
RaumFragen: Stadt – Region – Landschaft

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Im Zuge des „spatial turns“ der Sozial- und Geisteswissenschaften hat sich die Zahl der wissenschaftlichen Forschungen in diesem Bereich deutlich erhöht. Mit der Reihe „RaumFragen: Stadt – Region – Landschaft“ wird Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftlern ein Forum angeboten, innovative Ansätze der Anthropogeographie und sozialwissenschaftlichen Raumforschung zu präsentieren. Die Reihe orientiert sich an grundsätzlichen Fragen des gesellschaftlichen Raumverständnisses. Dabei ist es das Ziel, unterschiedliche Theorieansätze der anthropogeographischen und sozialwissenschaftlichen Stadt- und Regionalforschung zu integrieren. Räumliche Bezüge sollen dabei insbesondere auf mikro- und mesoskaliger Ebene liegen. Die Reihe umfasst theoretische sowie theoriegeleitete empirische Arbeiten. Dazu gehören Monographien und Sammelbände, aber auch Einführungen in Teilaspekte der stadt- und regionalbezogenen geographischen und sozialwissenschaftlichen Forschung. Ergänzend werden auch Tagungsbände und Qualifikationsarbeiten (Dissertationen, Habilitationsschriften) publiziert.

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New Spaces for Climate Change

The Societal Construction of Landscapes
in Times of a Changing Climate

 Springer VS

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Für Opa und Oma

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Abstract

This study investigates the role of different societal constructions of landscapes in local processes of climate change adaptation. Coastal landscapes are changing due to the impacts of climate change: increased wave action, extreme weather events, and erosion change the physical-material fabric of coastal places. Research on the societal dynamics of adaptation to climate change has advanced during recent years from technical and economic foci to considering individual perspectives and personal values. In this context, a growing literature on the relationship between place attachment and climate adaptation has emerged. Nevertheless, critical limitations are evident in the conceptualisation of people–place relationships within this literature; in particular, individual place constructions and their implications for processes of climate adaptation are given insufficient attention. Alongside the idea of place, a concept prominent in human geography for approaching people’s perceptions of and relationships with particular physical spaces is that of landscape. In order to better understand the locally specific societal values that shape processes of climate change adaptation, I mobilise social-constructivist landscape research to investigate empirically how local actors in landscape management perceive the physical spaces in which they live and which they manage, and how these perceptions influence their perspectives on adaptation.

This study’s research area is Cornwall, a rural peninsula at the south-western tip of England. Within Cornwall, particular focus lies on Godrevy headland and local processes of adaptation to coastal erosion. Renowned for its scenic landscapes and already affected by impacts of climate change, Cornwall is a county where the issue of landscape plays an important role in the area’s economic activities and regional identity. Applying a qualitative methodology of semi-structured and so-called walking interviews, I uncover five contrasting narratives of Cornwall’s landscapes among local actors in landscape management: an official policy narrative, along with perspective on the landscape as human-environment interaction, natural systems, visual beauty, and functional spaces of (agricultural) production. Analysed at the societal, sub-societal and individual level, each of these narratives results in a distinct perspective on climate change adaptation.

The implications of the landscape narratives become particularly evident in the case of Godrevy, where local actors negotiate physical-material landscape change in response to proceeding coastal erosion. To better understand the place-

based values that shape their decision-making, I bring together human geographical debates about the human-nature relationship, landscapes as common goods, and the question of physical access to them; topics that decisively shape local discussions about adaptive landscape management at Godrevy. In addition, a focus on the individual accounts of local decision-makers sheds light on the interplay between professional knowledge and personal experiences in processes of climate adaptation.

In summary, this thesis makes important theoretical, methodical and empirical contributions to human geographic, values-based climate adaptation research; setting particular focus on societal constructions of the physical spaces in which climate change takes place. Especially the case of Godrevy thereby constitutes a valuable in-depth study that illustrates the substantial value of walking interviews for researching societal processes of climate adaptation in their local contexts on the one hand, and for understanding the place-based values that shape local actors' decision-making about physical-material landscape change in response to the changing climate on the other.

