



Workshop 1/3:

Landscape and identity

Moderator: **Anne Sgard** (F-Grenoble)

Concept:

The purpose of this workshop is to explore the relationship between Landscape and Identity, or, more precisely, between landscape and identification processes. Many studies have shown that landscape can be used as a “material” and a medium for appropriation and attachment processes by the populations, both at a national and local scale. Landscape is then a sort of cement within the local society and at the same time a positive image of this society towards the outside world. The workshop will also focus on the sacred dimension(s) of mountains in the world and the influence of religion and sacredness on the perception of landscapes.

The forms and evolutions of this identification could be discussed:

- Can any type of landscape or landscape structure become a “material” for identity constructions and afford a feeling of belonging?
- Is it possible to identify sacred landscapes and, in that case, do they give rise to particular ways of identification?
- Does the present demand for landscape also signify a demand for identity and social link?
- Is identity only based on roots, memory, and tradition? Or can identity be expressed in current terms? And furthermore, can landscape help to build a long lasting link?
- Then, how can identity evolve in interaction with the transformations of the landscapes, the landscape perception, and the present way of live? How can sacred landscapes survive in the present world ?

Many issues may be explored: identity and mobility, identity and sustainability, identity and segregation, etc. The methodological aspects will also have to be discussed: how can these identification processes be analysed: survey? Interview? Observations? Iconographic corpus?

A first input presentation is based on examples of landscape structures or components in the French Préalpes and suggests some interpretations concerning the valuation (**Anne Sgard**); another input presentation discusses the relationship between sacredness, landscape and identity (**Edwin Bernbaum**).