



CHeriScape will organise a session in this upcoming COST conference (see session information in back of page):



Organised by: UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ



<http://www.culturalsustainability.eu/helsinki2015>

Is culture the fourth pillar of sustainability, alongside the ecological, economic and social aspects? How does culture act as a catalyst for ecological sustainability, human well-being and economic viability? What would our futures look like if sustainability was embedded in the multiple dimensions of culture, including different worldviews and values, ways of life, and other forms of cultural expression?

A cultural transition that embeds sustainability in the cultural understandings and daily practices of society has the power to shift humanity's currently unsustainable trajectory. Culture already plays many roles in (un)sustainability but the scientific, policy-making and societal spheres lack understanding of the essence of culture and how it influences sustainability.

### **Research Paper Sessions are arranged in 4 Thematic Streams**

- Thematic Stream 1. THEORIES, CONCEPTUAL APPROACHES AND METHODOLOGIES
- Thematic Stream 2. INCORPORATING CULTURE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES
- Thematic Stream 3. CULTURAL AND ECOLOGICAL TRANSITIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS
- Thematic Stream 4. CRAFTING AND GRAFTING URBAN AND RURAL ENVIRONMENTS

## **Session 4 of Theme 1: Landscape as heritage: a central idea for the role of culture in sustainability?**

**Chairs:** Niels Dabaut (University Ghent), Guillermo Reher (Spanish Council for Scientific Research), Veerle Van Eetvelde (University Ghent) with Graham Fairclough (Newcastle University)

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Whether culture is regarded as the fourth pillar of sustainable development, an underpinning concept or the means of integrating the three pillars, it is widely accepted that cultural heritage and landscape are key components of cultural responses to environmental change and of social matters such as identity and place formation. An understanding of landscape as heritage offers different ways to approach questions of growth, economic development and matters of social cohesion and equity, and allows alternative priorities for addressing societal challenges to emerge. Land stewardship is often applied with a strictly environmental focus, but when viewed as landscape rather than environment, with appropriate social and culture filters, it presents exciting possibilities which are still only being explored in Europe. Caring for the landscape adopts and conforms to the notion that the landscape should be looked as a form of heritage. By combining care for landscape with recognition that cultural heritage can be central to culturally-informed sustainable development, the idea that landscape is heritage - and vice versa - becomes central to any notion of place and the role of culture in sustainability. This session, organised by members of the JPI-CH project CHeriScape ([www.cheriscape.eu](http://www.cheriscape.eu)), invites papers with case studies of these principles being put into practice, in order to understand the complexities involved, and to explore the innovative solutions for current challenges. Special attention will be placed on how local communities have been or will be involved in cultural landscape projects, given that this engagement, while widely accepted in policy and research policy (such as the European Landscape Convention, the Faro Convention on the value of heritage to society, the ESF/COST Science Policy Briefing 'Landscape in a Changing World', the recent European Commission 'Communication' on an integrated approach to cultural heritage) still poses serious difficulties in project planning and realisation.

