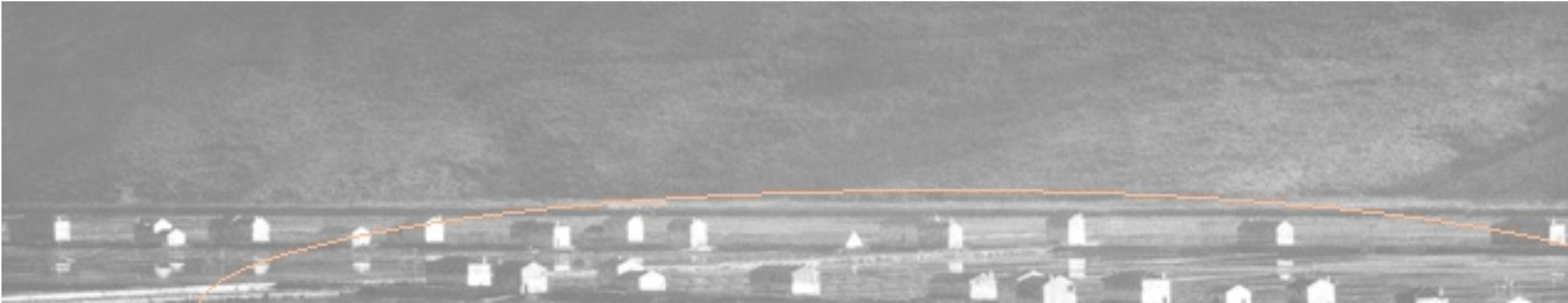


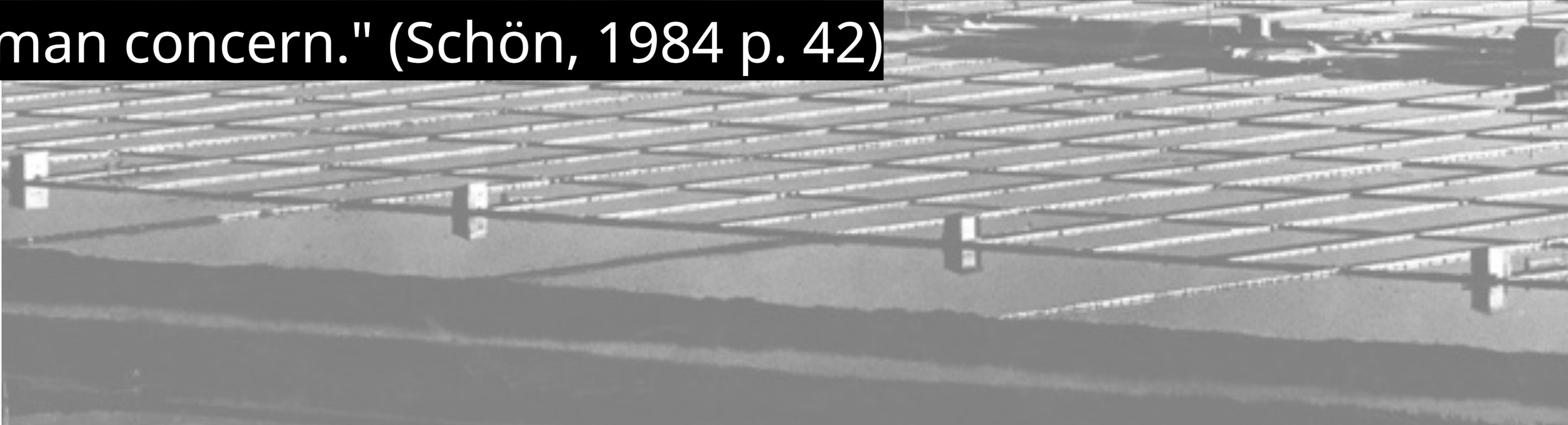
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"There is a high, hard ground where practitioners can make effective use of research-based theory and technique, and there is a **swampy lowland** where situations are confusing 'messes' incapable of technical solution. The difficulty is that the problems of the high ground... are often relatively unimportant to clients or to the larger society, while in the swamp are the problems of greatest human concern." (Schön, 1984 p. 42)



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## Anthropology and Landscape Architecture

This report addresses the state-of-the-art of nature-cultural entanglement theory in anthropology and how the discipline can inform an approach to landscape heritage within landscape architecture. The anthropological concept of multiple world views or “ontologies” suggests that every culture will have its own understanding of nature-culture entanglement. Anthropological methods including fieldwork and participant observation present a way to operationalize these theories in cultural heritage landscape projects.



