

In the current ecological crisis, it's crucial to contemplate the relationship between humans and their environment. The project's key concepts involve redefining the conventional notion of landscape beyond a mere picturesque view tied to painting. Drawing on environmental aesthetics, inspired by phenomenology and Heidegger's philosophy, the concept of landscape is portrayed as a dynamic field where organisms interact, with humans being just one of many equivalent elements.

Within the vast array of human cultural expressions, film, given its mass dissemination and the potent emotional impact of images and sounds, significantly influences social attitudes. This influence also renders film susceptible to ideological indoctrination. Cinema, to varying degrees, contributes to shaping national identities, a particularly crucial aspect for "small nations" or "nations without a state" contending against the hegemony of dominant state cultures. Spain serves as a compelling research area in this context, with four official languages—Spanish, Basque, Catalan, and Galician. The Basque, Catalan, and Galician cultures have dynamically evolved, notably in the post-Franco era, fostering increased independence tendencies in these regions.

The cinema of the Basque Country, Catalonia, and Galicia is presently in a golden age. Productions in local languages, once limited in broader distribution, have now achieved international success, becoming influential for many foreign creators. The recent film output from these regions is characterized by experimental cinema, straddling genres, documentary, and narrative. While challenging to study, this dynamic blend presents highly promising material for in-depth analysis.

This project aims to explore the role of landscape in the cinema of the Basque Country, Catalonia, and Galicia. It will scrutinize the relationship between Basques, Catalans, and Galicians and their surroundings in films where they speak their languages—a crucial criterion due to the link between landscape and the sense of national identity grounded in specific territories. The research method aligns with contemporary trends in the humanities, focusing on ecocritical and ecocultural studies. The analysis will draw on posthumanist theories, encompassing Affect Theory, environmental aesthetics, Actor-Network theory, ecocriticism, and new materialism.

The project involves research in libraries and film archives in Spain, with a specific focus on the Basque Country, Catalonia, and Galicia, aiming to provide an anthropological context for the film analysis of selected productions. Given the innovative nature and alternative distribution methods of these films, the research will heavily rely on direct contacts with directors, offering an additional personal and individual perspective from the creators themselves. The project also explores relationships among filmmakers from all three regions, examining mutual influences evident in their work. The final research results will be disseminated through a comparative monograph on the presentation and significance of landscape in Basque, Catalan, and Galician cinema.