

## **Traces and Places: Climatic Spaces / Changing Environments**

20<sup>th</sup> Annual IASESP Conference, Jacksonville, Florida, USA

April 25-27, 2025

Traces link place to space, present to past, and contemporary environments to future ecologies. By definition, traces are small, but they are not negligible. They house larger contexts, hold what is absent, and remain through rapid change. Trace, in its active verb form, delineates and sketches; those in architecture and design professions are well-acquainted with the many layers of trace paper—and today the many iterations of digital models—that a project engages. Further back, trace was a path or trail, a way of getting from one place to the next but also a lived experience of passing through. And Latin *tractus* is a pulling or drawing out and, by extension, the continuous structure of liturgy or, further afield, an extended region—a tract—where events occur.

Like the coastal environment where this conference will be held, traces are fleeting and ephemeral. In these landscapes, marks left by receding tides speak simultaneously of water and land. In *Hungry Tide*, writer Amitav Ghosh places cultural practices and artifacts at hinges of past and future, and his novel's characters recognize “traces and portents” as they travel through the Bengali Delta. Like the host city Jacksonville, 21<sup>st</sup> century urban spaces contend with historical traces amid possible futures. Combining natural and cultural histories in her book *Trace*, Lauret Savoy demonstrates how remembering and recollection serve as “resistance to forgetting the forces that have shaped this land and ourselves in it.” In coastal environments and urban places alike, are there trajectories from trace to resistance and by extension to resiliency?

Traces also face the possibility—even the probability—of erasure. How then to proceed? How do preservation and conservation work with traces? How do traces inspire imagination and imagined futures? How does research develop methods attune to this presence and absence, to lost agencies, to rapidly changing landscapes, to paucities of evidence? Which is to say that traces cross disciplines and further necessitate interdisciplinary approaches that can address their challenges and their opportunities. Archeologists, architects, artists, historians, sociologists, poets, engineers, geographers, philosophers, geologists, urban planners, and landscape architects all encounter traces in their work to place, space, and environment. Where and how do these converge?

This year's conference marks the 20<sup>th</sup> annual gathering of the International Association for the Study of Environment, Space and Place (IASESP) and provides an opportunity to trace the diverse range of dialogues from past years and to consider anew how interdisciplinarity offers unique perspectives on place and space. The host city Jacksonville and the venue at the Jessie Ball Dupont Center, a groundbreaking adaptive reuse project with its own richly drawn stories and traces, provide an ideal context for this conversation. Conference papers will be considered for inclusion in an upcoming issue of *Environment Space Place* (ESP) that focuses on the conference theme.

The deadline for submitting an abstract is January 31, 2025. Please send questions and abstract submittals to Charlie Hailey ([CLHAILEY@ufl.edu](mailto:CLHAILEY@ufl.edu)) and Elizabeth Cronin ([EMCRONIN@ufl.edu](mailto:EMCRONIN@ufl.edu)). More information about IASESP and past conferences can be found at [IASESP.org](http://IASESP.org).

This interdisciplinary conference seeks to explore a wide range of questions related to this theme of *traces and places*. We invite papers from any discipline dealing with this theme. Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

Trace in architectural and artistic process  
Tracing boundaries and edges  
Modes of visualizing places, spaces, environments  
Climate change and built environments  
Changing climates and species shifts  
Archives and repurposed traces  
Tracing ghosts  
Interpreting material traces  
Retreating glaciers  
Changing river courses  
Forests to fields and back  
Leave no trace  
Following the water  
Paths and wakes: canoeing, walking, and animal trails  
Bushwacking as imagining, enacting the trace  
Erasure and invisibility  
Erasure and forgetting  
Retracing the forgotten  
Encountering the other by following their traces  
Walking battlefields and encountering the dead  
Destructive traces  
Pilgrimage as tracing  
Abandoning destructive traces  
Tracing ritual: palimpsest, liturgy, and relics of deep time  
Pilgrimage as tracing  
Colonizing vestiges

Memorializing as revealing erased traces  
Archeological ruins in contemporary built space  
Glance, memory, and visual fields  
Modes of visualizing spaces, places, and environments  
Imprint, impression, depression  
Pentimento  
Marks in context  
Traces as evidence  
Visual evidence and its forms or patterns  
Trace elements as environmental bellwethers  
Trace paper  
Trace and memory; traces of memory  
Palimpsest  
Relics of deep time  
Memoir, autobiography, and biography as tracing lives  
Traces as cues to mimetic effect  
Building preservation and conservation  
Traces and tracing with archives  
Tactile traces  
Olfactory traces  
Tracing the culinary  
Archives and the environment / Archives in the environment  
Invisible traces still defining places  
Building on traces  
Beaten tracks — traces in landscapes  
Tracing as method

