

Advanced **LAND SCAPE** Seminar

Department of **Landscape Architecture** and Regional & Community Planning
College of Architecture, Planning & Design
Kansas State University

LAR 750 | Advanced Landscape Seminar | Fall 2018

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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
/ REGIONAL & COMMUNITY PLANNING
THE COLLEGE of
ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & DESIGN // K-STATE

ADVANCED LANDSCAPE SEMINAR | Cody Herbert Borwege

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Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional & Community Planning
College of Architecture, Planning & Design
Kansas State University | Manhattan , Kansas

LAR 750 | Advanced Landscape Seminar | Amir Gohar, Professor of Practice

Book Layout by Cody Borwege
Fall 2018

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Figure 00: Gohar, Amir. Downtown Cairo Bird's Eye View. Source: Courtesy of Hany Helmy

Vision Statement as an Emergent Landscape Architect

August 22, 2018

01

From your previous professional experience, academic studies, engagement in local community and readings beyond the classroom, write in no more than 140 words your vision statement as a landscape architect or an environmental advocate. Highlight how do you envision the future of the discipline and your expected role as a landscape architect.

#Env_Plan #Landscape



Figure 01: Emergence: The Creative Process

6 | Advanced Landscape Seminar | Amir Gohar | Fall 2018

Summary | [Link](#)

As landscape architects we are tasked with creating something above and beyond ourselves. We are crucial members of society interacting at all scales to have a lasting influence on the world. Our actions influence others and are inherently focused within green initiatives and ecological parameters. Understanding that there are no small parts in creating a better tomorrow.

Blog Post | Response

My previous professional experience with landscape architecture have afforded me with multiple opportunities to witness first hand and confirm our role as dreamers, educators, and thought leaders within our communities. Primarily, as a discipline I would challenge the landscape architecture profession to better focus our efforts on the knowledge of our surrounds and be more cognizant of its needs and to be adaptive to change. Second, champion our efforts to become educators and promoters of our field to better inform the coming generations about the effect they can have on their communities future for the better. Third, to better embrace the current trends of human impacts on the environment, the rise in population and hunger, through collaboration with other professional fields on a global scale. Only through this generative process and the creation of thought leaders, will we better equipped individuals with the mentality to enact change in communities on their own accord, have conviction for what they believe in and the ability to talk and share about their passions and concerns openly with others. I perceive my role as a future landscape architect to be a communicator and act has a mediator across cultures, communities, income statuses, and promote the happiness within the public realm.

“A Declaration of Concern” on behalf of landscape architecture: <https://landscapearchitecturemagazine.org/current-issue/may-2016/a-declaration-of-concern-june-1966/>

History + Evolution of Environmental + Landscape Planning

August 29, 2018

02

Based on the lecture and discussions in class, identify the main milestones discussed through the different eras. Select the most significant two in your own views and describe them in further details explaining the reasons of their importance.

In couple of lines indicate if you agree more with Muir or Pinchot and why?

#Env_Plan #Landscape



Summary | [Link](#)

Our collective society has endured several drastic phase transitions has fundamentally changed the parameters we live and interact within. Recognizing that interaction is more conducive to change what working in isolation. This is an observatory practice that is reliant on reflecting on past actions and progressing into the future.

Figure 02: Disruption-Differentiation-Coherence

Blog Post | Response

Identified milestones discussed through the different eras: The major milestones throughout the different areas started off revolving around the generalized human perception of landscape and the widely appreciated aesthetics associated with that preconception. This stemmed to other veins of beauty and composition that was found in art and the rather informal arrangement of landscape designs. This obsession with the natural world quickly shifted to a general neglect and over saturation of its resources and our reliance on its processes for financial gain. In the preindustrial revolution, 18th century, there was an overwhelming assumption that nature had a significant importance on our health and well-being and was crucial to our existence as mankind. This ideal began to fade into the background it was revisited in the industrial revolution, 19th century, with Fredrick Law Olmsted's proposal for Central Park in New York aimed to improve the quality of life and increase access to public space for recreational purposes. Soon the interconnectivity of parks and green spaces within the city wasn't enough and expanded to the areas between them. At the beginning of the ecological planning era, 1920-1970, informed by the introduction and reliance of vehicles for transportation Parkways and landscapes that were intended to be view at high rates of travel were introduced and soon after value engineered into the modern highways we are familiar with today.

This lack of effort for maintenance and prolong nature in our life's brought the environmental migration, 1971-1980. This era focused on the economic gain in relation to public health at its pinnacle, a narrow view of the potential and prolonged necessities our environment provides us with. From 1981-1998 there was a paradigm shift to sustainable development and global environmental issues such things as global warming and other anthropogenic implications. Where more sophisticated countries made leaps and bounds to reverse or lessen the effects we have on our surrounds, leaving less developed countries behind. Lastly, the current era is considered the post

environmental sustainability, 1998 to present, where we now have come to terms with the reality we have placed ourselves within. Sustainability is a term that is too inherently vague and holistic in nature, to cause an emotive response of comfort with the future that lies before us. Each of these eras has come and gone in relatively the same nature, were two minorities the decision makers and those who are literate in the topic at hand aren't cordial but rather at ends. This needs to be something addressed head-on and in a fundamentally sound fashion over multiple generations to be a success. Which has yet to be the cause and likely will not be until the hope of change is to far go and the inevitable is met with more synthetic options of change.

My two most significant milestones further described: I feel the industrial revolution and the sustainable development and global environmental issues eras are the most significant to me of the six represented. The industrial revolution brought the deterioration of cities and a demand for a shared public realm. During that time, we improved the quality of life and equal access to public spaces. This was when Fredrick Law Olmsted, the father of modern-day landscape architecture, was at the height of his career and implementing his plans for Central Park in New York City. He was impactful for not only his astounding landscape designs that were reminiscent of nature to the point of indistinguishably but that he was a social reformer and used his projects to tell a larger story. During this time the public needs to be changed from the case by case interventions of single parks in a community and cultural centers to that of interconnected parkways at a city or even regional scale. The governmental and decision makers of the time came on board with the mentality that no matter the size of a single park, it's insufficient to serve the needs of the public for recreation and passive activities. These lead to the incorporation of the parkways an ecological corridor tailored to a high-speed viewing of automobiles.

The early '80's to late 90's is to have sustainability and global environmental issues became the pinnacle of concern by the government and global organizations. Its goal through is to recognize the direct relationship between the global and local scales impact on the environment isn't being acknowledged by the political leaders, decision-makers or users of public space. There is a global adoption for preventative measures to counteract imitate effects of climate change risks and the increasing trend of natural disasters. In these matters more developed countries were quick to the trigger, leaving the lesser developed countries to the wayside. Other initiatives acknowledged in this era are that of sustainability prior to the modern opinion of the term and its comforting effects of the impending future we have presented ourselves with. The intent is to create systems in which we are meeting the present needs of humanity without compromising those of ability of future generations to meet their needs. Pushing the 3 E's of equity, economy, and ecology to increase advocacy for more sustainable land use practices and maintain a fragile balance.

As most people, in my opinion, would side with Muir due to his emphasis on the protection of wildlife. He wanted to ensure the American natural landscape for future generations regardless of its economic benefit and chose to focus on the emotive and intangible aspirations he found in the national parks he spent most of his time within.

The LAF Declaration, New LAF Declaration, and everything in Between.

September 4, 2018

03

The Landscape Architecture Foundation have developed two “declarations of concern” one in 1966 and one in 2016 with 60 years different. Write in no more than two pages, your assessment of the original declaration, and the new declaration, and compare and contrast the similarities and differences between both in the light of the times they were developed. End with a paragraph sharing your own opinion if we as landscape architects are making progress in addressing the concerns in both declarations or not? And are we moving forward progressively / positively, or not?

Review the Declaration, the New Declaration and the Lecture/ Video titled: “Less a Declaration than Some Thoughts” (all on the class-material tab) then write your reflections and critical overview on the directions we are heading to.

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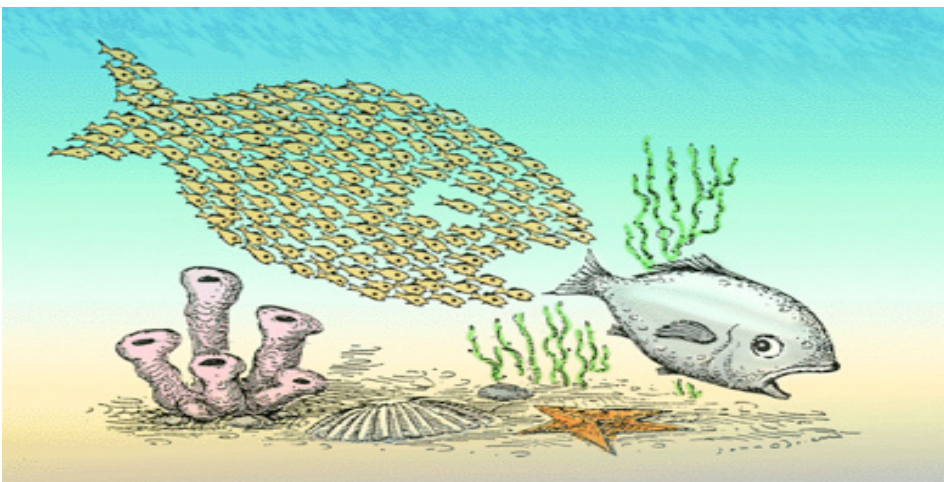


Figure 03: Emergence's

Summary | [Link](#)

The new Landscape Declaration echoes the snowball effect, a conceptual narrative of small things forming bigger things. Where each member is crucial to become more than they would be able to accomplish of there own. This gathering up of like mind is how we take the wicked problems of the world and pupetuate a brighter future for generations to come.