In the context of the European Union, landscape architecture is understood as a tool to achieve environmental and cultural goals articulated through

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In the context of the European Union, landscape architecture is understood as a tool to achieve collective goals like the European Landscape Convention, European New Bauhaus principles, and nature protection principles including the Ramsar Convention and Natura 2000 (Mihai & Gkoltsiou, 2025, p. 14). These documents, among other EU mandates, advocate for the application of nature based solutions in ways that support both nature and heritage protection (European Commission Directorate General for the Environment, 2017, p. 9).

theory in anthropology and how the discipline can inform an approach to landscape heritage within landscape architecture. The anthropological concept of multiple world views or “ontologies” suggests that every culture will have its own understanding of nature-culture entanglement. Anthropological methods including fieldwork and participant observation present a way to operationalize these theories in cultural heritage landscape projects. |

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*Muzej Novejše Zgodovine Slovenije, 1954*

**Are the salt pans...?**

## Is Landscape...?

Essays on the Identity  
of Landscape

Edited by Gareth Doherty and Charles Waldheim



*Gareth Doherty and Charles Waldheim, 2016 and 2025*

**Benjamin Hackenberger, LANDLABs, University of Ljubljana**

## Landscape Is...!

Essays on the Meaning  
of Landscape

Edited by Gareth Doherty and Charles Waldheim

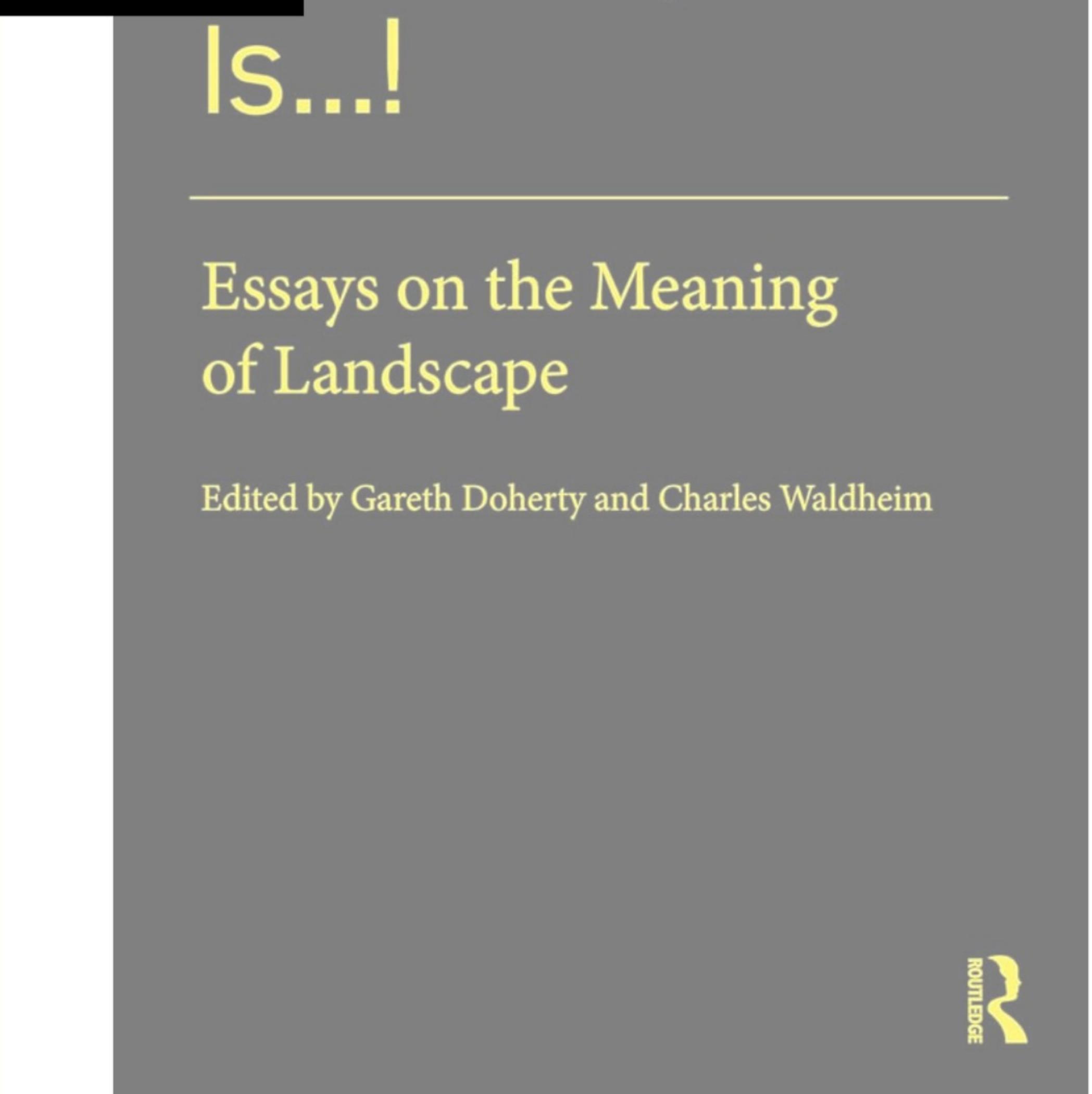
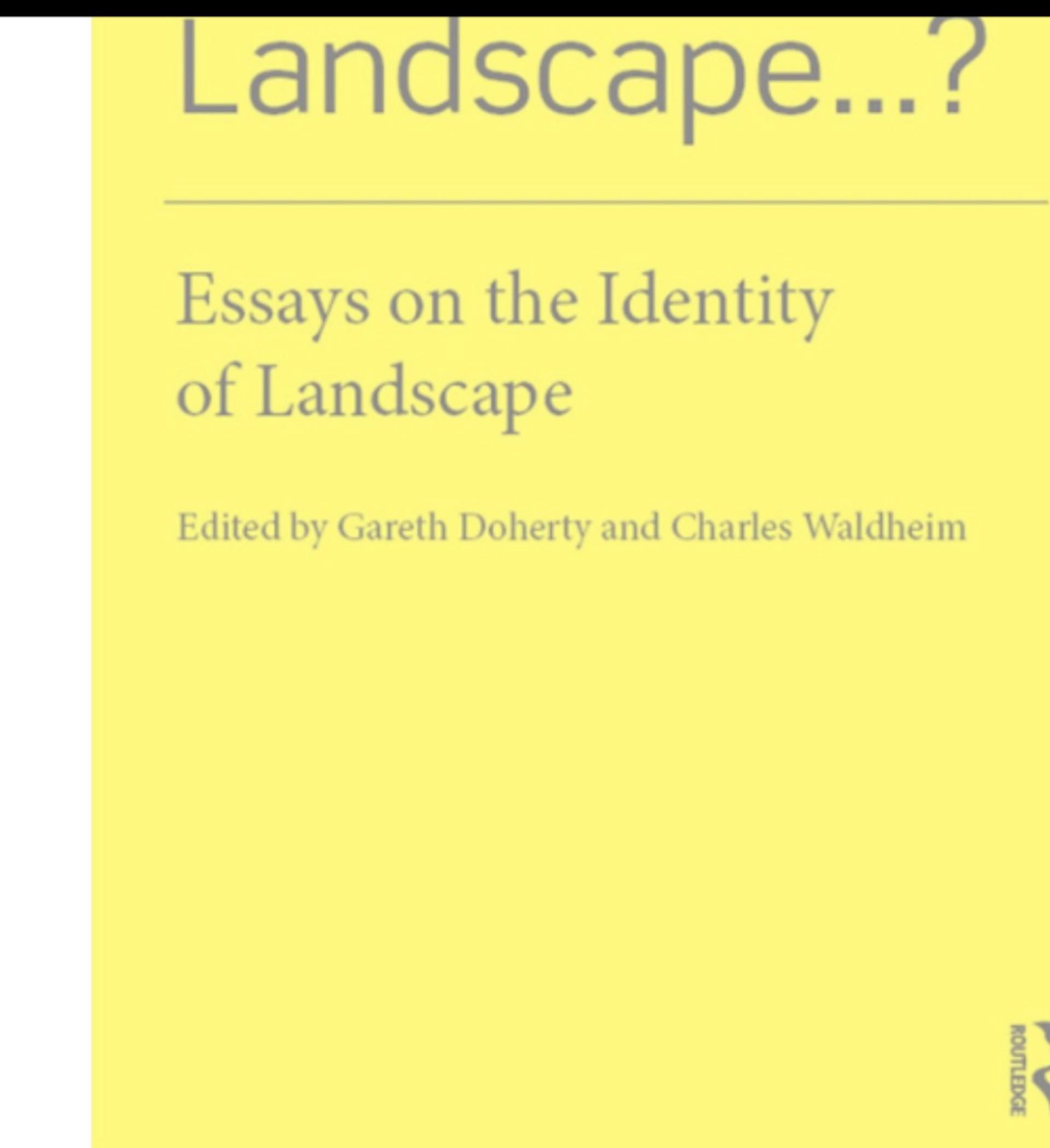




