



More-than-human workshop



- 1. Intro to more-than-human thinking**
- 2. Reference projects**
- 3. More-than-human workshop - Mapping actors and relations**

## More-than-human thinking

- more-than-human/posthuman/multispecies thinking
- questioning nature-culture dualism
- instead of treating the living world as something passive, living beings are considered as active agents
- acknowledging the interconnectedness of human societies and biodiversity





## Beyond nature and culture

- “Nature” as something separate from the culture or human societies is a concept that can be localized both temporally and geographically (Descola, 2006)
- “Nature” as separate from culture is a concept of the modern Western world, producing a worldview according to which “Nature” is a passive, mechanic entity, a background to human actions (Descola, 2006)
- Considering “Nature” as separate from human societies is one root causes of the ecological crises (Tsing, 2015)





## Rethinking Agency

- **Agency: being an active agent, having the ability to impact the course of events**
- more-than-human thinking grants agency to the non-human world
- non-humans as actors (Tsing) or actants (Latour)
- acknowledging that the actions of animals, plants, bacteria, mushrooms have consequences in the human world
- “Making worlds is not limited to humans” (Tsing, 2015)



— NOISSETIER	Corylus avellana	Betulacées	Hauteur : 8m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Culture : 2
— VIGORNE COTONNEUSE	Viburnum lentago	Adoxacées	Hauteur : 2,5m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Culture : 2
— VIGORNE TIN	Viburnum tinus	Adoxacées	Hauteur : 3m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Passives
— VIGORNE OBIER	Viburnum opulus	Adoxacées	Hauteur : 4,5m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Culture : 2
— CHALEF	Elaeagnus umbellata	Elaeagnacées	Hauteur : 3m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Culture : 2
— OLIVIER DE BOHÈME	Elaeagnus angustifolia	Elaeagnacées	Hauteur : 4m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Culture : 2
— GOMU DU JAPON	Elaeagnus multiflora	Elaeagnacées	Hauteur : 3m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Culture : 2
— ALPÉPINE MONDOVINE	Crataegus monogyna	Rosacées	Hauteur : 6,5m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Culture : 2
— ALPÉPINE LISSE	Crataegus laevigata	Rosacées	Hauteur : 4m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Culture : 2
— SUREAU NOIR	Sambucus nigra	Adoxacées	Hauteur : 2,5m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Culture : 2
— SUREAU À GRAPPES	Sambucus racemosa	Adoxacées	Hauteur : 4m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Culture : 2
— ESLANTIER	Rosa canina	Rosacées	Hauteur : 2m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Passives
— ARBOUSIER	Hebecladon rhomboides	Elaeagnacées	Hauteur : 2,5m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Culture : 2
— CORNILLIER OFFICINAL	Cornus officinalis	Cornacées	Hauteur : 3m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Culture : 2
— CORNILLIER DU CANADA	Cornus canadensis	Cornacées	Hauteur : 2,5m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Culture : 2
— CORNILLIER SANGUIN	Cornus sanguinea	Cornacées	Hauteur : 3m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Culture : 2
— CORNILLIER MÂLE	Cornus mas	Cornacées	Hauteur : 4m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Culture : 2
— TRÈFLE DU JAPON	Ligularia japonica	Urticacées	Hauteur : 3m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Passives
— FUSAIN D'EUROPE	Eucryphia europaea	Celastracées	Hauteur : 2,5m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Culture : 2
— CYTHES SÉSSILES	Cytisophyllum sessilifolium	Fabacées	Hauteur : 2m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Culture : 2
— PISTACHER	Pistacia lentiscus	Anacardiacées	Hauteur : 2,5m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Passives
— NEPRUN	Rubus idaeus	Rubracées	Hauteur : 2,5m	Rusticité : 4	Moyen : 3	Passives



# "Plants make our breath"

## -Emanuele Coccia





## Multispecies landscapes

*“As sites for more-than-human dramas, landscapes are radical tools for decentering human hubris. Landscapes are not backdrops for historical action, they are themselves active.*

