

---

# RaumFragen: Stadt – Region – Landschaft

## Series editors

Olaf Kühne, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen,  
Tübingen, Germany

Sebastian Kinder, Institute of Geography, Universität Tübingen,  
Tübingen, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

Olaf Schnur, Research, c/o vhw Bundesverband e.V.,  
Berlin, Germany

**RaumFragen: Stadt – Region – Landschaft** Im Zuge des „spatial turns“ der Sozial- und Geisteswissenschaften hat sich die Zahl der wissenschaftlichen Forschungen in diesem Bereich deutlich erhöht. Mit der Reihe „RaumFragen: Stadt – Region – Landschaft“ wird Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftlern ein Forum angeboten, innovative Ansätze der Anthropogeographie und sozialwissenschaftlichen Raumforschung zu präsentieren. Die Reihe orientiert sich an grundsätzlichen Fragen des gesellschaftlichen Raumverständnisses. Dabei ist es das Ziel, unterschiedliche Theorieansätze der anthropogeographischen und sozialwissenschaftlichen Stadt- und Regionalforschung zu integrieren. Räumliche Bezüge sollen dabei insbesondere auf mikro- und mesoskaliger Ebene liegen. Die Reihe umfasst theoretische sowie theoriegeleitete empirische Arbeiten. Dazu gehören Monographien und Sammelbände, aber auch Einführungen in Teilaspekte der stadt- und regionalbezogenen geographischen und sozialwissenschaftlichen Forschung. Ergänzend werden auch Tagungsbände und Qualifikationsarbeiten (Dissertationen, Habilitationsschriften) publiziert.

**SpaceAffairs: City – Region – Landscape** In the course of the “spatial turn” of the social sciences and humanities, the number of scientific researches in this field has increased significantly. With the series “RaumFragen: Stadt – Region – Landschaft” scientists are offered a forum to present innovative approaches in anthropogeography and social space research. The series focuses on fundamental questions of the social understanding of space. The aim is to integrate different theoretical approaches of anthropogeographical and social-scientific urban and regional research. Spatial references should be on a micro- and mesoscale level in particular. The series comprises theoretical and theory-based empirical work. These include monographs and anthologies, but also introductions to some aspects of urban and regional geographical and social science research. In addition, conference proceedings and qualification papers (dissertations, postdoctoral theses) are also published.

#### **Series Editors**

Prof. Dr. Dr. Olaf Kühne  
Universität Tübingen

PD Dr. Olaf Schnur  
Berlin

Prof. Dr. Sebastian Kinder  
Universität Tübingen

More information about this series at <http://www.springer.com/series/10584>

---

Olaf Kühne

# Landscape Theories

A Brief Introduction

Olaf Kühne  
Forschungsbereich Geographie  
Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen  
Tübingen, Germany

ISSN 2625-6991                      ISSN 2625-7009 (electronic)  
RaumFragen: Stadt – Region – Landschaft  
ISBN 978-3-658-25490-2              ISBN 978-3-658-25491-9 (eBook)  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-25491-9>

Library of Congress Control Number: 2019935849

Springer VS

© Springer Fachmedien Wiesbaden GmbH, part of Springer Nature 2019

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are reserved by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

The publisher, the authors and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Verantwortlich im Verlag: Cori Antonia Mackrodt

This Springer VS imprint is published by the registered company Springer Fachmedien Wiesbaden GmbH part of Springer Nature

The registered company address is: Abraham-Lincoln-Str. 46, 65189 Wiesbaden, Germany

---

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank everyone who made this book possible. With the countless colleagues with whom I have repeatedly dealt with the subject of landscape over the past two and a half decades. Without your criticism, suggestions and support this book would not have been possible. I would like to thank Corinna Jenal in particular for the constructive review of the manuscript and Ted Cahill for the linguistic fine-tuning. My special thanks go to my wife, who always supports me in my research (and not only there).

Tubingen  
January 2019

---

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introductory Remarks</b>	1
<b>2</b>	<b>Currently Discussed Theoretical Perspectives on Landscape</b>	7
2.1	Landscape Between Objectivity, Individual and Social Construction	7
2.2	Essentialism	10
2.3	Positivism	14
2.3.1	Positivism and Landscape	14
2.3.2	Positivism and Landscape-Related Planning	15
2.4	Constructivist Approaches	16
2.4.1	Social Constructivism	17
2.4.2	Autopoietic Systems Theory	22
2.4.3	Discourse Theory	27
2.5	'More-Than-Representational' Approaches	30
2.5.1	Phenomenology	31
2.5.2	Actor Network Theory	33
2.5.3	Assemblage Theory	35
2.6	Neopragmatism	35
<b>3</b>	<b>Aesthetic Approaches to Landscape</b>	41
3.1	Aesthetics: Between Philosophy and Experiment	41
3.2	Aesthetic Judgements Between Beauty, Picturesqueness, Sublimity and Ugliness	42
3.3	All Dichotomies? First: Art Aesthetics Versus Natural Aesthetics	48
3.4	All Dichotomies? Second: Object Orientation Versus Subject Orientation	49
3.5	Approaches to Rationality, Sensuality, Emotionality, and Atmospheres	51
3.6	Social Operationalizations: High Culture (Art)— Trivial Culture (Kitsch)	53
3.7	Back to the Beginning: Meaning of the Senses	54

<b>4</b>	<b>The Differentiated Socialization of Landscape</b> .....	59
4.1	Main Features of the Process of Socialization .....	59
4.2	The Differentiated Socialization of Landscape .....	61
4.3	The Cultural Diversity of Landscape Constructs .....	64
4.4	Historical Developments: Landscape as a Topic of Comparison Between Anglo-Saxon and German Geographical Research .....	69
<b>5</b>	<b>Power and Landscape: From Political Worldviews and Critical Landscape Research</b> .....	73
5.1	Power and Landscape .....	74
5.2	Political Worldviews and Their Landscape Implications .....	76
5.2.1	Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism—Some Main Features .....	78
5.2.2	Landscape and Political Worldviews: Understandings of City, Country, and Suburbia .....	85
5.3	Critical Landscape Research in the Tradition of Critical Theory .....	87
5.4	Landscape as a Medium of Social Distinction and Power Processes: A Critical Approach Based on the Sociology of Pierre Bourdieu .....	92
5.5	Criticism of the Loss of Participation in Landscape Processes .....	97
<b>6</b>	<b>Current Issues in Social Science Landscape Research: Theoretical Classifications</b> .....	103
6.1	The Moralization of Landscape .....	103
6.2	Conflicts Over Changes in the Physical Foundations of Landscape .....	107
6.3	Landscape and Postmodernism: From Appreciation of Historical Hybridization and Pastiche Formations .....	117
<b>7</b>	<b>Conclusion</b> .....	133
	<b>Literature</b> .....	139