Blog Post | Response

Progression in Addressing Concerns:

The original 1966 Declaration of Concern is very reminiscent of the American dream and our ability as a nation to come together and enact the changes we want to see through sheer brawn and our initiative to be a voice for the land. It brings to light both broad and wide-ranging problems the nation was facing and very specific locations of high fidelity. The new 2016 Call to Action is a global infatuation with societal relations the environment and ecological processes occurring all around us. The magnetism of this prompt is the inclusivity and grandeur of the profession, a selfless field of scholars, stewards, and visionaries.

Both Declarations are eerily similar in tone and assertiveness to the deeply embedded implications our actions have at a planetary scale. They coax designers and other relevant professions to ascertain the self-awareness necessary to be diligent in our practices and beneficiaries for the environment. Ideologically, each declaration has an ambient accession to the literacy of our landscapes and an antithesis to we believe to have forsaken our subsequent generations.

The '66 declaration is notably a small group of male figureheads hand selected by the Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) of the time. Its breathing is an anecdotal response to the purlieu status most large post-industrial cities were stigmatized by. The '16 declaration is the culmination in a surplus of seven hundred landscape architects in conjunction with related design and construction fields, governmental agencies and advocates of our natural world to enact change. Through multicultural recognition of a global impotence and the concession of liberation from the incarcerating borders separating the empathetic rapport our profession has with nature. The text is aim is to be generative of commitment and insight action today.

Landscape architecture in the modern-day instills the core concepts eloquent in each declaration confirming our role as dreamers, educators, and thought leaders within our communities. Primarily, as a discipline to challenge ourselves to better focus efforts on the knowledge of our surrounds and be more cognizant of its needs and to be adaptive to change. Champion our efforts to become educators and promoters of our field to better inform the coming generations about the effect they can have on their community's future for the better. Embrace collaboration with other professional fields on a global scale. Only through this seminal process will we better-equipped individuals with the mentality to enact change in communities, certitude for their beliefs and the ability to share their concerns openly with others.

I perceive future landscape architects to be the communicators, mediating across cultures, communities, and social classes promoting an equitable public realm.

Rivers and their Social Connectivity

September 12, 2018

04

The article “Social Connectivity of Urban Rivers” provides a framework to understand the relationship between the river the city users. There are different typologies that the article uses to unpack this relationship. Select a river that you are familiar with (not mentioned in the paper), and in no more than two pages, describe: (i) its environmental profile, (ii) different types people’s of interactions, (iii) flooding potential, (iv) describe its transport system contemporary or historically, (v) describe its three types of connectivity, and (vi) suggest possible improvements/restorations for the segment you are familiar with. Be articulate precise and try to cover all the points with depth and clarity.

#Env_Plan #Landscape

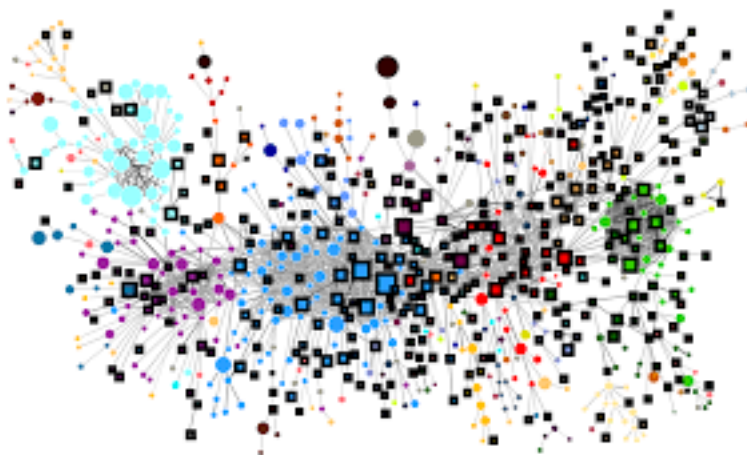


Figure 04: The Atlas of Economics Complexity

Summary | [Link](#)

Social connectivity is vital to our futures because it recognizes the value that each individual interaction has. Our profession is strategically positioned to promote a watershed in a course of the current state of affairs. Having our work and those involved be stewards of the land and influence the people who find themselves in the places we make.

Blog Post | Response

My river of choice is the Straight river of southern Minnesota reaching from Faribault to Owatonna. The straight river flows north meandering through what is majority farmland towards its mouth on the Cannon River. The Straight River is a part of the Mississippi watershed and eventually, it's watered make it to the Mississippi and eventually the Gulf Coast. One of the major cities which the Straight river flows through is Owatonna, which is a modern interpretation of the original name the native American tribe gave to the river, Wakpá Owóthana, directly translate to "Straight river." Many believe this oxymoron, in it that the river is quoted to be one of the crooked in the entire state, not having a single straight length in its entirety. When in fact it the river runs almost perfectly south to north across most of both Steele and Rice county.

The naming convention comes from its rich history with trade and open interactions of commerce between the native American tribes, Dakota 'Sioux', Ojibwa 'Chippewa' and the white settlers and fur traders. The Straight river was a well-established area that provided a surplus of animals and their prized pelts. This history isn't as acknowledged as of late and the cities association with the native American tribes that where once living in the area has since parted ways.

The river itself runs more than 30 miles which are relatively short in comparison to most river bodies, but if the river where to be stretched out or measured along its centerline, it would be more than 55 miles in length. The width typically ranges between 30 to an 80-foot width and from 1 to 4 feet in depth most times throughout the year. There are noticeable signs of erosion along areas of low grassy banks and adjacent to land produce agricultural lands. This cause an increased sediment load which builds up in the riverbed over the course of the year but is annually cleansed during the spring when the river flows at a much higher intensity and often when flooding occurs. The river makes its way through two large cities Owatonna and Faribault where it has been artificially

widened to accommodate recreational activities but most of it flows through small rural communities like mine and large swaths of open fields, farmland and grazing pastures. Where it takes on a more pastoral and intimate character, much narrowed also to that of the classification of a stream or creek, whose banks are lined with large old growth trees who canopy stretch across and cover the water with their canopy.

The Straight river offers several recreational activities most of which are seasonal, each with their own character and following. The most common activities are designated camping areas along the river, with canoing and kayaking access as well as fishing. With the rise in popularity, some of the parks along the river have included disc golf course that strategically use the river to add difficulty and appeal. During the winter months, the river freezes and is used for skating rink, hockey, and curling. Within my friend group and some of the smaller towns bow fishing, opposed to traditional fishing methods, has gained popularity and before vital conversational activities that has lessened the number of Asian carp and alligator gar which are much more hardy than traditional sports fish. I would say the activity the river is less know for is swimming, not necessarily because of fear of pollutants in the water but rather due to the current and the lack of depth in most populated areas.

Due to some of outdated flood prevention methods and poor placement of dams and levees within the body of water areas down the river experience more severe flooding that current trend is increasing. A major flood that occurred September 2010 when the combination of a wet summer and over-saturated soil along with heavy rains during the time of the river cresting caused immense flooding and dangerous current levels in the river. This flood changed a lot of the character of the river and reshaped much of its vegetated edge. After this some strategies to lessen the potential for flooding where introduce from specialties provided by the state and updates to the damn near the Owatonna power plant to better

regulate and create of a more consistent rate of flow for the river. Surprisingly, a lot of the houses damaged, and other buildings affected by the flooding were rebuilt in the same area and will almost nothing to prevent or inhibit future damages.

As previously stated the river currently is used for recreational activities like Kayaking, canoing and on occasion floating trips on inner tubes. To the best of my knowledge, there aren't any commercial uses of the river for lumber or other harvests like there were in the past. Historically the river was widely used for fur trapping and as a significant trade route. A large majority of native American tribes frequented the greater area around the river for hunting and fishing as well. The Straight River is one of the few to run north in this area of southern Minnesota and due to this fact was almost used as a superhighway of sorts to move large sums of pelts north the trading station in Faribault. Other uses but not necessarily for transportation directly where flour mills that ran on the power generated by the river's current. Then the flour was transported out into villages and settlements via the river and stream networks along with most other dry goods.

The conceptual premise of fluvial connectivity is broken up into four dimensions or classifications in which the river can be diagnosed. Those being the longitudinal or linear connections, lateral or floodplain, vertical or hyporheic (what occurs below the bed of a stream), and lastly the temporal (time) which can be measured as seasonal, multi year, or generational. The all of these are applicable to the Straight River and how it changes along its length and width and over time. Throughout the lengthen of the river the horizontal crossing of the river is via bridges and vehicular overpasses. I would say the greatest impact would be its longitudinal connectivity and the variety of transportation methods that occur along either side of the river. On one side of the river weaves its way along I-35 which runs all the way down to Kansas City and on the other is a much smaller country road and set of railroad tracks. Throughout the lengthen of the river the horizontal crossing of the river is via bridges and vehicular overpasses.