*Watching landscapes in formation shows humans joining other living beings in shaping worlds. (-- Can I show landscape as a protagonist of an adventure in which humans are only one kind of participant?”*

-Anna Tsing



## Noticing agency

- **Art of noticing (Tsing, 2015)**
- expanding awareness to the ways non-humans participate in socio-ecological systems
- **representation as a key problematic: what are the tools to make visible the interconnectedness of human and more-than-human worlds**
  - systems diagrams
  - graphic tools of landscape architects
  - speculative mapping, new models of representation



Aït-Touati, F., Arenes, A., Gregoire, A. (2019) Terra Forma

Ways of inhabiting  
Merveille du jour  
(*Griposia apriliina*)

*populus tremula*

*pinus sylvestris*

*quercus robur*

*acer platanoides*



In the autumn  
the moth lays  
eggs on the  
branches or the  
bark of the  
oak, where  
they hibernate  
over the winter



The caterpillar feeds  
on buds, flowers and  
leaves of oak trees

*“nature doesn’t exist - the world is always  
designed and constructed by living beings for  
other living beings”  
-Emanuele Coccia*

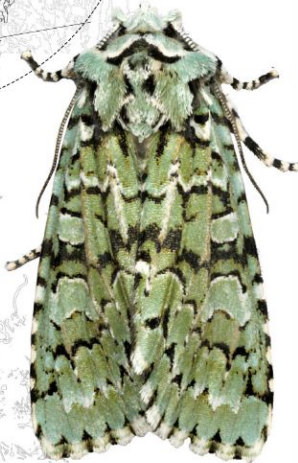


During the day,  
the caterpillar  
hides in  
the crevices of the  
bark of the oak



The caterpillar  
metamorphoses into an  
adult moth in a cocoon,  
which lays on the soil,  
often near the oak roots

