Abstracts
'Tides of Change':
A Workshop on Past, Present and Future Enactments of the Coast as Boundary
18.5.-21.5.2006, Tönning, Germany
(In Order of the Workshop Schedule)

Fiete Pingel: *1362-1634-1825: Storm Floods as Milestones of the History of Northern Frisia*

T.B.A.

Norbert Fischer: *Taming the Tide: Dikes as Technical and Symbolical Boundaries*

Seen from a technical perspective, dikes at North Sea coast divides land from the sea. But beyond water engineering − and from a historical point of view − they include multiple symbolic functions. Dikes has formed complex boundaries under social, cultural and political aspects. They divide agricultural land from the unembanked wet land beyond the dikes – as dividing „civilization" from „wilderness" (where dishonourable people were buried …). Dikes also representate political boundaries because the unembanked area in some regions was owned by the government, in other by resident marshland farmers or was even no man's land. Storm tides and changing currents have caused that dike lines have to be rearranged. Since late 20th century ecological aspects – e.g. sheltering birds of the shore – bring about the loss of dikes and the reconstruction of „wilderness". These and other aspects will be shown by comparing some North Sea coastal regions in Germany.

Werner Krauß: *The Construction of a Coastal Landscape*

My lecture will focus on the concept of landscape as a tool for understanding and interpreting ongoing events on the Northern German coast. The Wadden Sea area is an exemplary site demonstrating how landscapes are constructed – in this case in the strict sense of the term.
Instead of taking landscape as standing for something - for an ecological, esthetical, or moral quality -, I propose to see it as a 'site under construction'. This 'construction' must be understood as a permanent process mediating between people and 'things' which brings unique forms of social relations into being. I will argue that the ethnography of these interactions, of local and global actors, of their activities and assemblies is a precondition for any management strategy applied to this coastal area. As I will show in my lecture, this understanding of landscape also involves a new understanding of 'participation' - it is not something to be achieved, but already is an integral part of this coastal landscape.

Charlotte Jensen: *Negotiable Boundaries*

T.B. A.

Otto Knottnerus: *Living Dangerously*

T.B.A.

Gregory A. Isachenkeo: *The Coastline within Megapolis: Change of Functions, Landscape and Symbols (A Key Study of St. Peterburg)*

Saint Petersburg was founded in 1703 at the inflow of Neva river in the Gulf of Finland of the Baltic sea. The key idea of the presented paper is to consider 300-year city development as a continuous conflict of coast and sea. The symbolic value of a new capital of Russia as a «window to Europe» underlined connection of growing city with sea, if not to say – dependence on it. At the same time the sea carried numerous dangers for the city - both natural (gales and destructive floods), and human (threats of encroachment of hostile fleets).

To secure itself from the hazards from the sea, Petersburg from the moment of its foundation began to advance on the adjoining water area. The first artificial island (Kronshlot fortress) was created near the Kotlin island in 1704. During XIX century the Neva bay was crossed by the numerous fortifications among which stone forts prevailed. The shallow Neva bay (also called as Marquis puddle) hindered in navigation of steamboats. In 1874 –1885 the navigable Marine channel of 30 km length and 80–120 m width was dug on the sea bottom between the mouth of Neva and Kronshtadt city. The outlines of some islands were changed due to the building of the channel. In XVIII – XIX centuries the projects of Petersburg protection from the catastrophic floods appeared, including a fantastic idea of the complete filling of the Neva bay. However the realization of these projects became possible only in the second half of XX century.

Impetuously changing shape of new Petersburg strongly contrasted with the landscape of low swamped seashore with rare villages inhabited mainly by Finns. «Shelter of wretched *choukhna* (common Russian name for Finns)» – these words of A. Pushkin for a long time fixed the Petersburgers' image of the territory surrounding the city. However the capital functions changed coastal landscapes too: here, in particular, the summer residences of Russian emperors and large noble families were built. Most known of them was Peterhof with the numerous fountains designed as a symbol of Russian victory at the Northern war of 1700–1721. Peterhof was one of the first points of creation of the «Peterhof Road» along the southern coast of the Gulf of Finland as unique 40-km ensemble of palaces, estates and parks, formed during 150 years.