1. Can an anthropological approach to “entanglement” apply to landscape architecture?



2. How can these conceptualizations be operationalized on site?



*Muzej Novejše Zgodovine Slovenije, 1954*

*Gareth Doherty and Charles Waldheim, 2016 and 2025*

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## **Anthrpological Theories**

- a. Relative Universalism / multiple ontologies for nature
- b. Correspondence
  - i. Taskscape

## **Anthropological Methods**

- a. Participant observation
- b. Direct interviews



*Benjamin Hackenberger, 2025*

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## INGOLD - CORRESPONDENCES



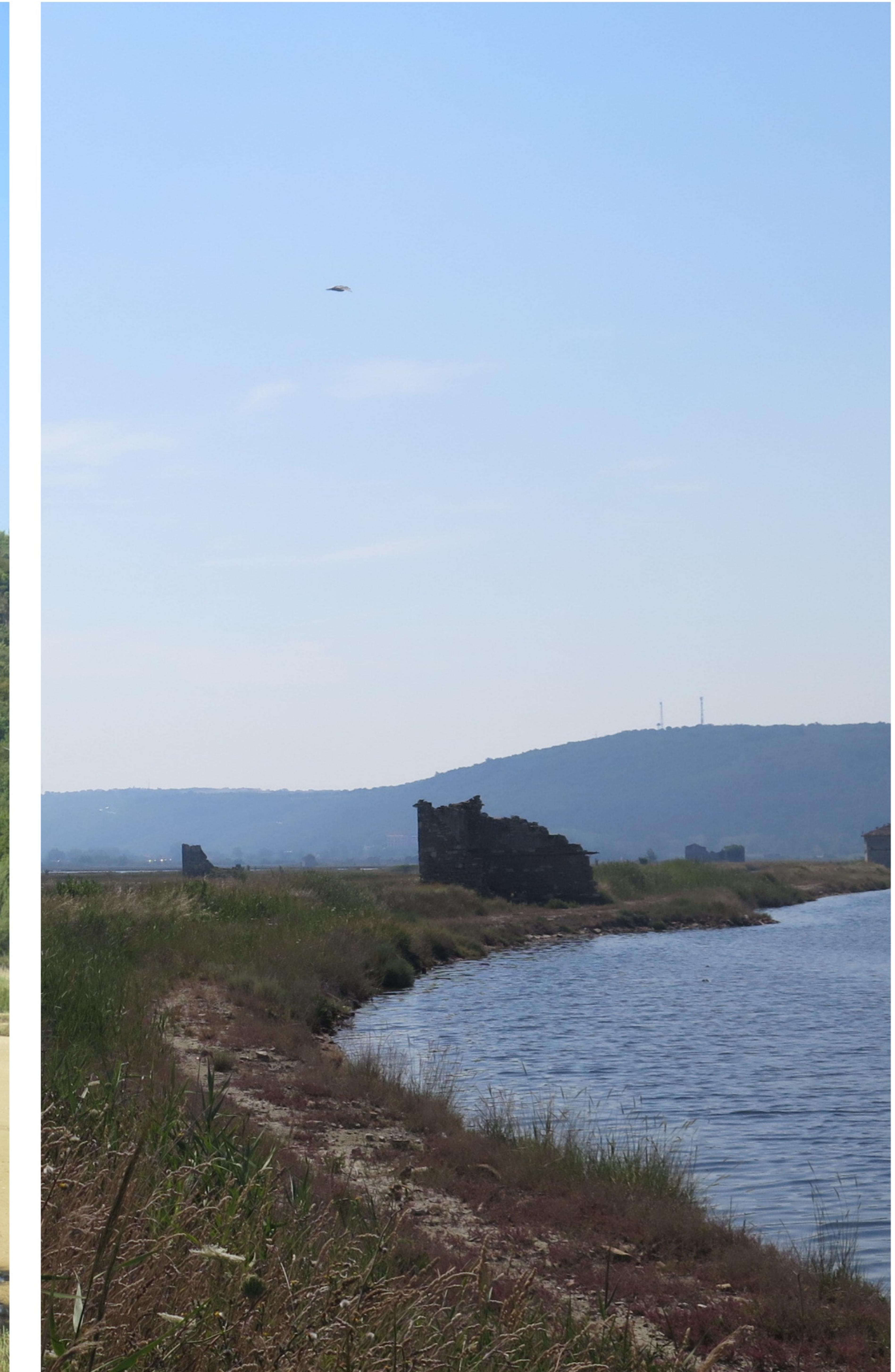
"Just as hard surfacing, for example with concrete or asphalt, **converts the ground into the kind of surface of support that modern thought has always imagined it to be**, so the construction of hydroelectric installations turns the river *from a movement of water into a body of water that moves*, and whose vertical displacement, under the force of gravity, can be made to do work. **In a hard-surfaced world, nothing grows; in a dammed watercourse, nothing flows.**" (Ingold 2017)