wingspan  
39-45mm

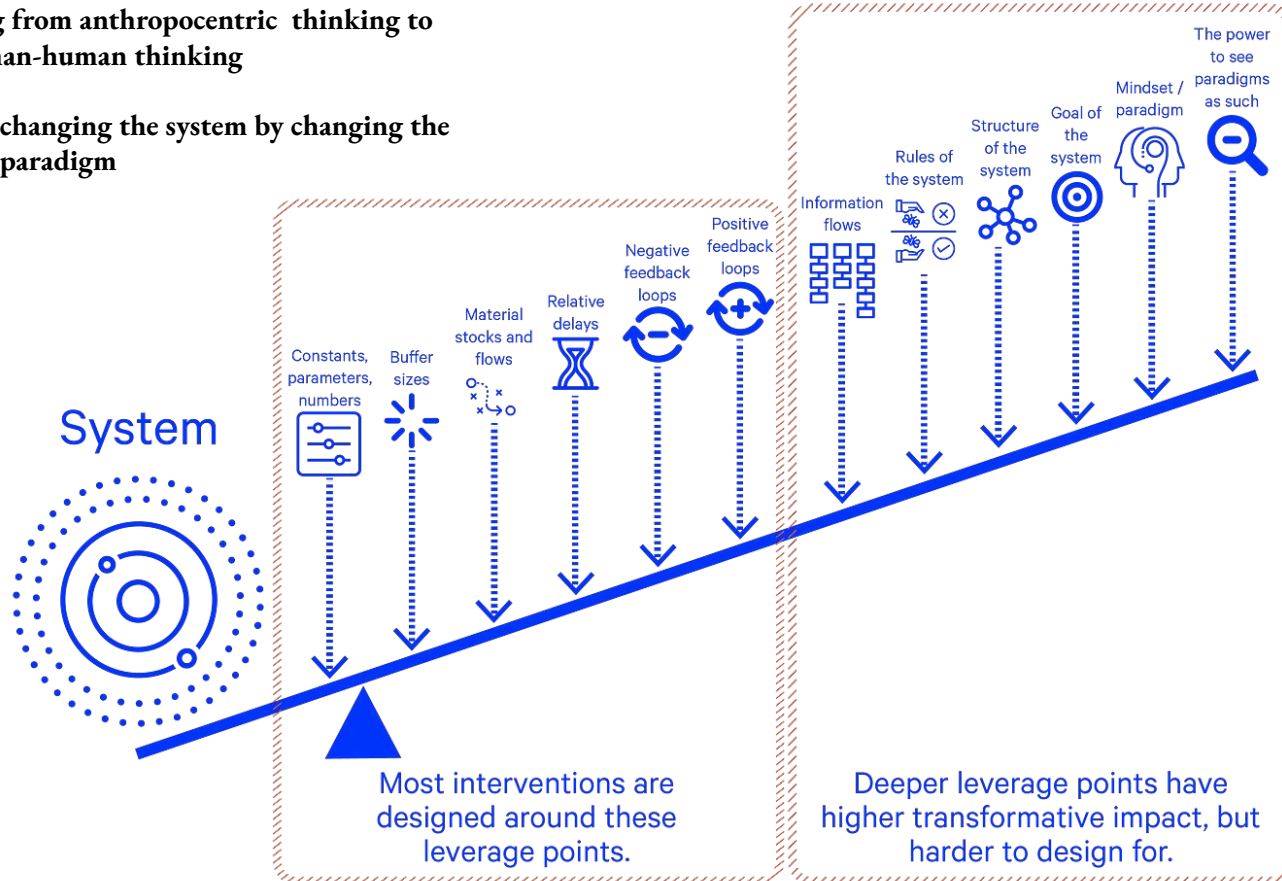


Merveille du jour moth is one of  
the myriad species developing  
together with the life of the oak  
tree. The management of the  
cultural landscape, such as  
thinning the forest and cutting  
down spruces opens up space for  
the growth of oaks and benefits  
the lives dependent on them.

*“what we take given as an environment, is in fact  
an artefact, produced and kept up by living  
beings. And because it’s an artefact, it’s fragile”*

## Shifting from anthropocentric thinking to more-than-human thinking

- changing the system by changing the paradigm



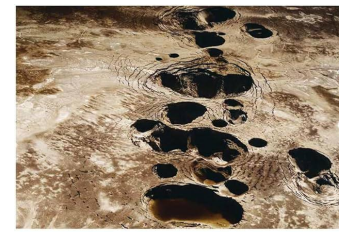
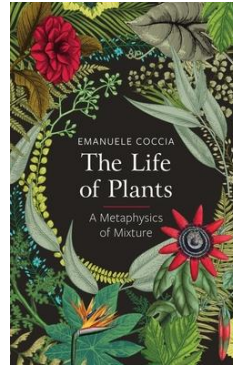




**considering non-humans as clients of the landscape architects,  
since the wellbeing of humans is dependent on the wellbeing  
and health of ecosystems (connection to the SES approach)**

Readings:

