

Justice, Power and the Political Landscape

Landscape is now on the agenda in a new way. The increasing interest in justice, power and the political landscape expresses a sea change occurring in the meaning of landscape itself, from landscape as scenery to landscape as polity and place. As Lionella Scazzosi argues “The meaning of the term ‘landscape’ has become broader than that of a view or panorama, which characterized many national protection laws and policies until the middle of the 20th century, and that of environment or nature, to which it has often been limited during the recent years of environmentalist battles.” This is reflected in the new European Landscape Convention, for which: “‘Landscape’ means an area, as perceived by people.” The tide thus has turned towards J. B. Jackson’s view of landscape as not “a scenic or ecological entity but as a political or cultural entity, changing in the course of history.” It is in this socio-political context that it becomes necessary to consider the role of power, and the importance of justice, in the shaping of the landscape as an area of practice and performance with both cultural and environmental implications.

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