The paradoxical feature of formation of Petersburg became that by XX century the city was «cut off» from the sea due to the numerous factories, port constructions and storages. The forming of «marine facade» of Leningrad began only in the last third of XX century. Exactly at that period the water area of the Gulf of Finland began to be considered as a resource for expansion of territory for the dwelling and industrial building. The city area, inwashed due to the bottom ground of the Neva bay, makes now tens of square kilometers. The most crucial influence on the Neva bay at the end of XX century was a construction of complex of dams of 25 km length for protection against floods. This construction is not finished until now owing to lack of finances. Nevertheless, the arched dam crossing the Neva bay appeared on all geographical maps. The Neva bay has turned actually into the strongly polluted lagoon isolated from the main water area of the Gulf of Finland. As a result northern and southern coasts of the Neva bay almost completely have lost their recreational value. Simultaneously eutrophicated water areas overgrowing by reed began to be used by waterfowls and acquire the value for maintenance of biodiversity.Nowadays the coastline of Saint Petersburg (as an administrative unit) has a length about 120 km. The coastal landscape concentrates very different functions, values and symbols. The further change of the landscape is conditioned by the very intense conflict of interests of industrial needs, residential areas building, creation of new communications, existence of natural protected areas and objects of historical and cultural heritage.

Kenneth Olwig: *Mapping Tides of Time and Space: The Coast is Not Clear, but "Muddy"*

Limen is Latin word for threshold, as in the border between the inside and the outside of house, but it could also, spelled *limes*, indicate the *limit* of the Roman empire which, like the threshold to house, was not just a neutral line, but a line between qualitatively different states, the civilized body of people within the house of Rome, and the Barbarians without. Such borders are typically sharp and clear, as if made by a ruler, and, in fact, rulers often made them. The word *rule* derives from the Latin, *regula* (meaning straightedge), and the suffix *reg* in *reg*ent is the same as the *reg* in *reg*ulate, *reg*ulation and *reg*ion. Rulers (in the sense of Regents) thus manifest their power by making rules and using rulers (straightedges) to make the sharp and clear lines that divide the inside from the outside, the civilized from the barbarians, the light from the dark (as in *Genesis*) and the elements from one another: e.g. the earth from the water. The map, of course, is the ultimate tool for doing this. Given the logic of the limen, a coast of a waterway, which marks the boundary between natural elements, ought to provide the ideal boundary between the inside and outside of a state or empire, and this is why rivers and seas often have this function. But, coasts are rarely clear-cut, but muddy, changing with tide and time, and this creates a contradiction between the ideal of the people who use rulers to rule the land, and the actuality of the mud that is ruled, and, by extension, the people who inhabit the mud, making it into land by going with the flow, rather than using sharp edged rulers. This paper is about this contradiction, as played out in Slesvig-Holstein.

Karsten Reise: *Fuzzy Shores Meet Rigid Coastal Architecture – An Ecological Perspective*

At rocky shores, coastal oceans with plenty of resources are fronting poor land. The shore itself is ancient and unchangeable. By contrast, sediment shores are young and malleable. Between a sea of plenitude and rich arable land, harsh and fuzzy transitional belts are challenging life and human occupation. This amphibious zone has been and still is under strong pressure of conversion.

In the Wadden Sea, this conversion process continued throughout the past millennium with consecutive embankments. A 'Golden Ring' of earthen seawalls emerged to separate the claimed land from the sea, and many island shores became artificially petrified to stop erosion. However, the perception of these sediment shores as a frontline against a hostile North Sea is gradually changing. The remainder of primordial coastal nature is now generally valued higher than any prospective claim of land. This conceptual change is promoted by international conventions, European environmental directives and the establishment of National Parks, but is still opposed by traditional coastal stakeholders.

Overexploitation of living resources in the sea caused an early loss of oyster beds and large game, mammals, birds and fish. This relentless depletion has prompted a reversal in attitude. Protection programmes were launched for coastal birds, seals and residual elements of a pristine transitional zone between land and sea. Furthermore, coastal architecture with a monotonous arable marsh surrounded by a bulwark of dikes is no longer taken for granted.

