Exploring belonging and meaning Lifescapes - Landscapes - Timescapes Edited by Patric Wallin **ESREA** Life History and Biography **Trondheim** 2023 Network

ESREA Life History and Biography Network
Exploring belonging and meaning:
Lifescapes - Landscapes - Timescapes

Edited by Patric Wallin Trondheim, Norway, 2023



Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences

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Europe by Planty Waden



Born in the first light of the morning: il mattino ha l'oro in bocca!

Silvia Luraschi, Laura Formenti and Gaia Del Negro

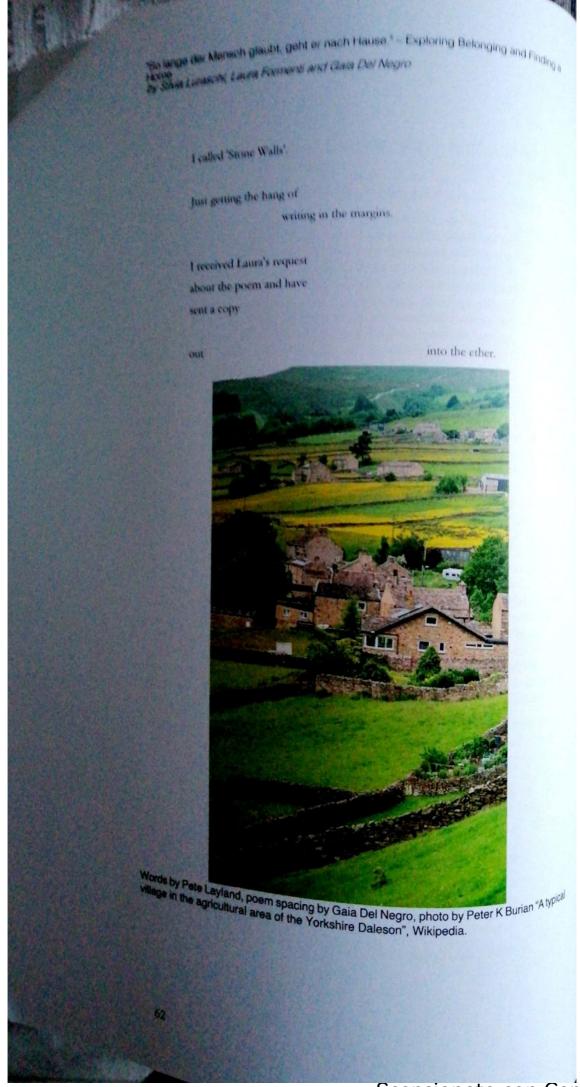
Our dialogue on alienation and disconnection from the earth started from the visit of the exhibition of the South African artist Dineo Seshee Bopape (b. Polokwane, South Africa, 1981; lives and works in Johannesburg). The solo exhibition of Dineo Seshee Bopape entitled "Born in the first light of the morning", her first in an Italian institution (Pirelli Hangar Bicocca, Milan, 6th October 2022- 29th January 2023 https://pirellihangarbicocca.org/en/exhibition/dinco-seshee-bopape/), characterized by the use of organic and highly symbolic materials that allude to the concepts of memory, identity, and belonging. The exhibition for us talks also about colonialism through rituals. We visited the exhibition separately, During several informal conversations, almost by chance we started sharing biographical memories about belonging to the earth: mountains and "muretti a secco" (dry stone walls) for Laura, childhood memories with peasant grandparents for Silvia, and a countryside house for Gaia. We tried to find collectively new connections between past, present and future, and new belongings through sensing place (sense-scape) through bodily perception and oral narratives in conviviality. As Visitors we are drawn into a vast array of historical references and different geographical and geological contexts, giving us the chance to explore Bopape's practice, that points to the relationships between self, memory, socio-politics, history, sovereignty, form, nature and spirit. This embodied experience helped us to investigate the concept of lifescapes that the call of this conference suggests: "The concept of lifescapes can help us to explore the entanglement between landscapes, social interactions, and economic contexts... sensual ways of being and spatial practices that transform landscapes into lifescapes." In particular we are interested in the social interactions across time and space that make a lifescape into a moveable imaginary "environment" that we each live in all the time, even in very different contexts. Can this awareness through embodied experience help us meet the other with curiosity? As feminist educators and researchers, what tituals can we rediscover or recreate to celebrate our relationship with the earth? 'Il mattino ha l'oro in bocca' (the early bird catches the worm) is a homage to our ancestors who woke up earlier in the morning. Conventional wisdom reserves a special importance to an early morning start capable of positively influencing the whole day.

Poem added after Peter Layland's comment. The comment made us reflect on the resonances that landscapes have for us and how we enjoy telling stories about them.

I thought of 'muretti a secco' and how those in the English Yorkshire Dales

were the site of a profound personal experience

on which I wrote a poem which



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