Benjamin Hackenberger, 2025

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Ana Kučan, 2020

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**Benjamin Hackenberger, LANDLABs, University of Ljubljana**



# Conceptual Challenges for Landscape Architecture


1. Standardized global tools and practices for landscape restoration  
replace “traditional” landscape systems with modern ones.

2. A need to integrate a more robust notion of stewardship in the  
institutions that manage landscapes.

Ana Kučan, 2020

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


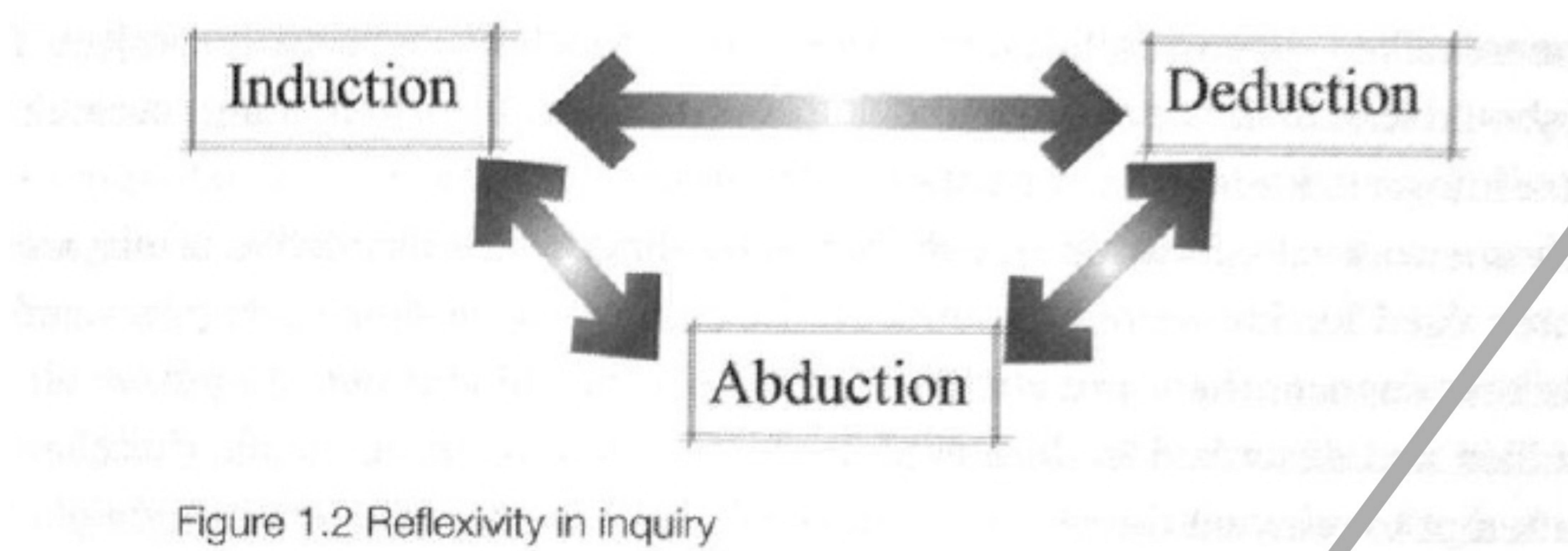
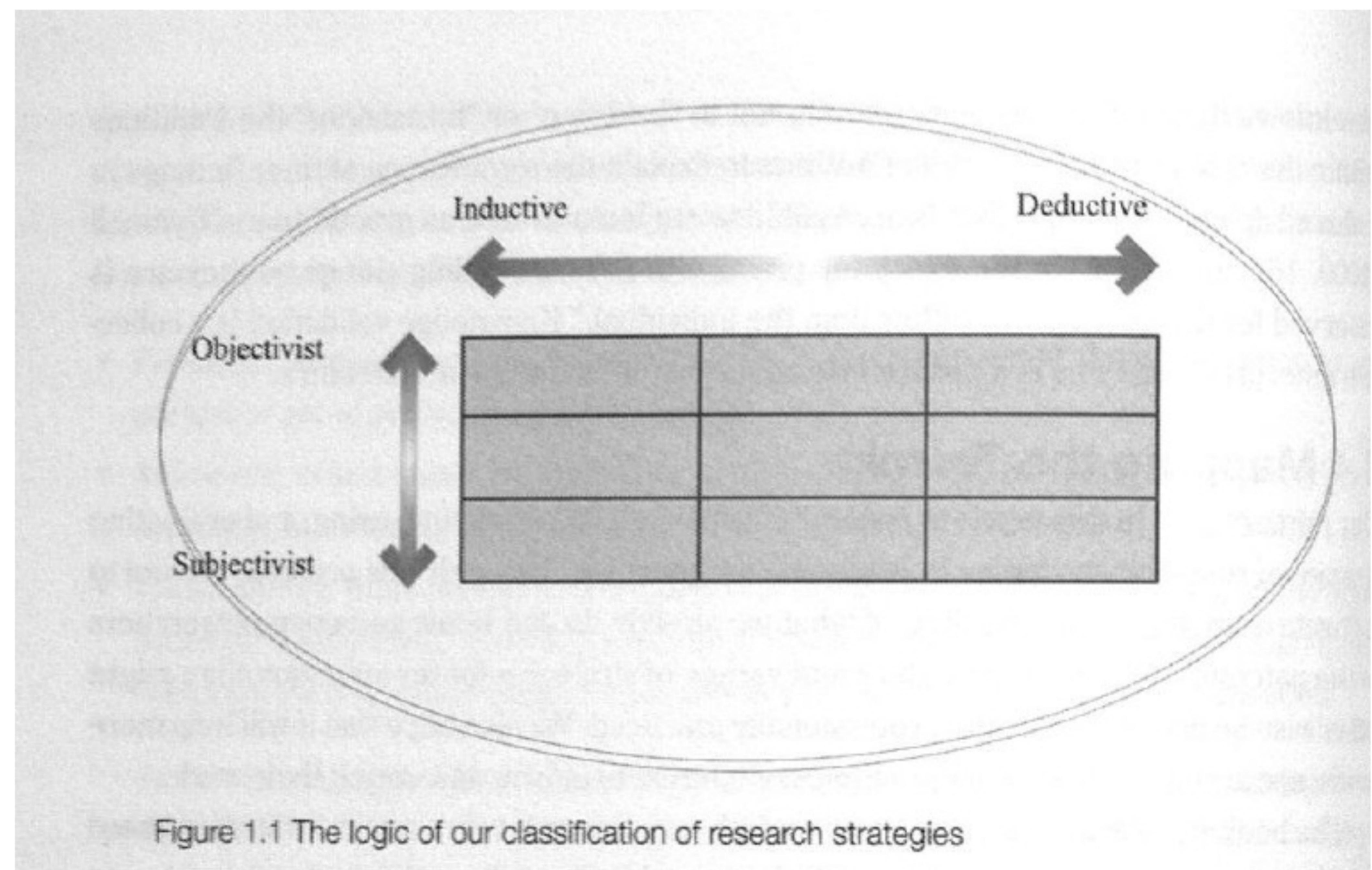


