



ART & /IN ECOLOGY

Human-Non Human Interconnections
in Art, Visual Culture & Everyday Life.
Site specific theory in practice in Vuosaari
two-period module
Jan-April 2021

Source: [Google Maps](#)

Hello Everybody!

Short introduction to who you are why you are here
and what you are interested in with this course 😊





Vuosaari: A Contested Cultural/Ecological Contact Zone

Source: Google Maps

Defining a Contact- Zone

Mary-Louise Pratt: [sites where]

“cultures, meet, clash and grapple with each other, often in contexts of highly asymmetrical relations of power, such as colonialism, slavery, or their aftermaths as they are lived out in many parts of the world today”.

Donna Haraway: in where species meet also refers to interspecies contact zones/ecological intersections which she also calls ecotones “edge effects [...] where assemblages of biological species form outside their comfort zones” This can refer to, for example border zones between one ecological system and another, or describe ways that native and ‘non-native’ species constitute each other or between dominant and marginal beings,

[Link to Source Haraway When Species Meet p216](#)

[Link to Source Mary-Louise Pratt](#)

[Source: Google Maps](#)

Inspired by Migrant Ecologies Project Methodology



www.migrantecologies.org

Transdisciplinarity in/as practice

In one site in Jan-April 2021

In this course you will find your way through interconnecting systems of knowledge: biological; geological; historical; technological; sociological; economic; cultural ++

as well as through your own preferred medium of research practice/inquiry.

all of these intersect with Ecology

You will be asked to:

(By end January 2021)

Formulate an (of course preliminary) research question that engages in some way the natural, cultural human and more than human complexities* of a specific aspect of Vuosaari you are interested in
(some examples of these are in the research assignment PDF)

(By mid February 2021)

Find your group.
(for this class I will also accept that you work in pairs)

By **complexity, I want you to think about, for example, how an ecological inquiry intersects with, impacts or sheds light upon another lens with which to regard this site; this could be an economic, a historic, a social lens. Or it could be a lens pertaining to some question of social justice.*

You will be asked to:

(Month of February 2021)

Develop an experimental method of responding to your research question/s via your practice/the combination of practices in your group and the knowledge you glean from the fields in which your question intersects

(Month of March 2021)

Produce a creative response; this could be a finished work, (audio tour, experimental map or game,, short film, performance, animation, children's book, graphic narrative, bio-artwork...)

Or it could be a detailed prototype for a creative response to this question which harnesses the particular methods of engagement you have developed.



You are also expected to

Complete weekly readings,
participate in reading discussions

Complete in class exercises and
participate in organized excursions

(We may flip this but)

Mornings: Lucy-led
Lectures and discussions on zoom

Afternoons: (mostly) Peer-led
Explorations, excursions and
independent research & consultations
5 persons at a time with Lucy,
with Villa Lil Kalvik is the base

Source: Google Maps

Exercises & Site Research Explorations

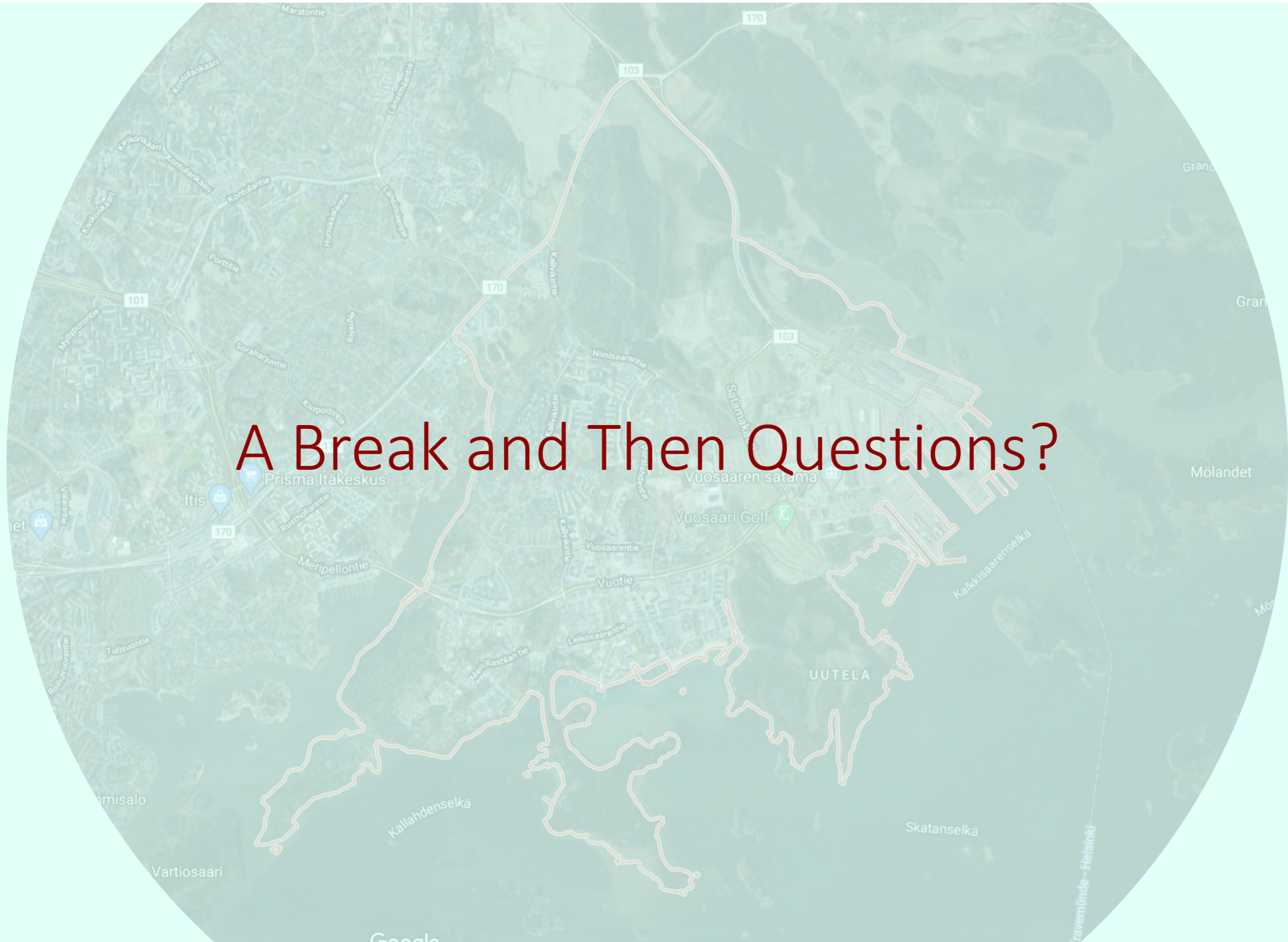
These may take many forms. I will suggest some, you may have others but in the course of researching your project. I will have liked you to:

