

Classics in Theories of Space and Place

(National Ph. D. course, Fall Term - 2025)

Course Organizers

Mekonnen Tesfabuney, Professor, Karlstads University (mete@kau.se)
Richard Ek, Professor, Professor, Karlstads University (richard.ek@kau.se)
Carina Listerborn, Professor, Malmö University (carina.listerborn@mau.se)

Syllabus

Classics in Theories of Space and Place is an advanced course on that engages the disciplinary canon on space and place. This is done by careful readings of key/classical texts on space and place. The course is broadly structured along three major themes: (1) Spatial Science, (2) Humanistic, and (3) Relational conceptions of space and place. The course provides an (philosophical) excursus of disciplinary conceptions of space and place as laid out by key protagonists for each of the themes. As such, the course is not only a journey through canonical notions of space and place but also a mapping of the geographies of the disciplinary canon as well.

The course will be examined by submission and presentation of a final paper (6,000-8,000 words). The paper may relate to the candidate's Ph.D. project, with the proviso that it shows initiated grasp of the course literature. Moreover, the course will be examined by submitting short summaries of thematic and specified readings of the course literature. Active seminar participation is mandatory.

NB: Application deadline – 14th of March 2025.

Schedule (preliminary)

Module 1: 27-28 March, 2025 - Theme: Spatial Science Venue: Karlstad University

Thursday 27th of March, 10-12 Lecture: "Positivism" Richard Ek

Thursday 27th of March, 13-16 Literature Seminar:

William Bunge (2011/1971) Fitzgerald, *Geography of a Revolution* (ca 250 pp)
Gould "Geography 1957-1977: The Augean Period *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* Vol. 69, No. 1, Special Issue: Seventy-Five Years of American Geography (Mar., 1979), pp. 139-151.

Friday 28th of March, 10-12 Seminar:

Schaefer, Fred K. (1953) "Exceptionalism in Geography." *AAG*, Vol. 43, pp.226-249
Hartshorne, Richard (1955) "Exceptionalism in Geography Re-Examined" *AAG*, Vol XLV, nr 3, 205-244;
Buttimer, Ann (1982) "Musing on Helicon. Root Metaphors in Human Geography" (8 pages);

Module 2: 24-25 April 2025 - Theme: Humanistic Conceptions of Space and Place Venue: Karlstad University

24th of April, 10-12 Lecture: Out of Place Duet with Mekonnen & Richard (with Edward Said's *Autobiography, Out of Place* as guide)

24th of April, 13-16 Literature Seminar: Text: Tuan, Yu-Fi (2001/1977) Space and Place. The Perspective of Experience (235 pp)

25th of April, 10-12 Seamon, D A Geography of the Life World (ca 160 pages)

Module 3: 7-9 May 2025, Theme: *Relational Conceptions of Space* Venue: Malmö University

7th of May, 13-16 Lecture “Feminist geocriticism” Carina Listerborn

8th of May, 9-12 Literature seminar: Gillian Rose (1993) Feminism and Geography: The Limits of Geographical Knowledge (160 pp)

8th of May, 13-15 Lecture: “Space” Aina Tollefsen

9th of May, 9-12 Literature Seminar: Text: Lefebvre, H (1991) The Production of Space (ca 450 pages)

9th November 13-15 Presentation & Discussion of Synopsis for the Course Paper

Course Literature

Bunge, William (2011/1971). Fitzgerald: geography of a revolution. University of Georgia Press. (253 pp.)

Buttimer, Ann (1982). Musing on Helicon. Root metaphors in Human Geography. Geografiska Annaler B: Human Geography, 64(2), 89-96. (8 pp.)

Gould, Peter (1979). Geography 1957-1977: The Augean Period. Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 69(1), 139–151. (13 pp.)

Hartshorne, Richard (1955). Exceptionalism in geography re-examined. Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 45(3), 205–244. (40 pp.)

Lefebvre, Henri (1991/1974) The Production of Space. London: Blackwell (ca 360 pages)

Massey, D (2005) For Space. New Delhi. Sage.

