



# ART & /IN ECOLOGY

Human-Non Human Interconnections  
in Art, Visual Culture & Everyday Life.

Week 5 9 February

Source: [Google Maps](#)

## ART & /IN ECOLOGY: Week 5 9 Feb

9.30am-10am.

Situating/Grounding Exercise,  
And catch up

10am-11.30 am

Individual ambulatory exploration (c one hour out half hour processing/sketching)

12-13.00

Either Early Lunch or Groups 3 & 4 (projects) or

13.00 -14.30

Either late Lunch Group 3 & 4 Presentations

14.30-16.00

(if time) Brainstorm projects

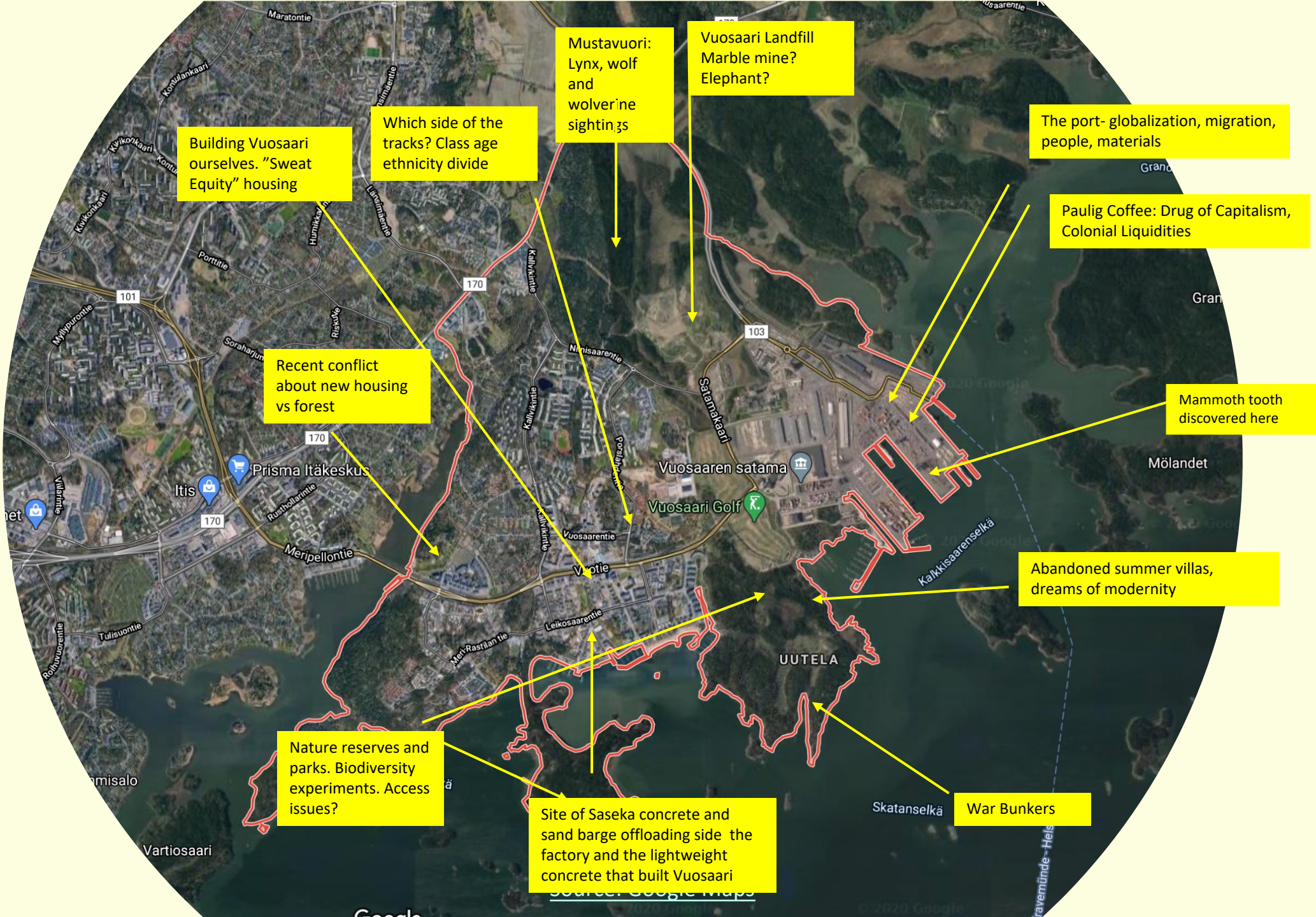
HWK

Edouardo Kohn  
Robin Wall Kimmerer



“Finland seems very small But Vuosaari seems very big”

Anna Kozonina 2021 😊



Building Vuosaari ourselves. "Sweat Equity" housing

Which side of the tracks? Class age ethnicity divide

Mustavuori: Lynx, wolf and wolverine sightings

Vuosaari Landfill Marble mine? Elephant?

The port- globalization, migration, people, materials

Paulig Coffee: Drug of Capitalism, Colonial Liquidities

Recent conflict about new housing vs forest

Mammoth tooth discovered here

Abandoned summer villas, dreams of modernity

Nature reserves and parks. Biodiversity experiments. Access issues?