In the face of accelerating sea level rise, a re-softening of the defended coastline is gaining ground. To buffer sediment hunger of a rising sea and to revert habitat squeeze, sand nourishments are employed. To diversify landscape and marshland economy as well as to level off peaks of storm tides, low-lying polders may be prepared to accommodate water from the sea. There is a vision to turn away from traditional

confrontation between land and sea, to recover a former pervasion of water and land, while maintaining a sufficient standard of safety. Such a restructuring of the coastline may move from confrontation to a stewardship for both, the landward as well as the seaward realm of the shore.

Tomas Germundsson: *The Coast as Arena for Swedish Modernity*

Coasts have been used, represented, and loaded with different values during the 20th century. These are explored here in relation to Swedish modernity during the era of the welfare state. This topic is part of an ambition to investigate the modern Swedish society from a landscape point of view, where the 'welfare landscape' is understood as a nexus of ideology, customs, lived experiences, and the rhythms of ordinary life in material setting. The perspective in the presentation will be the coast as a place for health, leisure, and recreation, and it will take its examples from southern Sweden and the city of Malmö. In Malmö the coast has been an essential and integrated part of the city's business and image for centuries. It has been utilised and physically re-moulded for different purposes. Historical examples are trade, military defence, industry, and recreation. In Malmö the coast, including its constructed beaches, is a contested landscape. Social and economic differentiation in the urban region is reflected in coastal land-use and practice at different scales. By looking at the city coast from the perspective sketched above, it is my aim to discuss in what way this landscape could be understood as an out-come of changing political ideology, modern planning discourse, body politics, and every-day life in the socially stratified city.

Mette Guldberg: *The Coast and its Resourceshe coast and its resources: A historical perspective on the approaches to the coastal zone areas today*

In the Danish part of the Wadden Sea the deeps between the islands have had a decisive influence on the structures on the mainland. Thus, the towns - both the medieval and the modern - are situated where conditions for shipping would be the most advantageous.

In the northernmost part of the Danish Wadden Sea the maritime activities through centuries have been centred around the deep *Grådyb*. Although the physical gravity point of the activities and the looks of them have changed throughout the centuries - from the medieval fishing hamlet "Sønderside", over the 18th century embarkment place Hjerting and the 18th and 19th centuries shipping from Fanø to the modern industrial harbour of Esbjerg opened in the 1870s - the maritime activities have been based on using the physical resources of the coastal landscape: Shipping, fishing and agriculture.

In the maritime occupations in general, however, there have been big changes taking place in recent years in shape of restructuring, centralization and rationalization. This is true for shipping as well as fishing and a long row of derived occupations. As a consequence there has been a decrease in the traditional maritime occupations, and the number of active harbours - not only in Denmark - have decreased as well. Alongside the changes in the traditional maritime occupations there has emerged a tremendous pressure on the leisure values of the coasts which have become increasingly attractive for dwelling, recreation, open air life and tourism. This brings new arguments into the discussion about how to use the coastal zone and which activities should have priority.

In spite of these changes there is still an active commercial harbour in Esbjerg based on shipping and fishing and the offshore oil industry. But in the public debate the view on a harbour like Esbjerg and the maritime activities has shifted in recent years. In earlier times it was mainly the economic argument that had priority; the concern was how to

make a living of the material resources of the coastal zone. Today you more often hear arguments connected to enhancing the experience of the coast: Preserving the nature values, preserving the historical values, giving space to leisure or to dwellings and offices with view to the sea.

As the harbours are the only places where it is allowed to build close to the seaside, there is a tremendous pressure on the harbours for giving up the quays for building even though the harbour is living in the traditional, economic sense.

In today's management of the coastal zone there are a wide range of interests that have to be weighed against each other: should it be kept as an economically active zone, is it a zone for leisure, do we want to preserve the historical environment or is it rather the nature values that should be considered, and what about the human activities? All the interests in the coastal zone should be thoroughly considered thinking in a long-term and holistic way, securing cooperation between a wide range of stakeholders, using multiple strategies and taking a starting point in the specific place and the opportunities which it offers.

Literature

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Gregory Ashworth: *Whose Coast? Whose Identity? Can We Plan Heritage and Identity in Coastal Zones?*

Coastal, as other, landscapes are expected to perform many and changing economic, social and cultural functions and are managed in pursuit of many explicit and implicit, compatible and contradictory, policy goals by diverse agencies. Among these expectations is heritage, viewed as both an attribute, whose existence is to be protected or yet to be attained and also as a tool for achieving other goals. This paper will not attempt a comprehensive inventory of these roles, conditions and instruments but rather examine how the intrinsic nature of heritage, and of the place identities it fosters, shapes its planning as both objective and means within the distinctive context of coastal zone management.