Table 1.1 Strategies of Inquiry


	Inductive (theory building)	Reflexive (theory/practice interactions)	Deductive (theory testing)
Objectivist strategies	Description	Modeling and correlation	Experimentation
Constructionist strategies	Classification	Interpretation	Evaluation and diagnosis
Subjectivist strategies	Engaged action	Projective design	Logical systems


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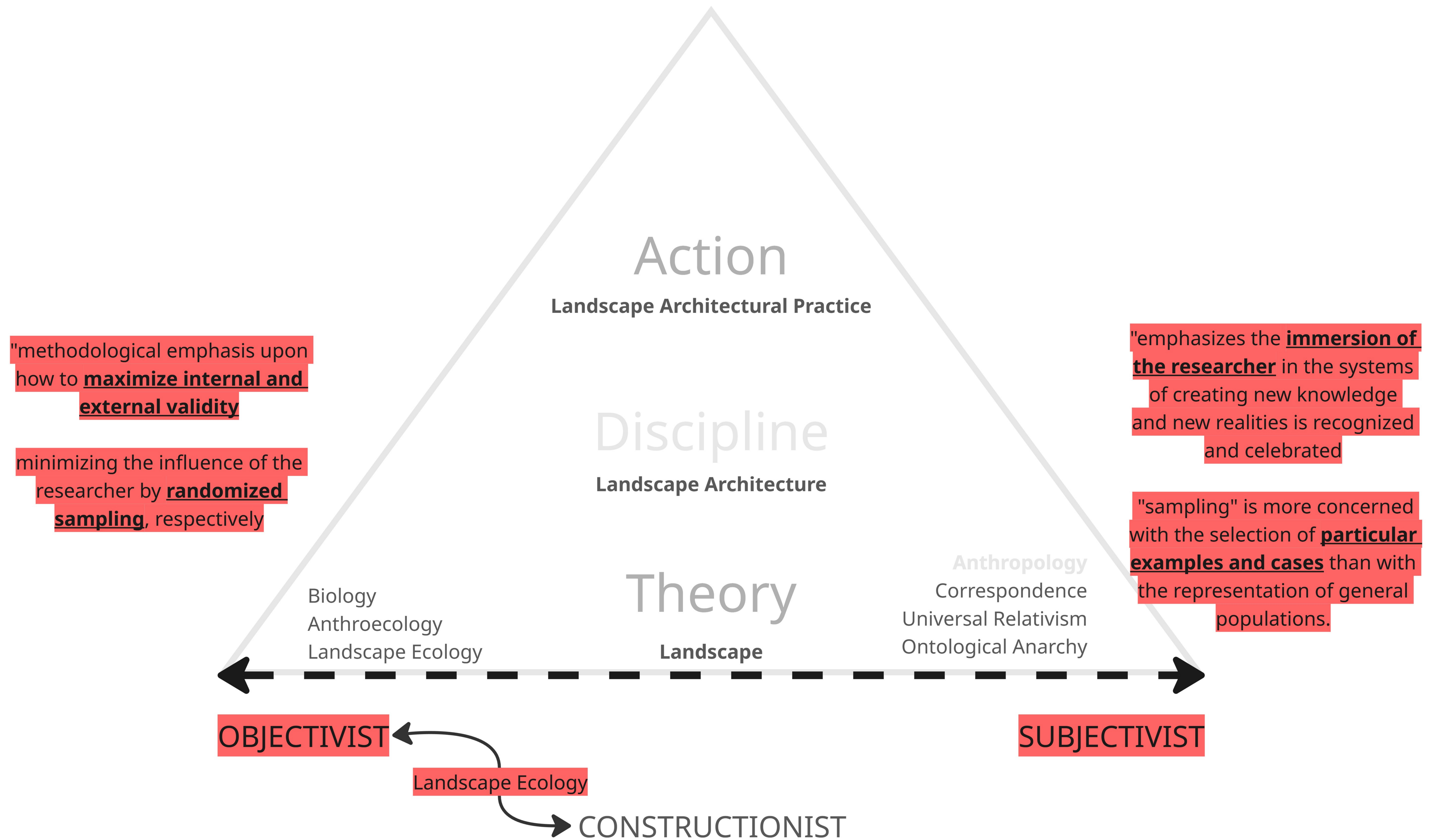


