portugal

Mediterranean landscapes are changing rapidly under driving forces leading to different pathways of change. This situation calls for an adequate framework of approaches, methodologies and management practices.

More information: <http://www.apep.pt/>

July 19-23, 2005

Changing Landscapes of Africa: A Common Approach to Diverse Challenges; Paysages Changeants de l'Afrique: Une Approche Commune aux Défis Divers, 1st Regional Biannual Conference of the African Chapter of the International Association of Landscape Ecology (Africa-IALE), Elmina, Ghana

Recent developments in the collection and processing of landscape-based data have resulted in increased opportunities to address environmental, socioeconomic and developmental problems in African countries.

These developments, together with recent inauguration of the African Union, present unique opportunities for collaboration among researchers, policy makers and resource managers that are interested in mitigating degradation of resources common to African countries and in sustainable management of these resources.

As the concept of landscape ecology receives proper attention on the African continent, it is important to bring together researchers, educators, politicians, policymakers, resource managers, and development agencies in a forum that focuses on landscape perspectives of environmental management and socioeconomic development of the natural resources of the African continent.

More information soon on: <http://calmit.unl.edu/africa-iale/>
Download flier: <ftp://ftp.wsl.ch/pub/kienast/iale/africa.pdf>

September 20-24, 2005

Biodiversity Conservation and sustainable development in mountain areas of Europe: The challenge of interdisciplinary research, Ioannina, Epirus, Greece

For centuries agriculture has played a multifunctional role in defining and sustaining mountain biodiversity in Europe through the management of habitats, species and landscapes. With significant agricultural adjustment and contraction now in prospect, there is potential for major impacts on mountain biodiversity. Some of these changes may be deleterious, e.g. loss of locally-adapted species and semi-natural habitats; others beneficial, e.g. new successional pathways providing opportunities for restoration of some elements of the pre-agricultural, wilder landscapes.

The focus of the conference will be to examine both the socio-economic drivers of agricultural change across upland Europe and the ecological effects of these new agricultural practices on landscapes and biodiversity. Alternative future scenarios of agricultural restructuring will be discussed along with the implications for biodiversity conservation of market liberalisation and targeted environmental support to farmers. The overall aim of this international conference is to highlight the need for interdisciplinary research in this area which explores the social, economic, ecological and overall sustainability of these change processes and to discuss a variety of methodological approaches, including stakeholder deliberation, sustainability appraisal and landscape ecological modeling, necessary to achieve this.

This conference is organized around the European BioScene research project "Scenarios for reconciling biodiversity conservation with declining agricultural use in the mountains of Europe" (<http://www.bioscene.co.uk>) funded by the European Union 5th Framework Programme (DG XII).

More information: <ftp://ftp.wsl.ch/pub/kienast/iale/greece.pdf>