

CFI-project PhD Get-together!



Green geographies for everyday practices: transformations and rescalings of welfare landscapes in the densifying city. (Engström)



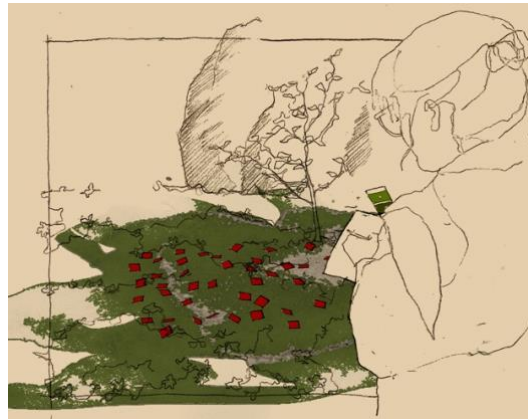
Urban sustainable stormwater management from a governance perspective: Case study of China and Sweden (Qiao)



Site, Time, and Actors: Integrative Approaches to Urban Transformation (Dahl)



Influences of Collective Creativity in Design Theory (Conti)



Aesthetic Considerations and Environmental Appraisals: Colour influences in landscape architecture (Thorpert)



Municipality borders & spatial planning (Lexén)



Things, Times and Practices: Everyday Sociomateriality at Three Local Urban Spaces (Wirdelöv)



Sustainable urban green spaces design and management from social biodiversity perspective: the case of lawns. (Yang)

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APPENDIX:

Posters

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INTRODUCTION

A strong PhD community within SLU Landscape is beneficial for many reasons. PhD students are offered an informal space for exchanging everything from disciplinary to practical questions. A strong PhD community also builds network for future collaborations within SLU as well as with colleagues getting future position at other universities. A strong PhD community offers visibility to SLU as an attractive university to pursue a dissertation from. Hence values on both individual and organizational levels are generated. Finally, the interaction and knowledge exchange offered from a PhD community does in the end contribute to the quality of the actual research produced.

The project first and foremost wanted to connect PhD-students within SLU Landscape in order to create a frame/arena/platform from which a more long-lasting community of PhD-students can be created. The project shows that this emerging community needs strong support from SLU Landscape, the heads of departments, the supervisors etc. but also that the community is best developed if it is left as an informal entity. Secondly, the project aimed at having participants exchange on methods and methodology within landscape. This was achieved to a lower degree than perhaps expected, but the aspiration still worked as a motivation for actually getting the PhD-students to meet and talk.

PROJECT GOALS

The project had three main goals stated:

- PhD students across the Landscape field will get to know each-other and each-others' work.
- Exchange of methods and methodology will raise awareness and openness towards various approaches.
- Writing exercise that will contribute to a concrete outcome. Could perhaps be set up as an individual course to be included in the course work.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

During the initial preparation phase the group of participants was formed and the first meeting planned.

First meeting took place in Linköping on March 8, 2018. The main purpose with the meeting was for PhD-students to meet and present their doctoral project to each other, which also happened. In preparation all participants were also asked to read parts I and II of the book *Research in Landscape Architecture: Method and Methodology* (Brink et al 2017). There was no time to discuss the literature as such, but several comments on the presented projects concerned methodology questions.

The second meeting took place in concurrence with the SLU Landscape Days in Ultuna, April 25-26, 2018. The meeting was organized as a workshop and in preparation for the workshop the participants had produced a poster presenting the methods and methodology used in each respectively doctoral project. Scholar Anne Katrine Geelmuynden from NMBU in Norway was invited to lecture on process and method when conducting a doctoral project, and acted as discussant during the workshop. The workshop was also guested by doctoral students from SLU's collaboration with Tanzania.

The third meeting took place in Alnarp, May 29, 2018. The meeting focused on a continued discussion on methodologies and methods, based on readings from the book *Research in Landscape*

Architecture: Method and Methodology. The discussion surrounded the main insights from the readings. Further challenges in formulating appropriate methodologies and methods were discussed in an informal setting where the participants could share reflections and insights. In addition, the benefits of exchanging knowledge with peers both in a theoretical and in a practical perspective, were discussed, see below.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

One expected project outcome was that PhD students across the landscape field would get to know each other and each-others' work, hence supporting an understanding of the broad scope of research work that is taking place within SLU Landscape. This has truly been met through the project activities. Participating students testifies to the emerging community of PhD-students as being "inspirational", "supporting", "motivating", and a "free space" where one for example can exchange experiences and test ideas in an informal and collegial environment in ways that are not offered through supervision and courses. This we believe might be particularly important for students that have a background in other disciplines than landscape architecture. Further, a strong PhD community with students connected to SLU Landscape is important in order to overcome institutional, as well as geographical, boundaries between the two campuses, Alnarp and Ultuna.

Tentative challenge that has been identified during the project is that it is difficult to be relevant for all PhD-students, even within SLU Landscape. Hence, there is a tension that needs to be mediated between being inclusive for all and running the risk of having no one joining because the activities and discussions are too broad. We believe that there are various ways of tackle this, but recommend that it is acknowledged for the future.

Another expected and fulfilled outcome, was the exchange and raising of awareness towards various methods and methodologies used in the context of different doctoral projects. This was achieved through students presenting their work to each other, through a workshop on the topic with invited scholar Anne Katrine Geelmuynden, and through readings that was somewhat discussed within the group. The knowledge transfer inbetween, for example, beginning PhD student and soon-to-be-finished PhD student or inbetween PhD students of different disciplinary backgrounds, was perceived as rewarding.

Some of the participating students used the project as an individual course to be recognized within their coursework. This brings up another challenge that has been discussed amongst the participants; that there is a tendency (mostly for good reasons but still challenging) among supervisors to reject student's activities that are not immediately progressing the PhD-project. This is hampering the possibilities of building a PhD community and needs to be addressed by, for example, the HoDs.

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

The CFI-project proposes that there is a continuation of support for building a strong and long-lasting PhD community. We would like to call it the **PhD's Forum**. We believe that this can be achieved by:

- The Heads of departments strongly recognize the importance for PhD students to meet.
- The faculty or departments support travel and accommodation for 2-3 meeting a year (not all of them in concurrence with the SLU Landscape Days as there is too little time for in-depth conversations).

- The SOL-department involves the PhD-students from SLU Landscape (not only from SOL) to take active responsibility for organizing some activity for visiting PhD-students during the upcoming ECLAS-conference in Ultuna 2019.
- An official email list with all PhD-students within SLU Landscape is created.
- The SLU Landscape webpage is expanded with one button where we can introduce all ongoing PhD-projects.

COMMENTS ON CFI PROCESS

The CFI process has been smooth. The launch meeting helped get the project going and most importantly supported the activities of getting more participants joining the project. The reporting requests have been reasonable as has the task of contributing to the SLU Landscape Days.

The feasibility of reapplying from CFI for the continuation of our project has been raised. Considering that longevity and continuation are desirable in this case, it might be perceived as unnecessary to go through the same application process every year.