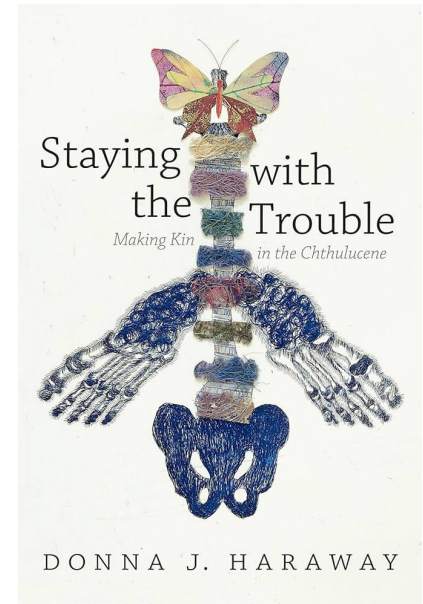
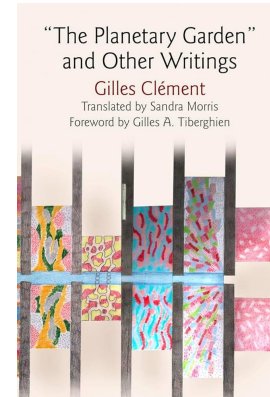
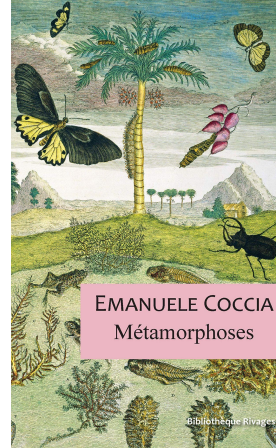
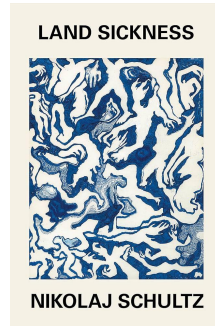
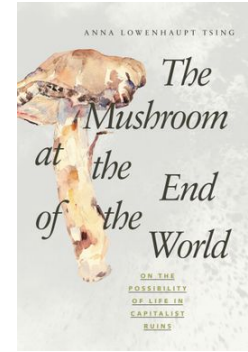
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- Latour, B., Weibel, P. (2020) *Critical Zones*
- Coccia, E. (2016) *The Life of Plants - A Metaphysics of Mixture*
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- Schultz, N. (2023) *Land Sickness*



CRITICAL ZONES  
The Science and Politics of Landing on Earth

You want me to land on Earth? Why? — **Because you're hanging in midair, headed for a crash.** — How is it down there? — **Pretty tense.** — A war zone? — **Close: a Critical Zone, a few kilometers thick, where everything happens.** — Is it habitable? — **Depends on your chosen science.** — Will I survive down there? — **Depends on your politics.**

EDITED BY  
Bruno Latour — Peter Weibel







references







**The Ecology of Waste**

Complex ecological and metabolic pathways integrate waste into all living and nonliving things, including plants and wildlife, humans and domesticated animals, air, water, and soil. In some cases, such as air releases, disposed waste is dispersed into the wider landscape and de facto stored in multiple sets of lungs and in the atmosphere. In other cases, substances become more concentrated and dangerous as they move up the food chain, since they build up in fatty tissue. For example, mercury and PCBs increase in concentration in birds like bald eagles, since they consume fish, accumulating much higher levels of mercury over their lifetime than are stored in any one individual fish. As top carnivores, humans accumulate chemicals and metals from diverse sources like milk, meat, fish, fruit, and vegetables. Waste ecosystems affect our ability to live fully and healthfully within our surroundings.



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# Ecoportrait of the Eurasian otter (*Iutra lutra*)