Currently, the area I'm most familiar with the Straight river is the stretch that runs through the Medford park. This area is one that I feel has experienced a lot of changes as of late that have a direct effect on the flow of the river. In the early 2000's an existing bridge was renovated and included the addition of pillars in the water, and which the last year or so a new commercial truck fueling station was built in an area that use to be used for flood overflow. After some of the damage that occurred during the 2010 floods, I don't necessarily agree with the potential economic gain of these verses' potential influx in flooding. Some improvements to this stretch could be the trail system along the river's edge that connects to the Owatonna trail network, educational signage on the rivers history and designated fishing areas. Currently, most of the river's edge to too densely covered in trees to even get to the river, or there are a chain link fences as a barrier from the edge of the water. I think some of the restoration methods along the river could include a study of areas in which the river is getting polluted or excess chemicals from farms are getting into the water, also studying the areas of elevated erosion along the banks and seeing what the potential causes are and where different methods could be implemented to help decrease this in the future.

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Unpacking the Built + Natural Environments

September 19, 2018

05

According to discussion in class and the different ways the natural environment influence how we shape our built environment try to summarize some of the ideas discussed as follow: (1) In your first page, in your view, what are the most two significant environmental factors influencing and shaping the built environment, and why do you consider them of more importance than the other? and (2) in your second page: Discuss, in your views, and according to the ecological and social benefits debated in class, share how to integrate nature in cities on the continuum below:

Dense<----->Mixed<----->Fragmented

#Env_Plan #Landscape

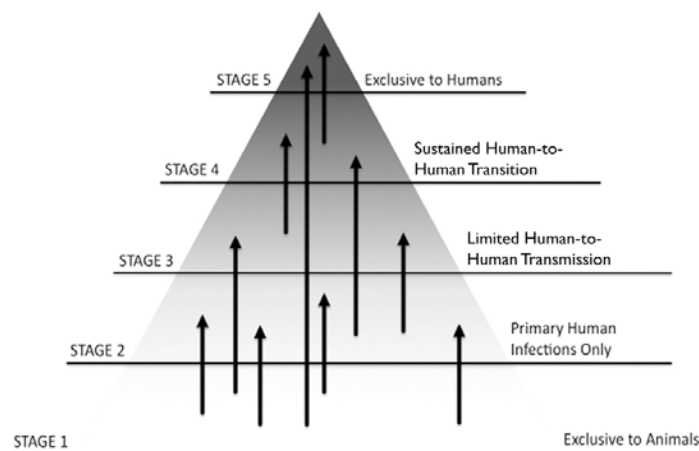


Figure 05: Emergence Model

Summary | [Link](#)

This emergence model is representative of what the lack of natural places within our community could look like. The range of species diversity is far broader when it is exclusive to animals apposed to humans. These natural ecologies are better off without human inhabitation. There is however an impetus for temporary human interaction at a localized scale.

Blog Post | Response

Part 01 |

The two most significant factors influencing the built environment and shaping our urban fabric are water and agricultural lands. Both of these factors are integral to our existence and have been contiguous with the success and evolution of modern-day civilization. Waters influence the landscape and shaping of our environment have been a major part of our decisions throughout history to choose where to development, plant our crops, to hunt and fish. The ability to have fresh clean water readily available is quite literally the lifeblood of all civilization and living things collectively. During the aforementioned times, water was key to survival and was viewed as an immeasurable source of wealth within the community. In the modern day almost, all major cities are built up around some significant source of water be it Chicago alongside Lake Michigan, Twin Cities and the Mississippi, or even New Orleans and Gulf Coast. Each of these examples places an emphasis on the body of water he or she is adjacent to and impact the communities surrounding them. The reasons backing why I consider water to hold more environment significance is its multifaceted nature, representing history, trade, commerce, wildlife, recreation, and place where people congregate openly and freely. Although waters significance isn't always treated with the respect it deserves, it can become a dumping ground for trash and other forms of pollutants and waste byproducts. I also feel that these interactions with water shape our built environment in more site-specific ways and change the way we parcel out of cities within the urban fabric.

Another major player influencing the shape of our built environment is agriculture and large areas of land dedicated to feeding people and livestock. I am torn when it comes to agriculture, because of my upbringing. I grew up in a small agricultural town in southern Minnesota that was centered around agriculture as a means of life. As of late, I have been introduced to ideas that change my prior convictions of ag land, including the use of genetically modifying

crops, heavy use of chemicals including pesticides and herbicides, and that almost all production crops are grown as mono cultures without any sort of biodiversity what so ever. These are all factors that play into our "built" environment and how we are actively shaping our environment and sometimes without being cognizant of the impacts in the long term. Similarly, some of the most crucial agriculture lands in the Midwest rely on heavy artificial methods to watering their crops and ensuring moisture in the soil. This constant drawing of water has caused us to arrive a point where we have depleted our main source of water, being the Ogallala aquifer, to the point of no return. It's near impossible to allow the aquifer enough time to replenish its natural water reserves and continue with agriculture trends that are currently prevailing. I consider this to carry more importance than other environmental factors because we rely on mass agriculture to feed use, and as a source of revenue for economic gain. Other reasons I chose agriculture is because I feel it can improve the most with the least amount of initial capital needed, through a series of incremental changes to our production methods, which haven't experienced truly groundbreaking revision of change since the implementation of modern farming equipment, could make for a more sustainable future and greener horizon for how we nourish ourselves and are more conscious of the impacts that it has on our environment.

Part 02 |

I feel strongly that truly naturalized areas should be set aside from cities and urban environments. In my experience, they become something along the lines of living museums and relics of what was once there. They are places that we visit and often appreciate but subconsciously acknowledge that fact that they are artificial and not truly crafted by mother nature. I feel it is this piece that is integral to the argument for the left-wing side of the continuum that argues for dense natural areas. It's very easy in my mind to generalize and not acknowledge current trends without our communities. The minority group of people who are utilizing public space is the people who miss out in this thinking which makes me wonder about the scale and area in which we are impacting. In my mind landscape architecture as a profession should fall along the middle of the line, and argue for the best of both worlds, incorporates larger green spaces within our communities that hold meaning and are accessible but not so parceled out that the programming and site amenities are handicapped by the lack of space. In a larger context outside the city realm, I would want areas dedicated to wildlife preserves and untouched nature. These public lands, if you will are areas in which not intrusive recreation activities can occur outside of the density and complexity of the urban expanse. Things like hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, bird watching, rock climbing, and swimming. All of which at a large naturalized area scale, are beneficial to the conservation and future of the ecosystem. I understand the three scenarios described above are happening and will continue to occur simultaneously. That's where my opinion of the topic questioned shift to a more dynamic response to the continuum. I don't think any of the proposed methods of integrating nature into cities could reach its full potential without the other supporting it. A city is dense in its own nature and full of a variety of scales, hierarchy to space, general organization, and underlying grids all overlaid over each other forming a complex tapestry of identifiable patterns and textures. I would argue that this formal argument

often occurs without the integration of green spaces within the pattern, most cities and developments are driven by developers who's end goal the highest payout per capita they can possibly achieve. I believe

the goal of this week's discussion topic would be to better appreciate the value of shared green space within the community and at the neighborhood scale. The subtle interactions that occur at this scale have a sort of rippling effect on the community as a whole. Something as simple as a smile when passing another person or quick hello can change people's perception of the place they live and work. These positive vibes get sent out into the world and inherently make it a better place to be.

People's Right to the City

September 26, 2018

06

Robert Moses and Jane Jacobs have well-documented differences in planning cities. What are the main 5 characteristics that Robert Moses wanted to see in a city and always promoted. And what are the main 5 qualities that Jane Jacob fought to achieve in order to maintain the identity and sense of place.

In no more than two pages, describe this conflict and what are the lessons learned from it for future planners and city mayors. Use the lens of David Harvey's description to this conflict whenever applicable to support your argument.

#Env_Plan #Urbanism

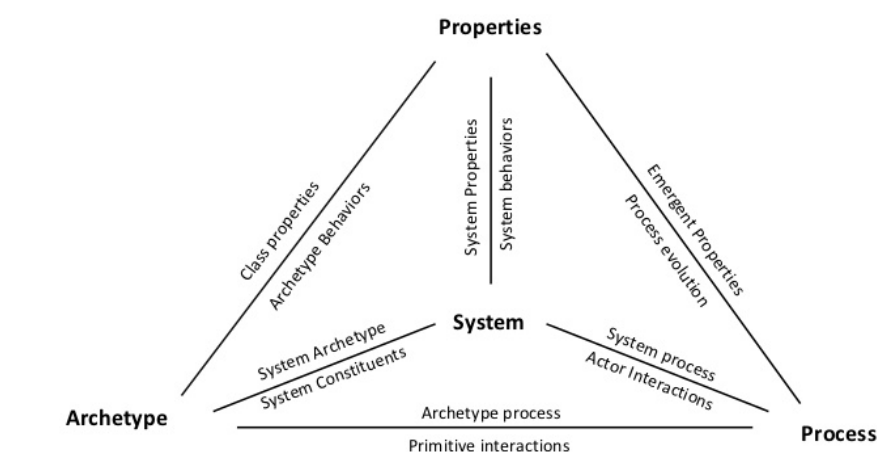


Figure 06: Emergence Model

Summary | [Link](#)

The dichotomy between our perceptions of right and wrong is binary at best. There are always sides and each with its own set of pros and cons. This model shows the relation between three broadly defined groups and the individual influences they have on the system they are acting within. Ideally, neither is able to dominate the other, finding a balance that is acceptable and acknowledged by the public.