Site of Saseka concrete and sand barge offloading side the factory and the lightweight concrete that built Vuosaari

War Bunkers

# URBAN AMBULATORY EXPLORATIONS, SKETCHES AND MAPS :

## WEEK 4-5 Ecological Entanglements and More-than Human Becomings

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“Familiar places are the beginning of appreciation for multi-species interactions”. (Anna Tsing Unruly Edges your homework reading)

*This begins what I hope will be a series of walks alone and in groups as ways to get to know Vuosaari.*

*What I hope is that in the course of these early walking explorations, you find a “patch” or hotspot, or make a connection to place that you might like to return to over time as the light and weather changes (try visiting the same place in the dark! and even if we are lucky, the seasons change..*

*In contrast, to last week’s “informative” tours, today I would like you to go on a walk by yourself to either an area with less humans, or alternatively an urban part of Vuosaari like the mall or the station or a children’s playground.*

*I would like you to do this alone for around 1 hr and return to make map/sketch/notes about this experience.*

*Then depending upon the time, I would like you to come back and discuss your experiences with your group possibly returning next week together if any of you come across something of interest.*

**DO NOT WALK ON THE SEA ICE.** Even if other people are doing so.

## Part 1 Some Things to look out for:

You can walk as fast or as slow as you like. Take time to experience and sense things, listen to sounds beneath your feet, sound of the snow, your breath. Sense/taste the direction of wind.

The below are just some of the things you might want to look for.

**Dualisms in Practice:** Where do you find evidence of modern dualisms in practice in the everyday life of Vuosaari, where and how do (visible and invisible) boundaries between, human and non human, intellect and matter, living and non living persist?

### **Noticing Ecologies: Inter-connections breaks, transitions and transformations.**

Where does one ecological state end and another begin? Which beings can be found on the borders? Where are there confluences of energies? where do there appear to be tensions, contests, competing ecological claims on space and place? Which beings are included, which beings are excluded or unable to pass from one ecological zone to another?.

**Becomings-With\_** How are different human and non-human beings altering their behaviour as they come into contact with each other? How do you find your own body interacting with various non-human living and non-living beings, energies on your walk? How might you think of your own body moving through a series of *becomings* with as you walk?



## Interspecies Seasonal Changes

Is the snow and ice a different consistency to last time? How does snow wind and ice impact human and non-human behaviour? [EG: Trees and woody plants draw in their life-sap and sugars from their outer edges of their bark during winter. How might humans similarly be regarded as becoming vegetal in winter? (for example)]

## Ghosts & Monsters

**Ghosts:** How do absences make themselves felt, in the landscape, in the body?

**Monsters:** What strange kinds of hybrid chimeric ecological or phenomena might you possibly encounter? Where might there be things thriving, but out of place. Where might beings be where they “ought” not be? Migrant species? Invasives? Leaks and seepages?

## NOTES SKETCHES/RECORDINGS/MAPS

When you come back to the house, make notes, or a voice recording or draw a map of your experiences, highlighting, hot spots, edges, places of tension, particularly intense sensations like moments of silence etc. Make sketches of particular encounters that stick out for you. Note particular sounds.

Particular words that come into your head even if you do not know what these mean.

These maps do not have to be regular maps, they can be as expressive as you wish them to be

**Later I will ask you to share some of this with your group**

## Part 2 Deeper engagements with a "patch":

More ideas for durational processes & getting to know a place (Once/if you have found your "patch")  
Return to the same spot each time and start a sense archive of the following

Sound Keep a listening diary. Use one of [the exercises by Pauline Olivieras](#) or make up a deep listening exercise of your own. Visit the same spot for 10-15 min each time you come to Vuosaari. Sit listen and make notes.

Light & Darkness While we diurnal beings may miss the sun so much of Helsinki city suffers from light pollution so that things are never truly dark. As both predators and prey, our human senses work in a different way in the daylight and at night  
Watch the shifting light (or dark) in a micro-ecology. Map out a specific area. Watch how the shifting light and shadow impacts the area over time find different ways to register this light. In sketches? With snow?



## Time

(Lucy tell anecdote of Jurassic shopping mall)

Notice the different temporalities at play in your patch. How might you/we possibly sense record and evoke these?

## Language/Embodied Placemaking

[Eduardo Kohn in "How Forests Think"](#) speaks of more than human interconnected readings of the forest based upon a web of indexical signs. Remember that scene from **Kurusawa's Derzu Uzala** when the birds begin to sing and they then are told that the rain will stop? I wonder if the raven was telling us something that day when it tried to drown me out talking to Antti the mine!

Kohn also speaks of onomatopoeic expressions of the Runa people as a way of knowing processes in language *Tsupu*, or *tsupuuuh*, as it is sometimes pronounced, with the final vowel dragged out and aspirated, refers to an entity as it makes contact with and then penetrates a body of water; p27

Find an animate or inanimate "companion" with which you identify in this place. It could be a tree a plant, a rock, a building, an electricity box. Try and find new names for this companion based upon your sense of the thing. Build up a new ecology of sound-words, images of this place

## HWK Things to listen to

A gentle introduction to Edouardo Kohn, Ecuadorian Anthropologist

in the excellent Cultures of Energy podcast series (actual interview starts 15.9)

<https://podcasts.apple.com/sg/podcast/164-eduardo-kohn/id1073817284?i=1000429895379>

Native American Botanist/Writer Robin Wall Kimmerer THE SERVICEBERRY An Economy of Abundance

<https://emergencemagazine.org/essay/the-serviceberry/>

(also as a podcast)

Supplementary: If you want more another good presentation by Kohn is here:

Eduardo Kohn on “sylvan” thinking and talking to forests

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ynl9XwwKUZ8>

Anthropology as Cosmic Diplomacy: Toward an Ecological Ethics for the Anthropocene

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87yJKnVSd0k>