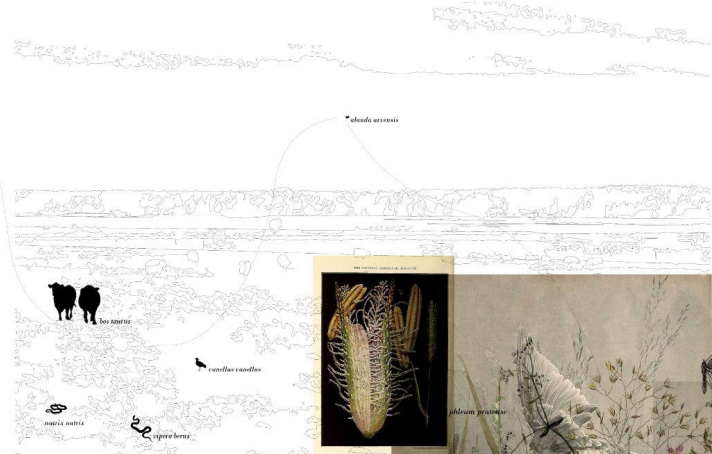




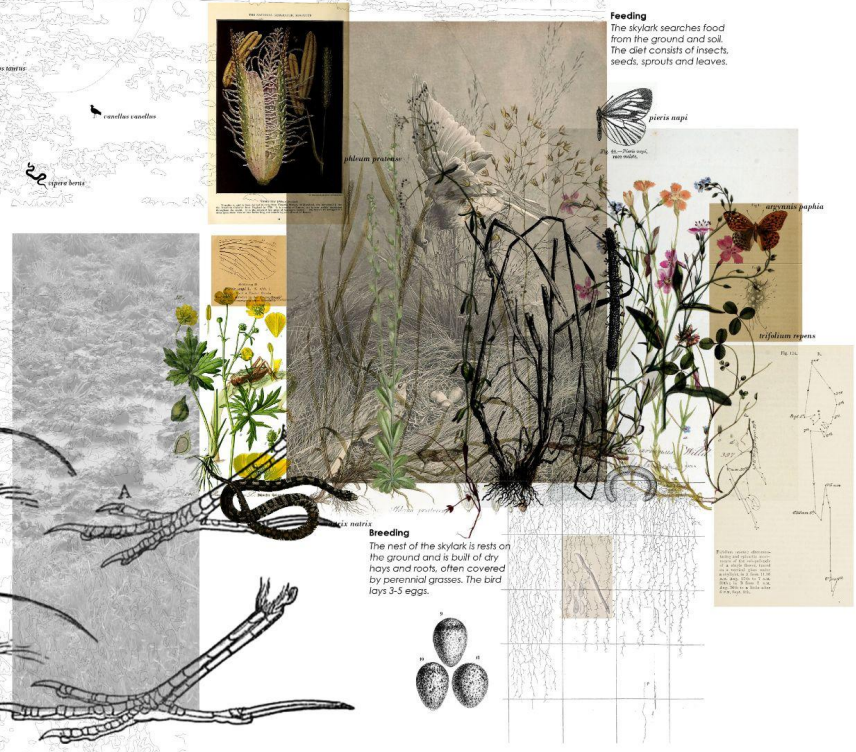
*Alauda arvensis* is one of the common birds in rural areas, but the populations have drastically diminished in few decades because of changes in agricultural systems. In Finland, the amount nesting of nesting birds has diminished by 70% due to the decrease in pastures and the diminishing diversity of croplands. In Mietoinen, the bird cohabits in the coastal meadow with cattle and myriad other species.



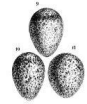
**Entanglement**  
The hooves of cattle open up patches of open soil, creating microecosystems for both insect and the bird species that feed on them



**Feeding**  
The skylark searches food from the ground and soil. The diet consists of insects, seeds, sprouts and leaves.