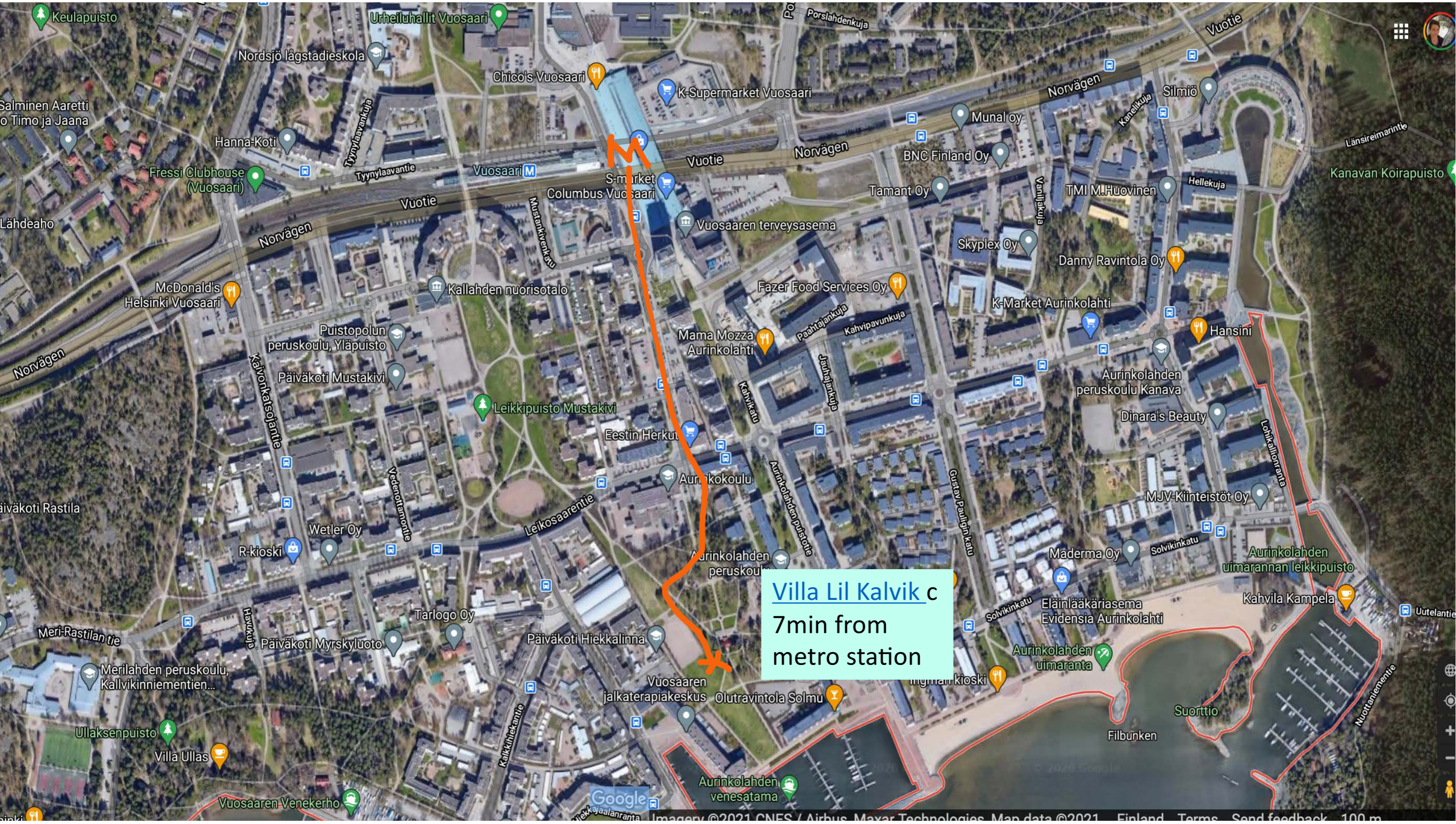
1. Have explored a particular beach or parkland site
2. Have explored a particular urban site
3. Have made research inquiries at the library/Helsinki archives/newspaper archives
4. Have talked to some residents
5. Have made headway into researching the specific disciplinary knowledge(s) you need to loan from for your project:

eg photosynthesis, urban planning histories, sea water composition, industrial development, decomposition, aural frequencies heard by bats, bee hibernation in urban spaces, forest fungal networks, community garden ecologies, invasive species, microbes on shopping mall escalators gender/ race/class/age/sexuality barriers +++

Source: Google Maps

A Break and Then Questions?





Villa Lil Kalvik c
7min from
metro station

Division into 3-4 initial exploring and reading groups. Bring a mask and a thermos
A sketchbook and pens would also be useful

Meet Lucy at 13.00 & 14.00pm

Vehanen Tuula Marjatta
Priha Elina Maaria
Hongisto Riikka Helena
Heikka Onerva Vilhelmiin
Martino Stella Maria

Meet Lucy at 13.20 & 14.20

Bogani Amadori Francesca
Nieminen Martta Aune Inkeri
Bot Paul Leonard
Wittich Lea Maria

**Meet Lucy at 13.40
14.40**

Raunio Kirsi-Maria
Hirsimäki Erika Maria
Gaudé Eline Anna
Kozonina Anna
Fleischmann Dominik

Source: Google Maps

Exercises & Site Research Explorations

First day of getting to know things. Its cold out there. Stay together, stay safe.
Don't stay out too long, retreat to a warm place to regroup.
Make sure you bring a change of clothes.

1. Psychogeographical Investigations in "Parkland" Outdoors: Dérive in a particular beach or nature reserve site

Walk 1 Dérive by Flocking (20 min): Just drift/just flock in silence getting lost in order to experience things differently for this flocking exercise shared with me by bio artist Kira O'Reilly. In this exercise, you explore a space while acting like birds or a herd: One person takes the lead and then another, who this is is never decided verbally, it is implicitly decided by the group. You are allowed to gesticulate and point, but you do not talk. See how and whether your group becomes an organism and how this group interacts with the energies and ecologies around you.

What are the main immediate human and non human, energies at work when you go outside?
Where do they come from, where do they push you? How do they impact you, how are they impacting other species around you?

What are particular "hotspots" concentrations of energy can you notice.
What are the main sounds, where do these sounds lead you?

Where do you discover blockages, boundaries barriers, visible and invisible

Return to base and discuss.
Try to map these out on a piece of paper. What questions have arisen from this walk ?

++ urban exploration methods you may have with you already

[Link to Situationist Online definition of Derive](#)

[Source: Google Maps](#)

2 Psychogeographical Investigations in Urban Outdoors: exploring an particular urban site (20 min walk, 20 min discussion. Return to talk with Lucy in one hour)

Repeat walk 1 but in an urban environment

3. Psychogeographical Investigations Indoors: exploring an indoor urban public site (wear a mask, be safe! 20 min walk, 20 min discussion. Return to talk with Lucy in one hour)

Repeat walk 1 or something like it but in an indoor environment

4 Group Discussion:

What questions and ideas have arisen from your research today? How would you research these?

*I suspect this is as far as you will get on the first day.
I have listed the other kinds of walks below for you to take on, discuss and modify as needed*

Week 2 20 Jan Investigations of ecological contact zones and ecotones

Week 2. 20 Jan Investigations Into Processes of Interspecies Becoming

Week 3. 27 Jan Site specific tour of Vuosaari Landfill with Eeva Berglund

Week 4. 3 Feb Investigations Into Politics of Space (Discipline, Control, Difference, Dualisms & Boundary Maintenance)

Week 4. 3 Feb Investigations Into Politics of Space (Heterotopias, Agencies, Transgressions, Queerings Transformative Possibilities)

Week 5 10 Feb Investigations Into Temporalities in Space

Week 5. 10 Feb Investigations Into Micro/Macro Scales in Space

First reading: Anna Tsing

Unruly Edges: Mushrooms as Companion Species

for Donna Haraway Anna Tsing

Department of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz, USA

http://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/eh_1.9_tsing.pdf

Formulate five questions or five comments for this Anna Tsing reading

Prepare to discuss examples from art, ecology visual culture and everyday life that came to mind after reading this text

Come prepared to discuss next week with ideas about how a text like this might inspire further research in writing or in your practice.