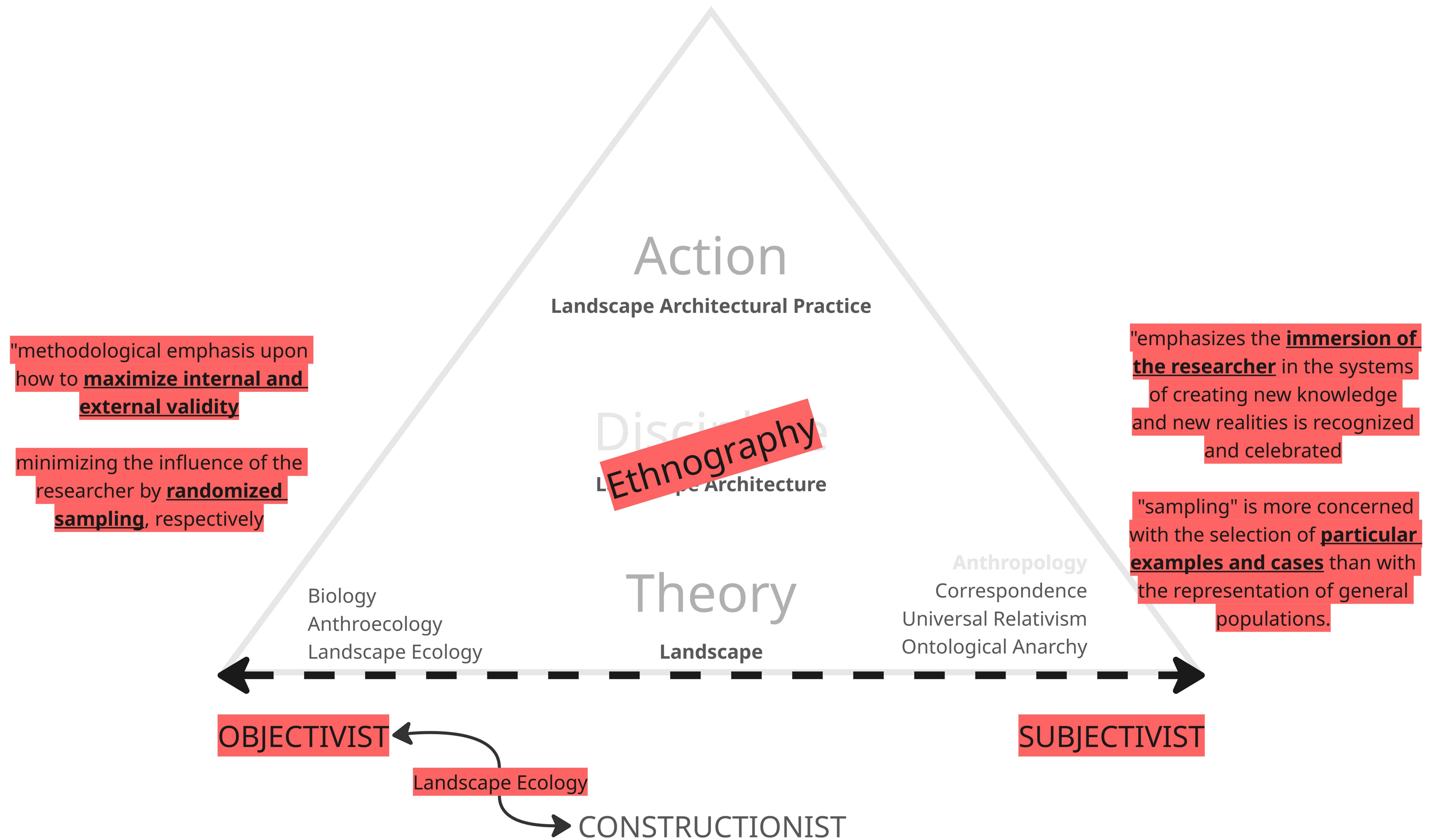



Charles Peirce (Peirce 1955, cited in Schobel 2006) cited in Deming, M. Elen, and Simon R. Swaffield. *Landscape Architecture Research: Inquiry, Strategy, Design*. Online-Ausg. Wiley, 2011.











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# Projects?

Strategy Category	Description	Project Examples
<b>Formal Systems Animated by Ecological Processes</b>	<p>This approach involves the construction of a landscape form (often with geometric or structural elements) that is then animated and transformed by natural ecological processes over time.</p>	'Parco della Pace' and 'Salinas de la Tancada' by Estudio Marti Franch (EMF), Queen Elizabeth Park and Candlestick Park by George Hargreaves, 'Paris Saclay/Lisière de Moulon' by Michel Desvignes Paysagiste, 'Spiral Jetty' by Robert Smithson
<b>Manipulating the Taskscape Through Maintenance ("Sustained Correspondence")</b>	<p>This strategy focuses on a design that is realized and maintained through ongoing human tasks, often with a specific programmatic or ecological goal. The designer's work is not solely in the final form, but in the protocols of care.</p>	Natur-Park Schöneberger Südgelände by Odious, 'Oerliker Park' by Studio Vulkan Landschaftsarchitektur, 'Girona's Shores' by EMF, The "Garden of the 21st Century" and concept of "distributed design by the Chair of Being Alive, ETH Zurich, Michael Geffel's landscapes at Oregon State University, 'Wheatfield - A Confrontation' by Agnes Denes
<b>Open-Ended Ecological Interventions ("Direct Correspondence")</b>	<p>This approach involves experimental interventions that are intended to initiate or influence ecological succession at a larger scale, allowing for open-ended, unpredictable outcomes.</p>	'Arsenal Oasis' by Ruderal, "Ruderal Acts" by Amin Yousefi, 'Sowering Crane' by Urska Skerl, ecological restorations at the Fresh Kills Landfill and Oostvaardersplassen, Renaturation of the River Aire by Georges Decombs,

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