

• *Landscape – Place – Space – Denis Cosgrove – Hettner lecture*

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Vision and the Cultural in Geography: A Biographical Interview with Denis Cosgrove

*Sehen und das Kulturelle in der Geographie:
ein biographisches Interview mit Denis Cosgrove*

Through his work on the social and cultural politics of landscape and representation *Denis Cosgrove* has established an approach to cultural geography that is firmly rooted within the tradition of the humanities. Studying the historical and symbolic meanings of landscape in a Western European tradition that stretches from early Renaissance Italy to the modern world, his main books include 'Social Formation and Symbolic Landscape' (1984), 'The Iconography of Landscape' (1988) and 'The Palladian Landscape' (1993). More recently, he has explored the workings of mapping and cartography in 'Mappings' (1999) and 'Apollo's Eye: A Cartographic Genealogy of the Earth in the Western Imagination' (2001). The following interview conversation, conducted during the Hettner Lecture in Heidelberg on 30th June 2005, aims at offering insights into the interrelations of *Denis Cosgrove's* biography and his scholarly work. Drawing upon *Livingstone's* approach of considering the interplay between biography, place and scientific practice in order to achieve a deeper understanding of his oeuvre (*Livingstone* 2002), we hope that our interview contributes to ongoing discussions on *Cosgrove's* approach to cultural geography and stimulates an interest in rethinking different ways of practising cultural geography.

Summary: Vision and the Cultural in Geography: A Biographical Interview with Denis Cosgrove

This biographical interview traces the academic career of the cultural geographer *Denis Cosgrove* and reflects on his ongoing engagement with geographical concepts and ideas. *Cosgrove* discusses his preference of the landscape concept to notions of space and place, and how his work relates to different research traditions in the 'new' cultural geography. The conversation demonstrates how an interest in the visual, in humanist ideas and in collaboration with the arts and humanities can stimulate research and teaching in cultural geography.

Zusammenfassung: Sehen und das Kulturelle in der Geographie: ein biographisches Interview mit Denis Cosgrove

Dieses biographische Interview zeichnet die wissenschaftliche Laufbahn des Kulturgeographen *Denis Cosgrove* nach und reflektiert dessen anhaltende Beschäftigung mit geographischen Konzepten und Ideen. *Cosgrove* führt aus, weshalb er den Begriff „Landscape“ gegenüber „Space“ und „Place“ favorisiert und in welchem Verhältnis seine Arbeiten zu verschiedenen Forschungstraditionen der „neuen“ Kulturgeographie stehen. Das Gespräch verdeutlicht, wie anregend ein Interesse am Visuellen, an humanistischen Ideen und an einer Zusammenarbeit mit den Geisteswissenschaften für kulturgeographische Forschung und Lehre sein kann.

Résumé: La Vision et le culturel dans la géographie: un entretien biographique avec Denis Cosgrove

L'entretien retrace la carrière académique du géographe culturel *Denis Cosgrove* ainsi que son attachement constant aux concepts et idées géographiques. *Cosgrove* explique pourquoi il préfère le terme « landscape » à la notion de « space » et de « place » ainsi que la relation de ses travaux avec les différentes traditions de recherche de la « nouvelle » géographie culturelle. La conversation met en valeur de quelle manière un intérêt pour le visuel, les idées humanistes et une collaboration avec les arts et les sciences humaines peut stimuler la recherche et l'enseignement de la géographie culturelle.

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