Blog Post | Response

Robert Moses was one of New York's first influencer's on the urban fabric and how vehicles interface with this fabric. Moses argued for the automobile and was very suborn almost naive to the repercussions of introducing vehicular at such high volume into such a dense metropolis as New York. He envisioned a "connected" city and looked to New York as first and foremost a transportation problem. This mentality caused him to tend to continue and be adamant for less fruitful ideas that weren't necessary to improve the function of a city, which is unfortunate in hindsight because of the influence he had as an urban developer in adapting New York for the modern era. He is quoted for saying outlandish things like cities are solely created for traffic, and streets without traffic eventually envelope cities and turn them to ghost towns. Other character flaws that blighted Moses career were his views of minorities and the less fortunate population, areas in which people fell in either of these categories he often targeted for his projects.

Jane Jacobs was an active mother, journalist, author and activities, one of her most notable publications is *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, in which she is quoted saying, "Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody." This mentally speaks values about her priorities in an urban environment and personal convictions in life. She focuses on the ideals of the population as it relates to density and mixed uses, old building, and variety of uses within neighborhoods and city districts. She places a high emphasis on the concept of people being the biggest proponent of public safety. The increase in eyes on the street and sidewalk by nature makes it a safer place, and the buildings and homes in proximity to these pedestrian corridors are crucial to the function of the streetscape. She also argues for greater diversity in living conditions, people, income levels, tasks and uses of the city and how this unconscious interaction of mixed individuals in poetic.

The conflict between Jacobs and Moses arose from the proposal Moses had to extend the vehicular expressways into the heart of New York City. The expressway wasn't as much an issue as the reasons he felt justified its construction and his views of those he was displacing. Not to mention the numerous historically significant building and other priceless structures that he proposed to be demolished for the implementation of the project. Jane Jacobs questioned the logic behind generally accepted theories and principles applied to urban planning and development and didn't see how New York would be improved by the construction of such a monolithic addition to the city's infrastructure. Rather felt very strongly about the negative impacts it had on the existing communities and neighborhoods that were currently found in an area the area the expressway was being proposed. Her information was based on observations on-site and in these deeply established social networks that had developed organically and had a personality of their own as well as through the experimentation of what things could improve the intercity and dense urban streets for the betterment of the future.

The lessons learned that would directly benefit future planner and city mayors would first and foremost be to have a basic understanding of the situations discussed between Jane Jacobs and Robert Moses. I would strongly encourage them to read them, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, and get the full sense of what Jane was trying to promote within communities and neighborhoods. Another aspect of Jane's philosophy, that would benefit future influencer's of communities is physical observations, analysis, and inventory of the places they are entrusted with. This sort of grassroots and from the ground up that is most impactful on the community. This also helps to ensure the controlled cause found within dense and mixed communities and ensure the culture found in these areas is prioritized. In closing, I would champion anyone who in a position to have a direct impact on someone else's daily life to attempt to spend one in their shoes or as close to as possible and realize the potential impact you will have whether its truly for the betterment of that community or not.

Social Movement + New S.M. + Environmental Movement

October 3, 2018

07

When unpacking social movement, new social movement and environmental movement we find that they are interlinked. There are major similarities, commonalities and also differences between them. Using the lecture notes and the lecture by Manuel Castells, give an example that you know for (i) a social movement, (ii) a new social movement and (iii) an environmental movement. Explain the three movements using the framework developed by Doyle Timothy.

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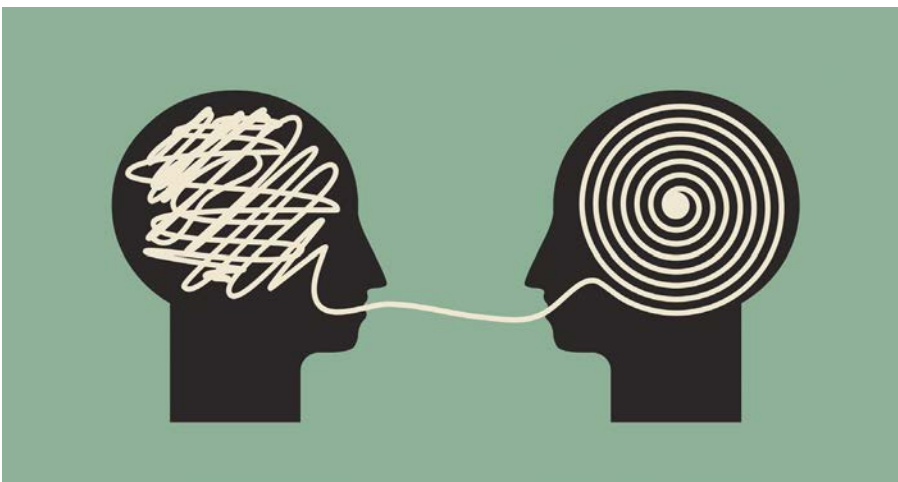


Figure 07: Confounding Complexity

Summary | [Link](#)

One of the greatest social factor across all three scales in miss interpretation and the lack of dialogue that insures in light of the initial confrontation. Recognizing this divination and being more social aware of our surrounding is vital in solving problems at a global scale. Our presents has a rippling effect on other peoples lives and interaction we have must be cognizant of this premise.

Blog Post | Response



Social Movement:
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)

Country:
United States of America

When:
Since 2000, FIRM has been the meeting place and united voice of the dynamic grassroots movement advocating for comprehensive immigration reform and the civil rights of immigrants in America

Movement:
FIRM member organizations are a cross-generational cohort made up of movement veterans and emerging leaders, fighting for and alongside America's immigrant communities, driving powerful change and working to build an America that values and respects the dignity of every person, regardless of the color of their skin or the place of their birth.

Campaign:
FIRM is deeply committed to long-term social change. It believes that immigration reform that works for our families and the nation must provide a path to citizenship for all members of our communities, address the root causes of migration, reunite all families and reduce immigration backlogs, provide opportunities for safe future migration and maintaining worker protections, establish border policy that protects border communities, respect the safety and security of all in immigration enforcement, end the mass detention of immigrants, recognize immigrants' full humanity, and preserve and expand pathways for African immigrants.



New Social Movement:
#BlackLivesMatter

Country:
Global Network

When:
In 2013, three radical Black organizers—Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi—created a Black-centered political will and movement building project called #BlackLivesMatter.

Movement:
The mission is to build local power and to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes. The call for Black lives to matter is a rallying cry for ALL Black lives striving for liberation.

Campaign:
The Black Lives Matter Global Network is a chapter-based, member-led organization committed to diversity, restorative justice, globalism, queer-affirming, unapologetically black, collective value, empathy, loving engagement, trans-gender affirming, black villages, black women, black families, intergenerational. And struggling together and to imagining and creating a world free of anti-Blackness, where every Black person has the social, economic, and political power to thrive.

Arias, Sulma and Nazarett, Jasminr. "Fair Immigration Reform Movement." <https://fairimmigration.org/>.

Garza, Alicia, Cullors, Patrisse and Tometi, Opal. "#BlackLivesMatter." <https://blacklivesmatter.com/>.



Environmental Movement:
Greenpeace

Country:
Worldwide, Headquartered in Amsterdam,
Netherlands

When:
Greenpeace was founded in 1971 by Irving Stowe and Dorothy Stowe, Canadian and US ex-pat environmental activists in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Movement:
Greenpeace is a global, independent campaigning organization that uses peaceful protest and creative communication to expose global environmental problems and promote solutions that are essential to a green and peaceful future. Consider themselves the "The voice for voiceless mother earth".

Campaign:
Ensure the ability of the Earth to nurture life in all its diversity and focuses its campaigning on worldwide issues such as climate change, deforestation, overfishing, commercial whaling, genetic engineering, and anti-nuclear issues.

*Stowe, Irving and Stowe, Dorothy. "Greenpeace."
<https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/>.*

Deforestation + Urbanization

October 10, 2018

08

Increased deforestation and rapid urbanization are two connected phenomena that poses threat on the environmental resources. Describe the top three causes of rapid urbanization then explain in your views how can we reduce deforestation to restore the ecological balance. Give examples from different cities or regions to support your argument

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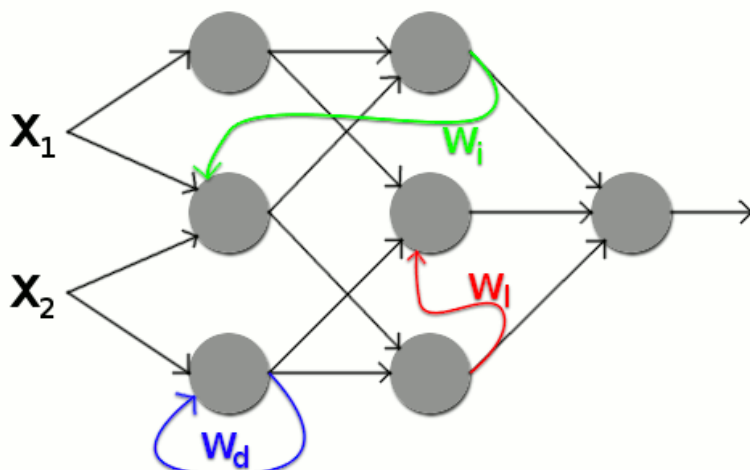


Figure 08: Neuronal Networks

Summary | [Link](#)

There is a gap currently that if it is already recognized is not acknowledged by the general public. We have a very unbalanced relationship between our perceived wants and needs. Most of which are based on a historical precedent that has been set and are naive of the environmental reproductions. These fatal flaws need to be taken into consideration and rearranged to consider the needs of the earth.