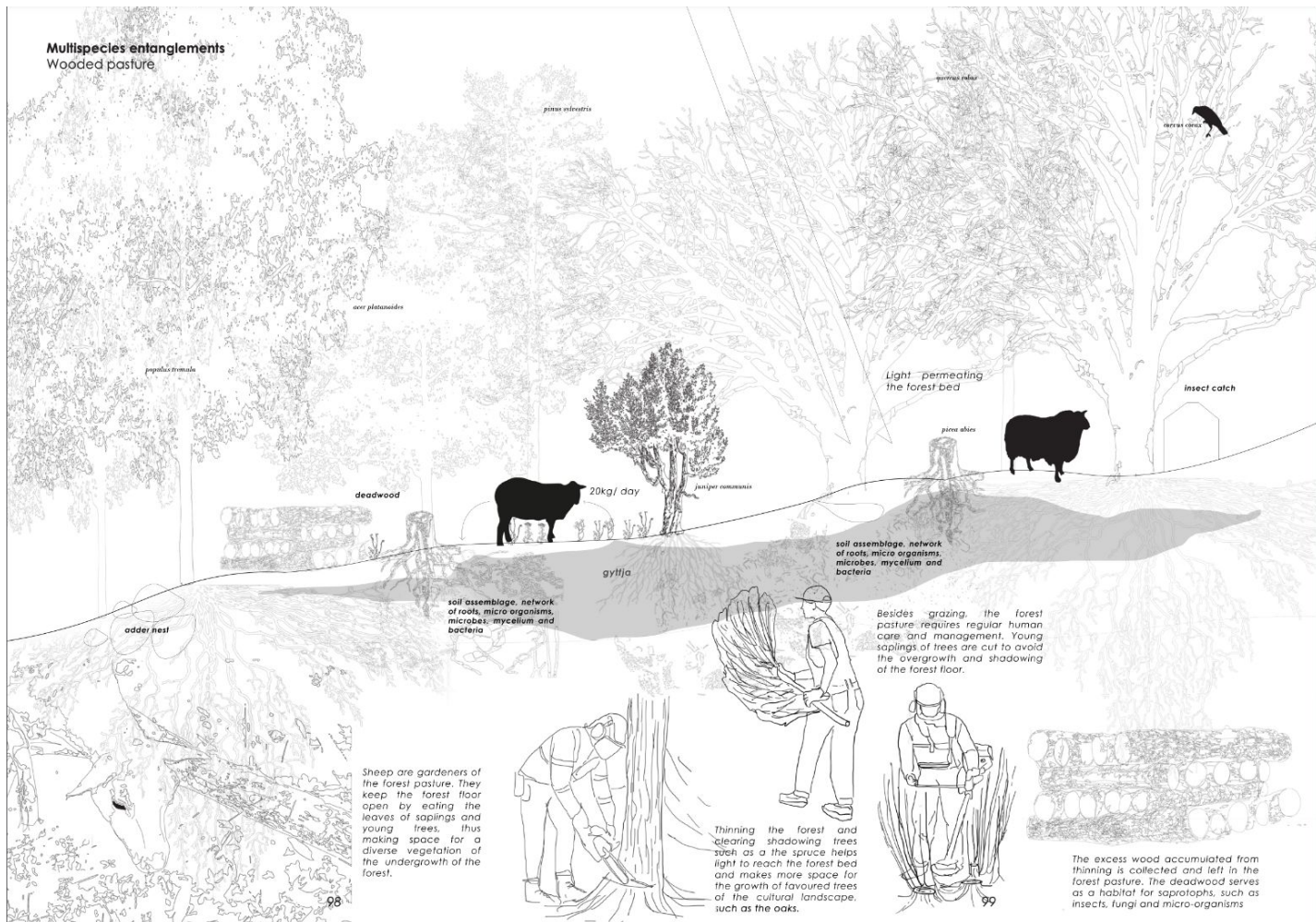


**Breeding**  
The nest of the skylark is nests on the ground and is built of dry hays and roots, often covered by perennial grasses. The bird lays 3-5 eggs.





**Multispecies entanglements**  
Wooded pasture



Sheep are gardeners of the forest pasture. They keep the forest floor open by eating the leaves of saplings and young trees, thus making space for a diverse vegetation of the undergrowth of the forest.

Thinning the forest and clearing shadowing trees such as the spruce helps light to reach the forest bed and makes more space for the growth of favoured trees of the cultural landscape, such as the oaks.

Besides grazing, the forest pasture requires regular human care and management. Young saplings of trees are cut to avoid the overgrowth and shadowing of the forest floor.