Rose, G (1993) Feminism and Geography: The Limits of Geographical Knowledge. Polity Press. Cambridge

Schaefer, Fred K. (1953). Exceptionalism in Geography. Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 43(3), 226–249. (24 pp.)

Seamon, David (1979/2015). A geography of the life world. Routledge. (227 pp.)

Tuan, Yu-Fi (2001/1977). Space and place. The perspective of experience. University of Minnesota Press. (235 pp.)

Background Reading

Buttimer Anne (1993). Geography and the Human Spirit. John Hopkins University Press.

Cresswell, Tim (2013). Geographic thought. A critical introduction. Wiley-Blackwell.

Johnston, R. J., & Sidaway, J. (2017). Geography and geographers: Anglo-American Human Geography since 1945. Edward Arnold. 7th edition.

Said, Edward (1999). Out of place. A memoir. Granta.

Course Literature (preliminary)

Bachelard, Gaston (2014/1958) The Poetics of Space. New Edition. London: Penguin Books (ca 150 pages)

Casey, Edward (2013) The Fate of Place. A Philosophical History. Berkley: University of California Press (ca 400 pages)

Gould ”Geography 1957-1977: The Augean Period Annals of the Association of American Geographers Vol. 69, No. 1, Special Issue: Seventy-Five Years of American Geography (Mar., 1979), pp. 139-151 (13 pages)

Harvey, David (2004) SPACE AS A KEY WORD Paper for Marx and Philosophy Conference, 29 May 2004, Institute of Education, London

Massey, Doreen (1994) A Global sense of Place (ca 200 pages)

Massey, Doreen (1999) Power Geometries of Space-Time. Heidelberg (ca 80 pages)

Olwig, Kenneth R. (2002): The Duplicity of Space: Germanic 'Raum' and Swedish 'Rum' in English Language Geographical Discourse. *Geografiska Annaler* 84B (1): 29-45.

Reference Literature

- Burton, Ian (1963) "The Quantitative Revolution and Human Geography" *Canadian Geographer*, VII, 4 (12 pages)
- Blunt, A. & Rose, G. eds. (1994) *Writing Women & Space. Colonial & Postcolonial Geographies*. New York: Guilford Press
- Crampton, Jeremy & Elden, Stuart eds. (2007) *Space, Knowledge & Power*. Aldershot: Ashgate (250 pages)
- Crang, Michael & Thrift Nigel ed. (2000) *Thinking Space*. London: Routledge (ca 100 pages)
- de Certeau, Michel (1984) *The Practice of Everyday Life*. Berkeley: University of California Press (ca 250 pages)
- Deleuze, Gilles & Guattari, Felix (1987) *A Thousand Plateaus. Capitalism & Schizophrenia*. (chapters 1, 3, 7, 12, 14)
- Elden, Stuart ed. (2012) *Sloterdijk Now*. Cambridge: Polity
- Foucault, Michel (1986/1967) "Of Other Spaces" *Diacritics Spring*, (6 pages)
- Harvey, David (1969) *Explanation in Geography*. London: Arnold (ca 250 pages)
- Malpas, Jeff (2006) *Heidegger & The Thinking of Place. Explorations in the Topology of Being*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press
- Olwig, Kenneth (2002): *Landscape, Nature and the Body Politic: From Britain's Renaissance to America's New World*. Madison, University of Wisconsin Press.
- Ord & Bild (1998) *På Plats*. Nr. 3 [Special Issues on Place]
- Ponty, Merleau (2002/1962) *Phenomenology of Perception* New York: Routledge
- Pred, Allan (1984): Place as historically contingent process: structuration and the time-geography of becoming places. *Annals Ass. Am. Geogr.*, vol. 74, s. 279-297.
- Teverson, A & Upstone, S (2011) *Postcolonial Space. The Politics of Place in Contemporary Culture*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan
- Res Publica (1999) *Farlig Geografi*. Nr. 41-42
- Tuan, Yi-Fu (1990) *Topophilia*. New York: Columbia University Press