Blog Post | Response

Urbanization |

The processes that make an area more urban are incremental and something that has quite simply been trending in recent generations. It's the result of a bombarding of commercialized agendas, mental fortifications and the promise of a brighter future. Growing up in a small agricultural town in the rural area of southern Minnesota all the above were and still are the reasons I wanted to move to a large metropolis to live my life. I felt that it was a creative outlet, generative for career opportunities and offered the greatest breath of extracurriculars and recreational activities. Along with this vein, the buzzwords that brought me to aspire to live in a densely populated city are their social benefits and services, employment opportunities, and the modernization and changes in modes of living. It was not so much choosing the lesser of two perceived evils but rather the idea that fortune favors the bold. I could stay in a city and region I was comfortable with and make a living at a relatively moderate pass and be blissful and happy or enter an unknown territory and explore and discover a continually changing and adaptive environment. This dichotomy of mindsets is ultimately what forces people to cities.

I believe there are two major causes of urbanization each influencing the other compiling in a negative way. I want to note that there is a natural increase that is caused by a severe decrease in the global death rates offset by birthrates that remain high though they are slowing to the point of no traceable increase at the global scale. First, the rural to urban migration that happened occurs at a massive scale in a relatively short period of time. This is due to 'push' factors such as population and the lack of readily available services in rural areas. It's difficult to think that the lack of something as simple as health care and opportunities for education necessary for a life forces rural population to move to more urbanized areas. Second, which is a continuation of the first is the 'pulling' of people in rural areas to the city. This is due to a cultural misconception that those who live in

cities are afforded a higher standard of living and that urban lifestyles are somehow more conducive to those standards than that of a rural living environment. This hope of a brighter future coupled with an assumption that more profitable workplace opportunities will be made available is the mental draw. Which is often wrong and, in most cases, far worse than that which they came from. Even though the sheer volume of the casual and informal workplace is much high in urban areas, most often they are overqualified for these types of positions. Which is very low wage and filled with either by impoverished communities or middle-class youth. In closing, urbanization is our current perception of the natural evolutionary step of human civilization.

Deforestation |

There are numerous ways we can incrementally reduce deforestation and restore the ecological balance, most of which are the predecessors to paradigm shifts in global lifestyle choices. There is a lack of education on the topic of deforestation and the plethora of other factors influencing it. The problem is that the general population is blatantly naive to the concept of their acts having a rippling effect and causes impacts at a global scale. Flashing numbers of species that go extinct often elicit a like or share on social media platforms or if you are lucky a comment filled with a slurry of emoticons. A good start point to changing goals for the future is our inherent brashness to the impacts we force upon those who share the planet with us. Other more obvious ways to revert the effects of deforestation in order to reestablish an equilibrium are the use of renewable wood resources, reducing consumption, less reliance on paper, promote forest-friendly policies, investing in sustainable companies or forestry certified products. All of these are centered on the local changes to habits by individuals locally that overtime will lessen the demand and inevitably the need to keep cutting down our forests.

Another way is by eating less meat either by choosing one meal a day to not eat mass-produced meat or picking a day to skip meat altogether. This is a major lifestyle change for most Americas and is often more easily received by other places in the world where more vegetarian and vegan diets are a part of the culture. The United States has begun to acknowledge and represent these communities and the production of farm to table operations and sustainable organic based sources of meat production. The unfortunate part it is that the use of these products that fall under this category combined pale in comparison to the implications agricultural fields and mass farming have on forests. Some of the crops include palm oil, soybeans, and coffee production. These are farmed in heavily forested areas, that are cleared and burned which releases the carbon dioxide that was collected

over their lifetime from the atmosphere. Then the farmland is used until it dries up of nutrition and the process is repeated in another plot of land. This mass clearing increases surfaces erosion making

it even more difficult to reestablish later. It also leaches the water from the area, the dry cracked soil then increases the flooding potential and runoff in excess. These extremes are irreversible impacts on the environment. We are at a pivotal point in our species history considered the anthropogenic, in which humans' actions are having a direct impact on nature.

Lastly, I want to reiterate the words of the late Dr. Suess that seem to echo endlessly into the future becoming more apparent than ever, "I am the Lorax who speaks for the trees, which you seem to be chopping as fast as you please. But I'm also in charge of the brown Bar-ba-loots, who played in the shade in their Bar-ba-loot suits and happily lived eating truffula fruits. Now, thanks to your hacking my trees to the ground, there's not enough truffula fruit to go 'round!"

A Myth Can Preserve the Ecological Balance

October 17, 2018

09

Write a one page reflection on the movie. You may approach this the way you prefer. Make it one page, precise and building connections between different things discussed in the documentary. You may write about parks, wolves, India, history, modernization, ecosystem, local tradition, shepherds, local knowledge, food-chain, co-existence ... or local tribes.

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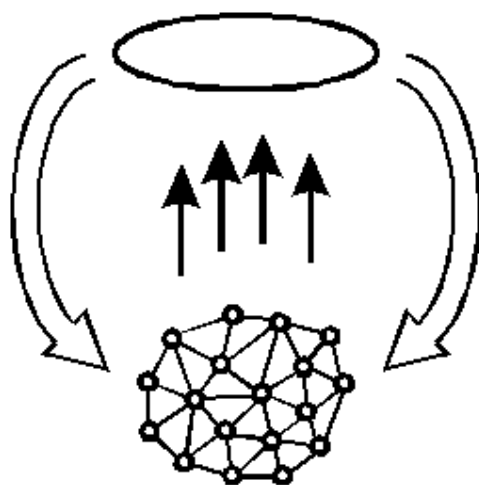


Figure 09: Complexity and Emergence

Summary | [Link](#)

The earth appears to be in a constant state of synchronization and synergy or at least trying to reach one. There are unmeasurable amounts of symbiotic relationships that perpetuate our existence. For the greater good each and every component found within must recognize and fulfill its role. It only takes one group to exceed its reach for the fragile system to begin to collapse.

Blog Post | Response

Echoing the timeless words of the late great Dr. Seuss, from his novel *The Lorax*,

*“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”*

A Response to the Myths Preserving the Ecological Balance: Josephs journey, documented in the 2014 film, *Walking with Wolves*, winner of the wildlife conservation film award at the 2015 Centre for Media Studies’ Vatavaran festival, is an intimate look behind the seemingly rough exterior of the Indian wolf and how our perceptions often don’t respond to what’s lies before us. This film is a previously undocumented look into the relationship between the nomadic goat shepherds of peninsular India and the regions dominate predator the wolf. A tale of empathy and the ever-growing realization that our actions have irreversible effects that ripple throughout time and across generations.

The topics discussed in the film are rooted in the scientific study to better understand the changing conditions the wolves are confronted with. Though intertwined with these topics are underlying themes of religion, trust, and social awareness. Joseph at the start of the film is clearly an outsider, although probably as familiar as he could be with the region and its people he is still naive to the cultural implications of his actions. After, he hears of a legend of three brothers, where youngest brother is cheated out of his share of wealth by the older two and exiled from the village, but before leaving bequeath a curse upon them that he would come back to claim his fortune. He decides to assimilate with the traditions and mantras of the local people against his better judgment does he begin seeing the wolf they call, ‘Bent Ear’. Who the local people consider being the soul of the youngest brother who was cast away, returning to take what is rightful his. It’s this juxtaposition of scientific study and cultural significance.

The ever-present whimsical tone of the narrator, that makes this film significant. It begins to light the fragile relationships we have with the land and those we share it with. Josephs insistent quest to see, ‘Bent Ear’ again after his first delirious encounter, is just the beginning of the investigation into the lives of wolves in India. His knowledge prior to the film coupled with that he obtained from the indigenous people of the area gave his first-hand experience to the dietary, opportunistic, and adaptive qualities the wolves are forced to adhere to survive the incessant changes occurring to their native environment.

Towards that latter portion of the movie another wolf-like animal is observed interacting with, ‘Bent Ear’ and his pups that’s significance and purpose is still a mystery. The film does a significant amount of legwork to prolong its narrative and the identities it projects upon the wildlife documented. Minus this one caveat, the film does an exceptional job of illustrating the emotive and affectionate characteristics that help bring awareness and an active voice to the creatures and places they call home. In closing, Josephs accounts are paramount to the preservation and rehabilitation of the Indian wolf population.

Landscape Project Evaluation on the Neighborhood Scale

October 26, 2018

10

As per the discussion in class, write your overall assessment of the project you presented. Use the questions presented in class for guidance but feel free to expand on them or use a different outline. Make sure to add the name of your project, location and overall theme. Use the material in earlier classes to have a critical lens on the project development, answer the questions about what is good and what is bad about it. Lastly, if you are the mayor of this city, would you vote for this project or not? Your submission shouldn't exceed 2 pages. Feel free to use other sources to support your argument.