The excess wood accumulated from thinning is collected and left in the forest pasture. The deadwood serves as a habitat for saprotophs, such as insects, fungi and micro-organisms

The Parliament of The Loire



*Nul n'est censé ignorer la Loire !*

LE POLAU PRÉSENTE

# LES ASSEMBLÉES DE LOIRE

DU 09  
AU 12  
SEPT.  
2021



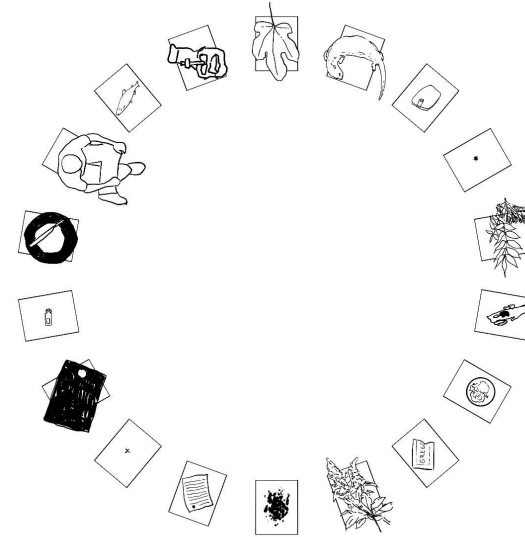
TOURS  
ET  
VAL DE  
TOURS

AVEC LA MISSION VAL DE LOIRE, LA RABOUILLEUSE-ÉCOLE DE LOIRE, LE PETIT MONDE, L'UNIVERSITÉ POPULAIRE DE TOURS ET DE LA TERRE, LA MAISON DES SCIENCES DE L'HOMME VAL DE LOIRE, LA VILLE DE TOURS



## The Assembly of The River Sheaf

- Studying the river Sheaf in Sheffield, UK through a more-than-human lens
- Mapping the actors and inhabitants that compose the system of the river Sheaf
- storytelling as a way map relations
- assembly as a method of representing the actors



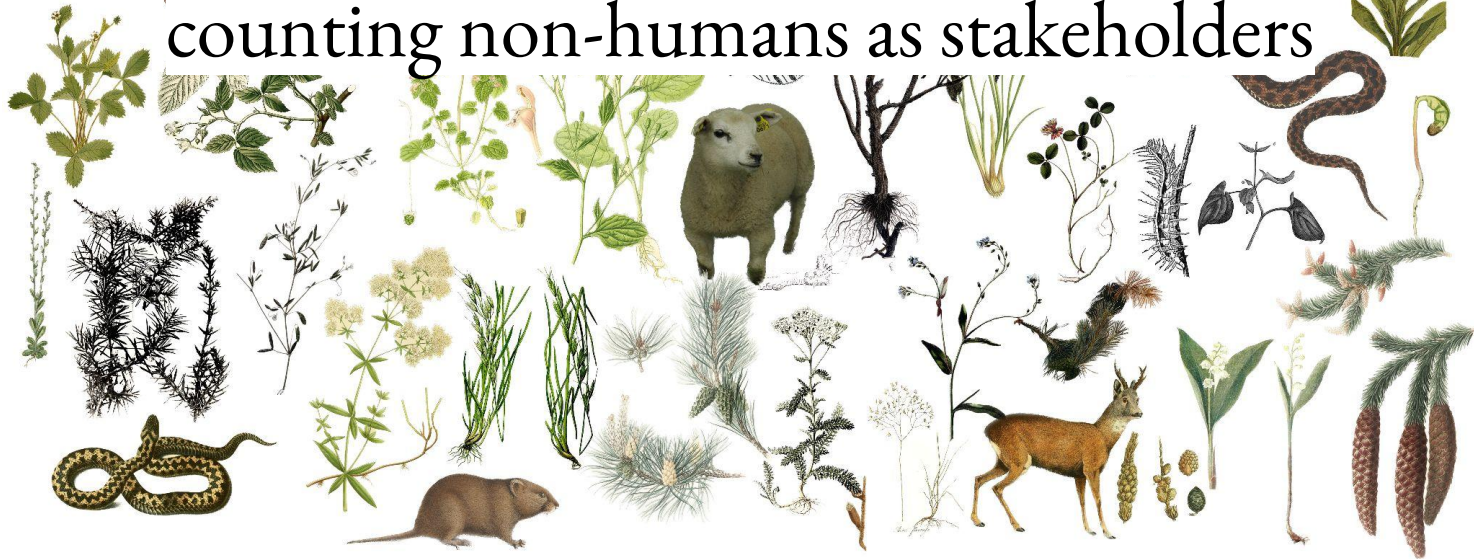
Lead. Chromium. Buddleia. Mouse-tail moss. Giant knotweed. Milton Ironworks. Dipper. Margaret Thatcher. Eurasian otter. Minnow. Grey Heron. Atlantic Salmon. Birth control pills. Sycamore. White willow. 1989 Water Act. Domestic Sewage. Himalayan balsam. Water vole. Acid rain. Charcoal. Nitrogen. Fig bisguits. Mountain ash. Black alder. Daubenton's bat. Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane. Common eel. Yorkshire Water. Reedmace. Surgical instruments. Dog's mercury. Black spleenwort. Common ash. The Clean Air Act. Wood Ear mushroom. Cobalt. Signal crayfish. Mediterranean fig. Nickel. Japanese knotweed. Grayling. Moorhen. Brown trout. Grey wagtail. Copper. Kingfisher.