Peter Howard: *People, Perceptions and Participation on a World Heritage Coast*

The Jurassic Coast (actually Permian through to Cretaceous) along the coast of Devon and Dorset, UK, has now been designated a World Heritage Site (Natural), The paper first examines the changing perceptions of this coast as they have changed over two hundred years and portrayed in art, literature, film and travel writing, until the attempt to freeze perceptions by designation. But few of these perceptions are locally based, and there is another set of understandings from local people, and from long-time visitors, some of which have led to contestation with expert views which decide on management policy. The widespread use of volunteer labour is one way of bridging these difficult divides.

Kira Gee: *Landscape Values and Offshore Wind Farm Development on the German North Sea Coast: Implications for Integrated Management of Land and Sea*

Following a long period of uncertainty, permits have now been issued for the construction of large-scale offshore wind farms in the German EEZ. This is welcome news for a wide range of stakeholders: Offshore wind farms represent an essential element in achieving the Government's targets for reducing greenhouse gases, with the added potential for generating much-needed jobs in rural coastal regions. Even nature conservation organisations generally argue in favour of offshore wind farms, indicating a broad coalition of support. Research on the West Coast of Schleswig-Holstein demonstrates that this coalition cuts across different administrative levels and encompasses all sectors. Although stakeholders do raise concerns, these primarily concern the technological feasibility of offshore installations, their long-term financial viability, open questions of spatial planning and only rarely question the principle of offshore wind farms. What is interesting is that landscape, and in particular the open seascape, hardly feature as an argument, and that the argument is confined to the local level. This raises the question whether landscape values really do conflict with offshore wind farm development, and if so, what the nature of this conflict might be.

In order to probe this question, a survey of local residents was carried out in October 2005 in the administrative districts of North Frisia and Dithmarschen, both of which are affected by offshore developments. Focusing on selected communes on the mainland and islands, its purpose was to investigate potential links between images of nature, current views of the landscape (including seascape) and attitudes to offshore wind farm development. In total, 387 individuals participated, comprising both randomly selected individuals as well as people who had themselves requested a copy of the questionnaire.

The main aim of the talk is to outline the important difference between the views of the local population and the views of planners and decision-makers. Whilst the former clearly value the open sea as an area untouched by humans, planners have long since considered the sea a mere extension of the mainland in terms of multiple resource use and spatial planning. Although ICZM and spatial planning policies favour an integrated view of land and sea, they would do well to consider the symbolic boundary that continues to separate the two in the hearts and minds of local people.

Dennis Bray: *'Landscape' as Ganzfeld, and a Possible Escape*

The call for 'Tides of Change' identifies the focus of the workshop as being 'The study of coastal landscapes as social constructions ...' and notes 'By and large, there is still a lack of research into the symbolic and physical dimensions of coastlines as combining land – and sea*scapes*.' and '... to recognize and investigate the ways and processes by which the coastline has come to be an idealized and highly valued, symbolic, economic and natural resource boundary.' The workshop is to be a platform for a discussion '... on the discourses and repertoires that structure the contestation and renegotiation of these coastlines.' . So far so good.

Why 'Landscape as *Ganzfeld*'? Not, as it might suggest, because undefined geo-physical form is a blank field that is a matter for cultural interpretation, which it is. On the contrary, it is in reference to the application of the term 'landscape' itself. In its current usages, as multiple meanings and multiple metaphors, 'landscape' is a conceptual fog, it has become a *studium* for want of a better word: it is without acuity. We often employ the term as depicting meaning yet surround it with noise - *cultural landscape* (which arguably is tautological) for example - in order to make it less acute, for whatever

reason. In an attempt to develop a working definition, attention will be turned to landscape as *punctum*, that which disturbs the *studium*. This is the *scape* in landscape or seascape, or coastscape, the reflection or impression of the essential unique quality: that which stands out to be noticed, that which is psychologically, sociologically and culturally designated, that which turns land or sea into landscape or seascape, that which makes land*scape* and sea*scape* a social construction. Discussion will be given not so much as to content but to the process of recognition, the process of transition from land to landscape, from coast to coastscape and from sea to seascape and the development of suitable levels of abstraction and units of analysis. In short, how do we scape, and subsequently, who gets to do it.