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Figure 10: Emergence

Summary | [Link](#)

To create some sort of impact at a larger scale we must first dissect our surroundings and the places we live within in and their relation. This data then can inform or influence that of its larger context and eventually insight action at a grand scale or better recognize areas that have been neglected. This bottom up approach is crucial in creating change to find an order within the chaos.

Blog Post | LEVEL 01 City Scale + Neighborhood Scale

Name of your project: Klyde Warren Park
Expansion + VisitDallas Experience Center

Klyde Warren Park Completion Project Announced
<https://www.klydewarrenpark.org/About-the-Park/Press-Room/press-releases/2018/klyde-warren-park-completion-project-announced.html>

Location:
Woodall Rodgers Freeway -
2012 Woodall Rodgers Fwy, Dallas, TX 75201

Recognition:
*World Landscape Architecture 2018 Built Design
Large Project Award

*AIA's 2018 Collaborative Achievement Award

*ASLA's 2017 Design Award of Excellence

*Urban Land Institute 2014 Urban Open Space Award

*D Magazine 2013 Best Community Impact Award

Theme:
Klyde Warren Park, designed by The Office of James Burnett, acts as the physical manifestation of Michelangelo's Creation of Adam, two districts of Dallas reaching towards one another but forever frozen just moments from each other's warm embrace. The current park is quite literally the living room of the city, a highly active space at the quincunx of everything Dallas has to offer. Klyde Warren provides free daily programming ranging from yoga to lecture series and event concerts and films. These are often multicultural and intergenerational due to the careful planning and organization effort of the Woodall Rodgers Park Foundation.

Assessment:

Klyde Warren Park is currently 5.2 acres and was completed in October of 2012. Klyde Warren has welcomed over six million guests and promoted over two billion dollars in economic development and improved the value of the surrounding properties. Current analysis trends project a near \$850 million in stimulus to the area post completion of the expansion. Klyde Warren is and will continue to be the most successful infrastructural investments in the city's rich history. The Woodall Rodgers Park foundation and Visit Dallas came together in an estimated \$76 million dollar and more than the 1.2-acre expansion to fulfill the initial intent of the current success of Klyde Warren Park. The proposal expands upon the green space and public gathering nodes, long-term sustainability goals, over 1,300 free events provided to the citizens of Dallas and its visitors and well as the addition of a 20,000 Sq.-Ft. state-of-the-art pavilion to house the VisitDallas Experience Center. The project has officially passed the state and cities review on October 19th, 2018 and is planned to begin construction in early 2019 and be opened to the public prior to 2022. This quick turn around in direct response to the foresight of the Office of James Burnett in the original vision for Klyde Warren and the lofty goals they set out to achieve in 2012. The new project sets out the complete the deck plan over the freeway, outlined in the master plan, integral step to improving connectivity from the park to the Arts district and adding to the allure of Downtown Dallas.

Good:

Woodall Rodgers Park Foundation (WRPF) proposal, in collaboration with VisitDallas, to expand Klyde Warren Park and add the VisitDallas Experience Center acknowledges the divide between up and downtown the freeway caused in Dallas. More importantly, the park creates a town square where all of Dallas can be ever present in the life and culture of the growing arts district of the city. Increases in quality and value of the events currently available to the over one million annual visitors will offset the five million dollars annual operating cost of the continual maintenance and upkeep of the park and its staff. The current foot traffic of approximately one hundred thousand monthly visitors will gladly welcome the additional space for events and to relieve some of the congestion of the park currently faces.

Note:

Numerous ecological and environmental factors documented in the Landscape Performance Series intensive study of the parks mediation the carbon footprint within the city.

<https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/klyde-warren-park#/overview>

Bad:

In my limited first-hand experiences with the park and its surrounding amenities and accessible, the park fails to acknowledge parking and vehicular circulation to and from the park. For tourist and other coming to the park as an experiential destination little is done to accommodate parking or the user experience to get to the park. Also, some of the charm and character of the “arts’ district isn’t responsive of the increase to property value Klyde Warren has already caused in the area without the addition of a highly technological civic hub. Collectively, in my opinion, what makes Klyde Warren successful isn’t the revenue it brings to the city but the social interactions and equity it brings to the people and the communities of Dallas.

Vote:

Naive to the responsibilities and knowledge that comes with being the City Mayor and doing what is best for the greater good of the city. I would whole heartily vote Yes and do what I could within my power to implement the positivity and momentum Klyde Warren brings to the city elsewhere throughout the city and in which its communities.

Assessments of Inter-state Development Projects

October 31, 2018

11

Interstates urban, landscape and infrastructure projects face some challenges when it comes to administration, budget and long term sustainability. In no more than two pages, provide an assessment for the project looking at environmental and social components. If you are the mayor or governor, would you approve/implement this project (as it is) or not? Lastly, conclude with five guidelines that you will adopt to enhance the project and make it more sustainable. Make sure to add the name of your project, location and overall theme. Use the material in earlier classes to have a critical lens on the project development.

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Summary | [Link](#)

Emergent communities must form networks that are conducive of change. Only then with they have the ability to insight change that better informs how conflicting entities cohabitate is accomplished through proximity. There needs to be a common denominator bringing both parties together. This shared value of compensation must not be associated with monetary value.

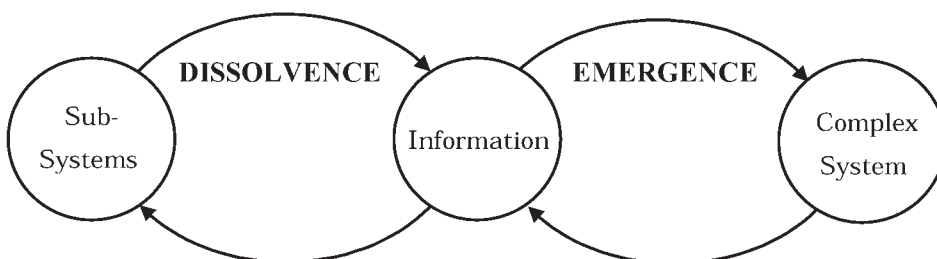


Figure 11: Emergence and Dissolution
32 | Advanced Landscape Seminar | Amir Gohar | Fall 2018

Blog Post | LEVEL 02 Regional & Inter-State Landscape

Name of your project:

New York's 2020 plan for the 'Empire State Trail'

Location:

A 1,400-mile circuit that will span four states and the nation's capital, linking Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany, New York City, Trenton, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and Pittsburgh.

Overview:

The new 750-mile 'Empire State Trail' project will, bridge the gaps in two major existing routes—the east-west Erie Canalway Trail and the north-south Hudson River Valley Greenway, bringing together hundreds of communities across 27 counties—in the fourth-most-populous state in the nation.

2020 Vision: New York's "Empire State Trail" Is Making Trails the Main Attraction <https://www.railstotrails.org/trailblog/2018/august/09/2020-vision-new-yorks-empire-state-trail-is-making-trails-a-main-attraction/>

Theme:

The Empire State trail is an extension of the existing trail networks of greater New York, with the intent of locating, assessing and improving the gaps currently found when experiencing the trail from the user's perspective. The tone of the proposal is empowering and brings to light the potential the current trail system unearthed and how to propel it into the limelight.

Assessment:

To preface my assessment, I've taken from the introductory text of the proposal to reiterate its far-reaching and expansive impacts. The Empire State trail is a new initiative to place New York at the forefront of national efforts to enhance outdoor recreation, sense of community and opportunities for tourism development. The culmination of an eighteen-state budget enacted in April of 2017 source funded two hundred million dollars to be put towards the trail. This was with the lofty goal of completing the nearly

seven hundred miles in additional trails by the end of 2020. Once completed the trail will run the length of New York from the ocean to Canada, creating the longest multi-use trail in the nation thus far.

The proposal itself seems to have covered all its proverbial bases, connecting the city's most influential and prominent historical and architectural features with a pedestrian and cyclist-oriented trail system. It takes on the challenges of combating obesity by promoting recreational activities along the trail and though critical neighborhood and communities, allows a great range of access to the waterfront, and it intentionally designed with the user's experience in mind. The proposal is also done its due diligence in its assessment of the existing trails in the system, their impacts, and in acknowledging where it is lacking. Furthermore, it identifies which areas to separate from the trail to be better used from other purposes responsive to their context. Throughout the final proposal document, they have continually mentioned that the focus is not on the financial gain, although the current data trends show that the trail will not be lacking in this regard. Rather, it's focus is on the bringing together of communities, the places in-between and the rich breadth of history in each of them.

This trail system is the result of years of careful research and studies through the lens of multiple professions in hopes of creating something that conjures the emotive and intangible qualities of a place that is representative of the state and inclusive of all who call it home. I enjoyed reading through the articles and listening to the new stories in my research of the project and am excited about the future soon to come. A place that will have a lasting impact on the region and east coast.

Vote:

If I were in the Mayor's shoes I would find it hard not to want to vote yes for this project. It is an exemplary representation of the landscape and natural environments New York has to offer coupled with the architecture and historical regalia the state is better known for. In a more passive way, it recognizes its intercedence with the surrounding states and the Canadian border. Simply put the Empire State trail systems stands up to its goal to place New York at the forefront of national efforts to enhance outdoor recreation, sense of community and opportunities for tourism development.