## THE ASSEMBLY OF THE RIVER SHEAF





counting non-humans as stakeholders







workshop



workshop



**The aim of the workshop is to collectively map out relevant actors belonging to the socio-ecological system in Kymenlaakso. The material produced in the workshop aims to help in the Assignment 4 of representing the socio-ecological systems.**

## **1. Mapping Actors**

**In groups of three, write down as many actors from the category as you can. The aim of exercise is to write a list as extensive as possible. Use the information acquired during the lectures and the field visit. The limits of the categories are porous.**

**15min + discussion**



**Categories:**

**Human actors/Local people**

**Abiotic Nature**

**Plants/Vegetation**

**Animals on Land**

**Animals in Water**

**Industries**

**Organizations**

## **2. Getting to know the actor**

**Choose one of the actors from the list of your group, that you will get to know more in detail. Spend a few minutes researching your actor. On the A4 sheet, make a visual representation of your actor, and write down a few facts about it.**

**What is the role of your actor in the area, what are it's needs, what are it's threats?**

**15min**



### 3. Representing the actor

**Each participant is now a representative of their actor, either human or non-human. Gathering in an assembly, each participant represents their chosen actor to the group. In the group, we are inviting non-humans as stakeholders of the landscape, as actors/components who cocreate the socio-ecological system.**



Lead. Chromium. Buddleia. Mouse-tail moss. Giant knotweed. Milton Ironworks. Dipper. Margaret Thatcher. Eurasian otter. Minnow. Grey Heron. Atlantic Salmon. Birth control pills. Sycamore. White willow. 1989 Water Act. Domestic Sewage. Himalayan balsam. Water vole. Acid rain. Charcoal. Nitrogen. Fig bisguits. Mountain ash. Black alder. Daubenton's bat. Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane. Common eel. Yorkshire Water. Reedmace. Surgical instruments. Dog's mercury. Black spleenwort. Common ash. The Clean Air Act. Wood Ear mushroom. Cobalt. Signal crayfish. Mediterranean fig. Nickel. Japanese knotweed. Grayling. Moorhen. Brown trout. Grey wagtail. Copper. Kingfisher.

**THE ASSEMBLY OF THE RIVER SHEAF**

#### **4. Describing relations**

**In a group discussion, we start to map the relations emerging between the actors. Can you find 2 or more actors that are entangled with the actor you have represented. Are there symbiotic relationships? Are there conflicts?**

**You can take notes during the discussion, you can start sketching the system diagram.**



## **5. Feedback + discussion**

**How did you feel about the exercise?**

**What did you learn during the workshop?**

**How will you proceed with the assignment?**