

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

UNISCAPE En-Route International Seminar “LIVING IN TERRACED LANDSCAPES”

November 21st–23rd, 2018 in Gran Canaria

This call is addressed for everyone interested in terraces and terraced landscapes in the world (scholars, researchers, agronomists, etc.) to participate in and contribute to the discussion on the recognition, recovery, and protection of terraced landscapes and strategies for new terraced landscape projects: that is, toward Re-Enchanting Terraces.

The call is included in the **UNISCAPE En-Route International Seminar “LIVING IN TERRACED LANDSCAPES”**, which will be held from 21st–23rd of November 2018 in Gran Canaria.

Important Dates

Call

JUNE 22nd, 2018

Deadline to submit abstracts

SEPTEMBER 1st, 2018

Acceptance of abstracts (reviewers' comments, improving abstracts, approval or rejection of abstracts)

SEPTEMBER 30th, 2018

Deadline to submit revised abstracts

OCTOBER 15th, 2018

Thematic Groups

The four thematic groups that form the central content cover various inherent aspects of terraced landscapes as well as conceptual and instrumental statements that outline the strategic objectives of the **UNISCAPE En-Route International Seminar “LIVING IN TERRACED LANDSCAPES”**.

The issues, topics, and definitions considered within these thematic groups are:

- LIVING:

Places of Wellbeing and value in Terraced Territories

This thematic group studies the development of new ways of living, cultivating, maintaining, and inhabiting terraces and the contributions of these areas to the biodiversity and cultural identity of society today. This involves changes in land use, reviewing land rights to allow sustainable use in planning and designing terraces, and decision-making. Therefore, we make reference to the modern lifestyle in the landscape, viewing terraces as places of permanent and continuous settlement. The great heterogeneity of terraced landscapes makes it possible to generate an infinite number of approaches and modifications to them. We also welcome studies on the restoration or conservation of crops and agricultural techniques that have disappeared or are no longer in use, systems for maintaining and controlling the quality of cultivated land, and a future oriented toward organic agriculture.

For example, in Macaronesia dry stone walls have been built for centuries to allow people to live on terraces and create land for cultivation. This landscape is reminiscent of areas in South America or in many Mediterranean mountain regions that resemble the vast terraced regions of Africa and Asia, **LIVINGSTONES** is a crucial concept. In many parts of Macaronesia, especially in the Canary Islands, settlements were established specializing in agricultural production, the main cultivation system being terraces. These elements have not only changed the topography, but have also introduced new relationships and systems in the landscape.

- WISDOM

Recovery of the memory of Terraces: Actions, Infrastructure, and Projects

Currently, landscapes of ignorance and memory can be found in terraced areas: deserted landscapes compete with their future and destiny. Along with this, knowledge and wisdom have also disappeared. Those that are preserving terraces around the world are still cultivating their manner of knowledge by resisting the colonization of their daily practices and customs.

Terraced areas are a complete and complex system determined by a large number of elements of various sizes and on various scales, all of which are indispensable. Slopes, walls, stones, land, water, ponds, flora, fauna, climate, roads, paths, houses, farmers, landowners, inhabitants, visitors, and hundreds of other elements are connected and coordinated, and they form a changing landscape in constant flux.

The fundamental goal of this thematic group is to study the process of abandoning and restoring local wisdom to the point where it becomes a progressive process of re-enchantment of terraced landscapes. This involves the ability to think and act with knowledge, experience, understanding at various levels, and common sense, using practical judgement or common wisdom. In addition to the ability to understand the cause and effect of the existence of terraced landscapes, empathy, passion, and concern are vital for the wellbeing of these landscapes. These generate awareness and sensitivity in all that have been involved with these areas.

- LABOR

Construction and Protection of Terraces

Various cultures from all over the world, in distant times and geographical areas, have developed the technology of terraces in response to natural environments with steep slopes and scarce food, which are uncondusive to human life.

Although they essentially function in the same way, almost as if they were the result of a human instinct, this great diversity of origins has led to a great variety of construction methods adapted to natural and cultural conditions, available materials (stone and earth), technological development, and the conditions of the area (water, climate, and slopes) where these cultures settled.

This thematic group addresses this diversity through studies and activities that explain and take into account the special conditions that the terraces in each area have been adapted to. The work and craftsmanship in terraced landscapes imply an understanding and qualification of how terraces function.

Terraces are understood as a working system, from the traditional techniques of building dry stone walls to irrigation and water control. New and traditional systems of building terrace walls will be examined more closely, including reconstruction and maintenance methods, extraction methods, and the properties of the various types of stones and the methods used, as well as identifying and offering solutions to possible problems.

The contributions will examine dry construction as an artisan practice that has been recognized as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity by UNESCO (dry stone walling) as well as other practices. These include jobs in terraced areas such as water carriers, seed drillers, quarry workers, and roadside fruit and vegetable vendors.

- LEARNING

Generation of Knowledge and Innovation in Terraced Territories

The thematic group is oriented toward generating new knowledge or modifying current knowledge through practice, the need for non-exclusive and flexible exchange, and cooperation capable of involving actors and actions, skills, values, and preferences. It encourages diverse participants' voices, and it brings their values, attitudes, activities, and interests into terraced landscapes. At the same time, we are interested in understanding the level of intergenerational learning from terraced landscapes and their values, as well the degradation of this material heritage and environmental risks. The future wellbeing of terraces and their inhabitants lies in multidisciplinary exchange and dialogue that share knowledge about the elements of terraced areas.

This group also seeks a more detailed examination of landscape models and perceptions based on the European Landscape Convention and other technical and conceptual instruments at the national, European, and international levels. Such instruments influence the study of new ways to build or restore areas with qualitative and structural value, such as existing terraced areas.

The contributions are expected to show the diversity of mapping abandoned lands and heritage, competence and expertise gained at various levels of terraced landscapes studies and their existence, new methodologies derived from observation, and learning about terraced areas.

A special topic of this thematic group is the promotion of construction schools with quality standards based on local material, cultural, and legal conditions as well as recognition of the profession of terrace builders.

Requirements for Abstracts

The abstracts should be focused in line with the thematic groups.

The works submitted must be original, not previously published, and submitted in line with the established criteria and presentation times.

The supported languages for abstracts and papers are **Spanish** and **English**, and both must be submitted through the corresponding section of the Call for Papers on the website www.terracedlandscapes2019.es.

The abstracts will be evaluated by the International Scientific Committee, which will review them.

Abstracts must be written using the available template (downloadable from the website).

Participants whose abstracts are selected must register for the UNISCAPE En-Route International Seminar and must pay the registration fee within fifteen days of receiving confirmation that the abstract has been accepted. The payment deadline is **October 15th, 2018**.

Based on the criteria of the Scientific Committee, the authors of the selected abstracts may participate in the activities and roundtables to be held in each thematic session of the UNISCAPE En-Route International Seminar. The selected abstracts will be published in the seminar's official proceedings.

Authors whose abstracts are selected and want to develop them into full papers sending the final copy by **November 15th, 2018** will be directly accepted to participate during the IV Congress and, in any case, must register for the congress by **January 14th, 2019**. For jointly authored papers, this must be done by at least one of the authors. The registration requirements and options are described in the registration section. This gives paper authors the right to publish their work in the Congress proceedings and participate in public presentation. These authors' work will be accepted for the IV Congress and they will be able to present their papers in line with the selection of the Scientific Committee. (See the complete version of the IV ITLA World Congress brochure)

Scientific Committee

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Tessa Matteini – (Italy) – UNISCAPE

Juan Manuel Palerm Salazar – (Spain) – Lasndscape Observatory of Canary Island

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