Bente Sundsvold: *In Quest of Memory, Echoes of the Future*

In 2004 the Vega Archipelago on the coast of Helgeland was inscribed as a new Norwegian World Heritage site. The justification concerned the ways generations of fisherman farmers have maintained a sustainable living in an inhospitable seascape close to the Arctic, with a specific focus on the now unique practice of eider down harvesting. As the justification addresses, the area has been under irreversible changes, and also very recent changes. During the 1980s the clusters of islets, *vær,* outside Vega, were abandoned as permanent settlements, and today the human activities in the islets mostly concern seasonal activities for taking care of the eiders, some fishing and for holiday resorts for locals and visitors.

Although the nomination document underlines a whole range of features for justifying the inscription, both natural and cultural, the core is better described as a seasonal relationship and interaction between man, bird and environment through time. During the brooding season the eider searches for human protection and the islanders build small houses where they prepare nests for their seasonal guest of honour. In return the people may collect an egg or two and the precious down the eider stuffs the nest with for incubation. Through the practice of down harvesting a relationship between man, bird and environment is established and maintained, where also the bird is reckoned an active agent who makes choices. It never submits to human control and taming. And to put it on an edge; what kind of challenges does a bird bring to World Heritage management?

Although the common eider is not a long distance migratory bird, it migrates. It does not rest nicely in the World Heritage Site. Actually, when the core activity of the inscription takes place, when the eider settles in the man made nests and houses for brooding and choose to enter the domestic domain of humans, the site cannot be disturbed by visitors. Thus, there are some real challenges of mediating to an outside audience what this 'site' contains, and to take into consideration in the local prospects of utilising the status for income generating tourist activities, as well as in the management of the islets.

In the heading I pose a quest for memory as potentials for the future place enactment. To stick with the perspective on the bird: What kind of memory does the eider have? And how does its memory matter for the future of this World Heritage site? I do not intend to dive into ornithological cognition, but to stress the bird ethology related to the islanders and the islets. It is the human care which makes the eiders return and settle in the eider houses, year after year. Historically the livelihood of the fisherman farmer was built on seasonality. The human activities on the coast were steered by biological cycles, the spawning of the fishes, the migration routes of birds and sea mammals. As stated in the workshop announcement, historically the coast was never reckoned as a boundary, but as a prospect of income generating activities, and a gate to the world, to new ideas and networking. By looking closer on some of the locally and historically founded mobility structures which have been at work in the livelihood on this coastline, I hope to

contribute to raise some questions relevant for the renegotiation of social memory in this area.

Maria Frisk: *Planning for the Event? An Attempt to Make Invisible geographies visible*

Anthropocentric perspectives on planning, society, space, and the world that build on the assumption that humans as the only actors in the world are partial and flawed. The environmental pollution in the wake of the railway tunnel project at Hallandsås in 1998 is an apt reminder of the disastrous consequences of anthropocentric perspectives in planning. Coasts are normally thought of as a vertical boundary between a body of water and land, as on a map, but actually, the boundary is much more "fluid," with the water penetrating horizontally as a water "table" under the land, rising occasionally to the surface when, for example, the rainfall rises. By the same token, the land lies, horizontally, under water bodies, rising, for example during periods of drought or changes in tidal flow. If one looks at Hallandsås this way, one could say that it has an invisible underground "coast" which planners have either ignored, or treated as a fixed "natural" boundary, much as is the case with above water coasts. But this boundary is also fluid, as fluid as the supposed boundary between humans and nature. This boundary, however, cannot hold back underground coasts or decide how the water should flow. Human life is highly dependent on non-human actors not least of which are 'nature' and 'technology'. To include more actors in planning or modelling there is a need for radical shift in perspective from conventional and humanist theories of planning. We need to change our ways of planning due to this – one that goes beyond dualisms and that is centred on the relations between different actors (humans and non-humans) and make these geographies visible. Maybe it is time to plan with this fluid nature instead of fight against it.