Note:

Governor Cuomo announced the Empire State Trail, a 750-mile bicycle and walking trail, that will span New York State to better connect us all to New York's extraordinary experiences, people, and places.

https://www.ny.gov/sites/ny.gov/files/atoms/files/EST_Final_Plan_June_2018.pdf

Good:

Representing the communities and places the trails runs along and inevitably will become a part of in their breakdown of the proposal. They broke the three-year project into three distinct parts each of their own critical importance. Phase one plus the scattered seventy-two miles of gaps in the existing trails and addressed the standards for maintenance and upkeep into the future. Phase two went into outdated and vandalized portions of the trails with an unassuming reputation and removed eighty-two miles of trail from the network to better strengthen the core. Lastly, phase three which is the Empire State trail itself a nearly two hundred mile stretch of newly laid trail connect the east-west Erie Canalway Trail and the north-south Hudson River Valley Greenway. This union of the three trail systems forming one interlocked social network is what makes the project special. The state did a great job of obtaining the properties needed to implement the project, involving the community, and take the fruition by the year 2020. They recognize the final herald being the areas of the private land trail is intended to cross through and well as logistical parameters that will be revealed as for volume of users increases.

Bad:

The communities embrace of the project and the benchmarks its hit thus far in the process leave little to the imagination and make it hard to say what will not be good about the project. Currently, there are two significant portions of the trail that crosses through large swaths of privately-owned land and have yet to be cleared for implementation. Negotiations have started for these plots of land and are seemingly civil but are largely out of the public eye. I can foresee the large increase of the users and volume of persons along the trail causing some initial discomfort in areas of less traffic and more solitary in nature. Also, there is a lot of talk of large sums of money the trail will bring to the economy of New York and underlying notes of mixed interests in that matter. They seem to always close with a summary that it is not about the money and it is about the people, to the point it seems that it may not be. Strictly speculation but the time frame and involvement from all aspects seem to fit with this idea of money first and foremost and the positive effects it has on the communities and business is a secondary product.

Guidelines:

- *Focus efforts on existing conditions through infiltration of current successes, revision areas in need of improvement, and incorporate addition design solution and service where applicable.
- *Look to optimize site potential while minimizing non-renewable resource consumption and look to incorporate green technologies.
- *Specify environmentally preferable products and optimize operational and maintenance practices to sustain their longevity on site.
- *Prioritize efforts to protect and conserve water both existing on site and potential for runoff from the implementation of the design.
- *Better design indoor environments to enhance the quality of life outside, through inclusive of solar heating and wind cooling, adaptive lighting technologies, and other architectural systems.

International Development Project: Assessment + Suggested Improvement

November 7, 2018

12

In groups of two, and based on the projects you selected in class, write an overall critique of these projects, initiatives, or activities. In no more than three pages, provide a brief description for the project, the lead organization that is working on it, and an assessment for the project performance looking at its environmental and social components. If you are the UN secretary general and have the power to encourage, or stop this project, would you approve/implement this project (as it is) or not? After your critic and reflection, provide three direct actions that if taken into account will significantly improve the project. Make sure to add the name of your project, location and overall theme. Use the material in earlier classes to have a critical lens on the project development.

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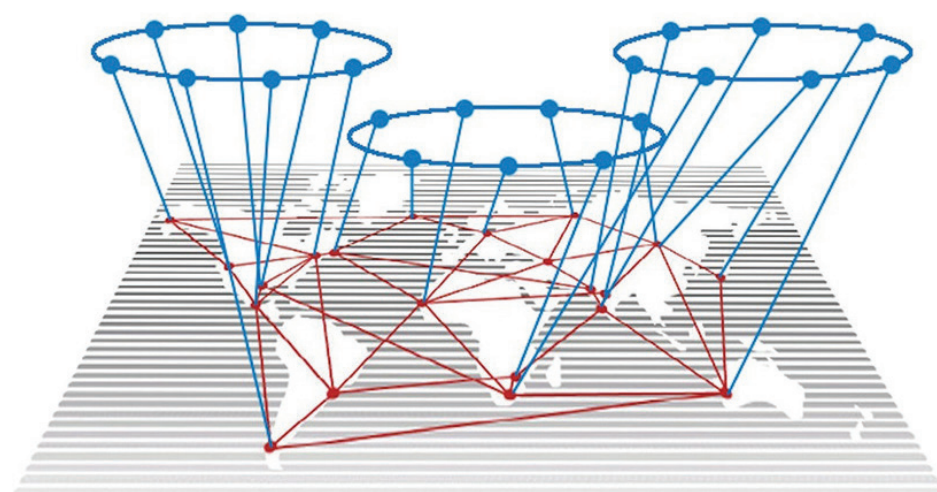


Figure 12: Communities of Practice

Summary | [Link](#)

Being able to recognize similarities and areas of cohesion at a global scale is a difficult undertaking. It involves an intentional change that unabashedly looks to others as neighbors. Recognizing where it is possible to assimilate with their accomplishments and be willing to constructively criticize areas that still need improvement. Overlapping culturally and cognitively is evocative of change.

Blog Post | Team: Cody Borwge + Caleb Parker

LEVEL (3) Global Landscape Sustainability:

Project or policy on the federal level or the international level. A global project that aims to improve the environment, protect forests, and/or reduce poverty.

Name of your project:

The Landmark Project, supported by The forest Certification for Ecosystems Services aptly named, 'ForCES' is a campaign powered by the Forest Stewardship Council. <http://forces.fsc.org/index.htm>

Location:

Nepal, a landlocked country in South Asia, located mainly in the Himalayas but also includes parts of the Indo-Gangetic Plain.

Lead Organization:

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Global Development
<https://us.fsc.org/en-us>

Project Partners, Nepal:

Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB)
<http://www.ansab.org/about/>

Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN)

<http://www.fecofun.org/home/index.php>

Overall theme:

The landmark project "ForCES – Forest Certification for Ecosystem Services" ran from 2011 to 2017. FSC and partner organizations researched, analyzed, and field-tested innovative ways to evaluate and reward the provision of critical ecosystem services, such as biodiversity conservation, watershed protection, and carbon storage/sequestration. Pilot tests were carried out at ten forest sites under different socio-political and environmental conditions. The core outcome for FSC at the global level was the development of a new certification tool for ecosystem services. Our new Ecosystem Services Procedure is a global tool

for FSC-certified forest managers to measure, verify and communicate the impact of their activities on ecosystem services. Buyers and financial sponsors can use FSC trademarks to promote their support of verified ecosystem services impacts. (de Gaulle Straße, 2007)

Brief description of the project:

Nepal has already gained important experience in group certification for forest management, through certification projects with the FSC-accredited Rainforest Alliance/Smartwood Program. It is important that Nepal now explores the potential of enhancing the economic and environmental benefits of extended forest certification by incorporating additional Ecosystem Services (ES). (de Gaulle Straße, 2007)

Scope of project:

The six-year project aims to make a significant contribution to building national capacity in certifying ecosystem services. Activities planned include technical and financial support for the project area and guidance to policymakers and stakeholders in drawing up rules, laws, regulations, and policies. (de Gaulle Straße, 2007)

Assessment of the projects performance both environmental and social aspirations:

FSC and its partner organizations came up with a way to analyze and reward the preservation of critical ecosystem services, through research, analysis, and field testing. Plot tests were carried out at ten forest sites under different socio-political and environmental conditions. The core outcome for FSC at the global level was the development of a new certification tool for ecosystem services. Our new Ecosystem Services Procedure is a global tool for FSC-certified forest managers to measure, verify and communicate the impact of their activities on ecosystem services. Nepal had previous experience with the FSC, the worked together through the Rainforest Alliance/ Smartwood Program. Now they need to focus on

incorporating more Ecosystem Services so that they can obtain further certifications. The six-year project attempting to help build the national capacity in certifying ecosystem services, by supplying technical and financial support for the project, and giving some guidance to public officials. There are two sites with this project, Charnawati Landscape, and the Gaurisankar Landscape. The core outcome for FSC at the global level was the development of a new certification tool for ecosystem services. Our new Ecosystem Services Procedure is a global tool for FSC-certified forest.

- *Brings awareness to ecological issues

- *Helps countries put programs in place to achieve sustainable certifications.

- *Provides funding for sustainable projects

- *Extensive research into the sites that the countries can use for future efforts as well

Overall critique of these projects, initiatives, or activities: Some of the sponsors of the organization are very intense groups that promote a lot of social causes that are not all that scientific. While the projects are promoting ecosystem services it seems like they are also motivated by outside sources, like the monetary value of a certification. They are not really trying to get countries to buy into ecology, they are trying to get people to buy into the fact that having a certification looks good because people are willing to pay more for things that are certified as ecologically sound.

We would support this project because it is doing many good things for the ecosystem through research, and supporting countries efforts to obtain sustainable certifications. They have partnered and collaborated with several foreign and domestic organizations and third-party groups to obtain large amounts of data during their initial ten-year preliminary research

period. The final report and executive summaries do a better job of presenting the data that the website but aren't as approachable to digest for the general public.

Provide three direct actions that if considered will significantly improve the project:

- *Suggest that they revisit/ the way they present these projects to the public.