Kurzzusammenfassung

Die hier vorgestellte Studie untersucht empirisch die Rolle unterschiedlicher gesellschaftlicher Konstruktionen von Landschaften in lokalen Prozessen der Klimaanpassung. Viele Küstenlandschaften wandeln sich durch die Auswirkungen des Klimawandels: erhöhte Wellenaktivität, Extremwetterereignisse und Erosion verändern die physisch-materielle Struktur der Küste. Wissenschaftliche Forschung über die gesellschaftlichen Dynamiken der Anpassung an solche Klimafolgen hat sich in den vergangenen Jahren von technischen und ökonomischen Analysen dahingehend fortentwickelt, die individuellen Perspektiven und persönlichen Werte zu betrachten, die Anpassungsprozesse formen. In diesem Zusammenhang ist ein Fundus an Literatur entstanden, der sich mit den Zusammenhängen zwischen Ortsbindung und Klimaanpassung befasst. Diese Literatur weist allerdings Schwächen auf, was die Konzeptionalisierung von Mensch-Ort-Beziehungen anbelangt; insbesondere individuelle Wahrnehmungen von Orten und deren Einflüsse auf lokale Prozesse der Klimaanpassung erfahren zu wenig Berücksichtigung. Neben dem Konzept von Orten bzw. ‚Places‘, ist das Konzept von Landschaft prominent in der Humangeographie, um die Wahrnehmungen der Menschen von und ihre Beziehungen mit bestimmten physischen Räumen zu erfassen. Um das bestehende wissenschaftliche Verständnis der ortsbezogenen gesellschaftlichen Werte zu verbessern, die Klimaanpassungsprozesse beeinflussen, ziehe ich sozial-konstruktivistische Ansätze der Landschaftsforschung heran und untersuche empirisch, wie lokale Akteure im Landschaftsmanagement die physischen Räume wahrnehmen, in denen sie leben und die sie managen, und wie diese Wahrnehmungen in unterschiedliche Perspektiven auf Klimaanpassung resultieren.

Das Untersuchungsgebiet dieser Arbeit ist Cornwall, eine ländliche Halbinsel an der Spitze Südwest-Englands. Innerhalb Cornwalls liegt ein besonderer Fokus auf der Landzunge von Godrevy und den dortigen Anpassungsprozessen an Küstenerosion. Bekannt für seine malerischen Landschaften und bereits heute von Auswirkungen des Klimawandels betroffen, ist Cornwall eine Region in der das Thema Landschaft sowohl für ihre ökonomischen Aktivitäten als auch für die regionale Identität eine bedeutende Rolle spielt. Unter Verwendung eines qualitativen methodischen Ansatzes mit semi-strukturierten und so genannten ‚walking‘ Interviews identifiziere ich fünf konträre Narrative über Cornwall's Landschaften: ein offizielles Policy-Narrativ sowie Perspektiven auf die Landschaft als Mensch-Umwelt-Interaktion, Natursystem, visuelle Schönheit, und

funktionalen Raum für (agrarische) Produktion. Auf gesellschaftlicher, teilgesellschaftlicher und individueller Ebene analysiert, resultiert jedes dieser Narrative in konkrete Sichtweisen auf Klimaanpassung.

Die Implikationen dieser Narrative werden besonders deutlich am Beispiel von Godrevy, wo lokale Akteure zurzeit eine physisch-materielle Neugestaltung der Landschaft als Antwort auf Küstenerosion verhandeln. Um besser zu verstehen, welche ortsbezogenen Werte ihre Entscheidungen beeinflussen, verbinde ich humangeographische Debatten um Mensch-Natur-Beziehungen, Landschaften als Gemeinschaftsgüter, und die Frage nach physischem Zugang zu diesen Landschaften; Themen, die die lokalen Diskussionen um adaptives Landschaftsmanagement in Godrevy entscheidend prägen. Darüber hinaus beleuchtet ein Fokus auf die individuellen Perspektiven auf Landschaft unter den lokalen Akteuren das Zusammenspiel von professionellem Wissen und persönlichen Erfahrungen in der Entscheidungsfindung um Anpassungsmaßnahmen.

Insgesamt leistet diese Arbeit wichtige theoretische, methodische und empirische Beiträge zum Feld der wertebasierten Klimaanpassungs-Forschung und setzt dabei einen besonderen Schwerpunkt auf die gesellschaftlichen Konstruktionen der Orte, die vom Klimawandel verändert werden. Insbesondere das Beispiel Godrevy ist eine tiefgreifende Fallstudie, die einerseits den Mehrwert von ‚walking‘ Interviews bei der Erforschung gesellschaftlicher Prozesse von Klimaanpassung verdeutlicht und andererseits zeigt, welche ortsbezogenen Werte die Entscheidungen lokaler Akteure in Bezug auf die physisch-materielle Anpassung von Küstenlandschaften an den Klimawandel prägen.

List of Abbreviations

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CC/cc	Climate Change
CCFF	Cornwall Community Flood Forum
CoaST	Cornwall Sustainable Tourism Network
Coun	Cornwall Council (in interview analysis)
Counc'lor	Cornwall Councillor (in interview analysis)
CSG	Cornwall Seal Group
CV	Climate Vision
CWT	Cornwall Wildlife Trust
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (UK)
EA	Environment Agency
FL	Functional Landscape (<i>Narrative</i>)
HE	Human-Environment Interaction (<i>Narrative</i>)
NE	Natural England
NS	Natural Systems (<i>Narrative</i>)
NT	National Trust
Par'lor	Parish Councillor (in interview analysis)
R	Local Resident
SS	Surf School
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SWCPA	South West Coast Path Association
TP	Towans Partnership
UT	Upstream Thinking Project
VC	Visit Cornwall
VB	Visual Beauty (<i>Narrative</i>)

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