



Deep engagement with a pluralistic landscape: Response to Katherine Burlingame (2024), “Landscape geographies: Interdisciplinary landscape research and a new framework to apply landscape as method”

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This paper builds several thought-provoking bridges between theorising and practising *landscape* in ways that make the concept accessible to a wide range of study and practice. Presenting us with the TRIOLE-model for landscape engagement, the author provides an inspirational framework to bring landscape theories out in the field and tackle pertinent questions about nature and culture and how they entwine. For each component of the suggested model, the author draws in relevant theoretical and methodological points while eloquently exemplifying from teaching experiences and contrasting the components of *Locale – Story – Presence* in ways that make them each easily comprehensible, and yet objects of advanced study. The author pushes us to understand an entangled landscape in different disciplinary intersections, and with an increased attention to more-than-human histories and presence.

While resisting a strict definition (to her students’ initial discontent), the author shows the critical virtue of troubling dominant narratives by exploring and presenting a plural landscape with precision. She provides methodological pointers for moving beyond static landscape understandings, and shows how geographical, historical, and archaeological investigations can be brought into dialogue, and thus inspires a new attention to the material constitution of the present. This amounts to concrete and actionable ways to include-but-decentre the researcher’s own experiences and puts them on par with other forms of knowing and nuanced understandings of non-human subjects. This adds a dynamic approach to landscape engagement that deals with marginalised perspectives on landscape, extends a democratic, epistemic engagement beyond human subjects, and encourages a much wider reflection. For participatory landscape researchers, this amounts to a much-needed guidebook to bring to the field with citizen-participants and offers generous methodological tools to raise discussions about hidden elements and structures in everyday landscapes.

In its entirety, the author’s presentation of new ways to work with the material, symbolic and affective dimensions of the landscape offers an accessible framework for interdisciplinary engagement and beyond. The simple elegance of the framework invites landscape dwellers (human and otherwise), users, scholars, and visitors into a constructive and critically reflexive engagement. Rather than letting the host of landscape theories and ever-growing kinds of “scapes” result in diffusion, the author accomplishes making this pluralistic development a strength.

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