- *Financial benefits should not be the main reason for people to invest in the project.

- *Implement initiatives at a more localized scale to involve the people of the place.

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The Landscape Debate

November 14, 2018

13

With regards to the Master Plan of the new city in Senegal that was viewed in class. In one page, indicate if you are (WITH) or (AGAINST) the decision of building such a new city. You may support your overall argument using the mandates of any of the hats. It is also encouraged to comment on those who are on the other camp to discredit their arguments and support yours. Use the lecture notes, class material, the readings, ... and any other scholarly references or professional reports.

#Env_Plan #Urbanism #Landscape

Summary | [Link](#)

In the case of the 'Pink' lake there is complexity that arises from its perceived simplicity. The people that live and work in the area have found a way to sustain their needs within a relatively undernourished region. This microclimate of inputs and outputs is currently a closed loop that is self sustaining. Reliant the elements found within the place and not exceeding its limitations but choosing to live within them.



Figure 13: Complexity

Blog Post | Response

To preface my vote for the Pink City in Senegal I want to zoom outside of northeastern Africa to a global scale. There are several lakes that are found throughout the world that are naturally pink in color, something to the tune of cotton candy or strawberry Trix yogurt, due to ‘Dunaliella salina’ algae that produce a red pigment to assist in absorbing light. A vast majority of these lakes are south of the equator found along coastal edges and have high concentrations of salt. Some notable candidates of comparison to Lake Retba in Africa are Hutt Lagoon and Lake Hillier in Western Australia and Las Coloradas, Mexico all of which share the fascinating color spectrum at different times of the year and are recognized tourist destinations. After looking through photographs or videos of these places it’s easy for anyone to make up your mind that they want to visit these places and take in the culture and become part of the place and get some great images to edit for their Instagram accounts.

Bringing the topic back to a local scale, the Senegal community utilizes the pink lake as a natural resource, salt, that is farmed and sold as a source of income. The area around the site is often mistaken or miss representation as Lake Hillier which is heavily forested and almost artificial in nature. The area surrounding the Pink lake in Senegal is used to dry and sort the mineral crystals to produce grades of salt. Some of the highest grades of salt harvested are used in health spas in Europe and as a culinary spice, and the lower grades are shipped to similar places to deice roads in colder climates and what remains is dispersed amongst the workers in addition to their wage and is often used to season fish. There are already a handful of hotels that exist around the lake and along the coast, that have in-ground pools and separate themselves from the income of those working the lake. Along with this same vein, there are camel rides from surrounding towns, quad rentals that are along the beach and through the dunes, and 4x4 safari truck tours that are along the coastline as well. Each of these examples in and around the Pink Lake bank on the water colors allure to make extra

money from tourists but don’t benefit or impact the lives of those working the lake either. It’s important to separate the lake and surrounding environment as an “ecology” and the quality of life of the people living in that place.

There is a recurring cycle that has lasted generations that will eventually no longer be feasible as a source of income. The proposal for the Pink Lake City is a broad campaign for an idealized utopia in a relatively underdeveloped place in the world it does provide a way out for those in that place. The proposal brings light to a place that is shadowed by a more developed parts of the same region. Admittedly, I don’t believe in the current project proposal, I do feel the continuation of investigating sites in Africa can benefit the locals’ population and incomes from the bottom up.

Future Role of an Emergent Landscape Architect

December 5, 2018

14

Read your initial vision statement that you submitted in the class and –after engaging in multiple readings, documentaries, debates discussions, lectures, landscape architecture foundation, and group work– try to re-write your own visions statement now. It is important to be articulate and precise. Then in 4-5 lines, and in light of challenges discussed in class, describe the anticipated future role of the landscape architect and how this role can influence other disciplines that closely work with the landscape architect.

#Env_Plan #Landscape

Summary | [Link](#)

The future role of the landscape architect is that of a mediator. We have strategically placed our profession at the cross roads of design interventions and being stewards the land. Landscape architects use a lens that doesn't extend to other professions and are trained to take in large amounts of information and produce results that acknowledge the best route of action unadulterated by bias.

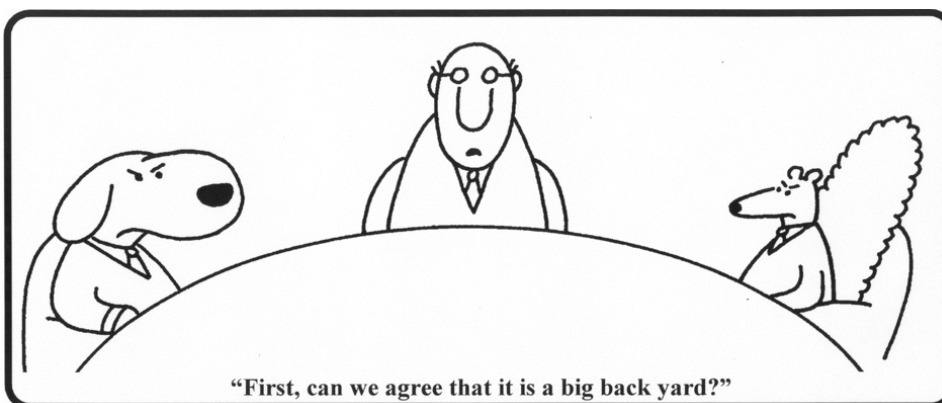


Figure 14: Mediation

Blog Post | Response

As landscape architects, we recognize that first and foremost we are designing places for people with diverse users groups needs in mind. Our professional scope includes site analysis, inventory, land planning, planting design, grading solutions, stormwater management, sustainable design initiatives, and construction specification. Our range of potential impact allows intimate interaction with specialists in each of these and even more specialized fields like marine biologists, coastal restoration, and the preservation of endangered species. This unique set of skills and background at the core of our profession is why we have such an innate ability to design inclusive spaces across the globe. We are the artisans of the natural landscapes that are historically significant, proprietors of open space, and preservation of enjoyment and whimsical wanderlust.

I foresee the future role of the landscape architect as the dedicated project leads and orchestrator across the spectrum of design scales. We will be the mediators better-conflicting opinions and guiding progressive design solutions with the environmental condition holding highest priority. Throughout the growth of the profession, it has strategically positioned itself to be consciously aware of the global impact. I envision the future landscape architects role influencing other disciplines by introducing them to the greater site conditions and how being in the place can be as much a part of the design as other more conceptual narratives.

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Supporting Graphics | Images

Figure 00: Gohar, Amir. Downtown Cairo Bird's Eye View. Source: Courtesy of Hany Helmy

Figure 01: Labs, Complexity. "Emergence: The Creative Process.", last modified May 28, <https://i.ytimg.com/vi-SeV9Gcl0g0/maxresdefault.jpg>.

Figure 02: Wright, Steven. "Disruption-Differentiation-Coherence.", <http://peggyholman.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Part-I-Disrupt.Differ.Cohere-e1280530703308.jpg>.

Figure 03: Fabiano, Joao. "Emergence's.", last modified December, <http://blog.practicaethics.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/1a-Emergence.png>.

Figure 04: Hidalgo, Hausman. "The Atlas of Economics Complexity.", <https://fjariago.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/economic-complexity-spain.png?w=723>.

Figure 05: Rimoin, Anne. "Emergence Model.", last modified June, https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Anne_Rimoin/publication/44580615/figure/fig1/AS:324818328145929@1454454132341/Zoonotic-disease-emergence-model-outlining-the-5-stages-of-pathogen-emergence-from.png.

Figure 06: Cormia, Robert. "Emergence Model.", last modified August 14, <https://image.slidesharecdn.com/nanopatternsunderstandingemergenceofpropertiesatscale-110814194447-phpapp01/95/nanopatterns-understanding-emergence-of-properties-at-scale-6-728.jpg?cb=1313351175>.

Figure 07: Hsu, Jason and West, John. "Confounding Complexity.", last modified JANUARY, <https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcQBLGp5tOghM4krVGB51Tczbhz1IDPa-MqCuJ39iRNA6D-WEyQDg>.

Figure 08: Mercyse. "Neuronal Networks.", last modified March, <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4c/Neuronal-Networks-Feedback.png>.

Figure 09: Langton, Chris. "Complexity and Emergence.", last modified June, <http://www.bendov.info/eng/langton.gif>.

Figure 10: Team, Emergence. "Emergence.", last modified September, <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/565e92e7e4b0b002ffcc01c9/t/589919bdd482e95eeac3de30/1486428622216/Emergence+Boardgame+rules>.

Figure 11: Testa, Bernard and Kier, Lemont. "Emergence and Dissolution.", last modified February, https://res.mdpi.com/entropy/entropy-02-00001/article_deploy/html/images/entropy-02-00001-g009.png.

Figure 12: Wheatley, Margaret and Frieze, Deborah. "Communities of Practice.", last modified Summer, <https://www.kosmosjournal.org/wp-content/uploads/p46-2-cop-graphic-v.2-300x163.jpg>.

Figure 13: Steven, James. "Complexity.", last modified August, <http://hardcoreinvestments.com/content/complexity/complexity.png>.

Figure 14: Resolves, Judge. "Mediation.", last modified February, <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5561d5fee4b086159c3f4933/t/5563d662e4b0b7fb308e93a4/1432606311908/Cartoon-Welcome-to-Mediation.gif?format=1000w>.

