



Call for Papers - Journal of European Landscapes

Special Issue: Beyond European Landscapes— Tracing entangled European legacies in landscapes outside Europe



The editorial board of the *Journal of European Landscapes* invites scholars, landscape architects, historians, geographers, and other specialists to submit papers for a Special Issue dedicated to **landscapes outside Europe**.

While European landscapes are often studied within the geographical boundaries of the continent, numerous examples exist across the globe where European sociopolitical influences resulted in hybrid landscape forms, structures, and practices taking root and evolving in overseas contexts. These landscapes are shaped by factors including colonialism, colonial slavery and extraction, migration, trade, religious expansion, power asymmetries, and cultural exchange; Their study offers a unique perspective through which to examine the diffusion, transformation, and political potential of the concept of landscape itself, especially amid the urgent need for further decolonization and in the context of the climate crisis.

The Special Issue remains open to the examination of any landscape outside Europe that can be studied as an entanglement between local communities and legacies of European colonization, expansion, or influence. We invite novel theoretical and methodological frameworks, building on decolonization studies, critical heritage, the environmental humanities, landscape archaeology, critical geography, architecture and city history, and other related fields. We welcome contributions that explore, but are not limited to, the following subthemes:

1. Colonial Landscapes and Heritage

- European landscape architecture and urban planning in former colonies
- Plantation systems, military infrastructures, and missionary settlements
- Indirect impacts of European colonialism in extractive landscapes

2. Migration and Diaspora

- Landscapes shaped by European communities abroad
- Transnational networks and cultural landscape practices

3. Reception and Hybridization

- Local interpretations and adaptations of European landscape forms
- Interactions or confrontations between European and Indigenous landscape knowledge

4. Landscapes of Memory and Identity

- Cemeteries, monuments, and ceremonial spaces of European origin
- Landscapes as expressions of contested memories and identities

5. Ecological and Agricultural Transformations

- Environmental degradation associated to the expansion of European financial or political interests
- European agricultural models and their impact on overseas ecologies

6. Landscape of Resistance and Place-making

- Indigenous knowledge systems and Indigenous geographies
- Maroon landscape, resistance, and agency

Submission Guidelines

- Abstracts of max. 150 words (accompanied by 3-5 keywords) by March 1st, 2026
- Full papers (6,000–8,000 words) by October 1st, 2026
- All submissions will undergo double-blind peer review
- Submit your abstract and manuscript via our online platform:
<https://jel.manuscriptmanager.net/>, indicating that it is to be considered for the Special Issue “Beyond European Landscapes”

Important note

Our journal is open access to accelerate research and facilitate free information exchange in European landscape research. No contribution by authors is obligatory, however, the journal has been able to support all publications in Open Access so far only thanks to the support of our sponsors. The editorial board, therefore, strongly advises researchers with the access to funds to make a voluntary contribution to the journal to ensure that we can continue to support scholars access to publishing into the future.

Key Dates

Notification of acceptance April 1, 2026

Full paper submission October 1, 2026

Publication of the issue April 1, 2027

For inquiries or to discuss potential topics, please contact the guest editors at:

- Dr. Marilena Mela (VU University): m.e.mela@vu.nl;
- Dr. Sjoerd Kluiving (VU-University): s.j.kluiving@vu.nl;
- Drs. David Koren (ICOMOS-Netherlands): secretaris@icomos.nl;
- Guest editor Dr. Joseph Sony Jean : jean@kitlv.nl