

# Call for Contributions

*Landscapes: the Journal of the International Centre for Landscape and Language*

*Landscapes: 'The Idea of North'<sup>1</sup>*

Submissions due: 1 March 2020

We seek submissions for the Volume 10, Issue 1 of *Landscapes: The Journal of the International Centre for Landscape and Language* (ISSN: 1448-0778) a fully refereed interdisciplinary, multimedia online journal based at Edith Cowan University in Perth, Western Australia - <https://ro.ecu.edu.au/landscapes/>.

This volume's special theme is "Landscapes: 'The Idea of North'." North is as much a geographic and magnetic marker as a cultural, economic and political construct. In the case of the latter the association of civilisation, progress, and industrialization with northernness created and popularized during European colonisation in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries has been, and continues to be, deeply pervasive. Indeed when looking for an idea to associate with authentic values, in a recent message to the World Economic Forum, Pope Francis avowed, "we need to keep our compass pointing toward 'true North'".

And while this sense of northernness can be traced to certain Enlightenment-based ideas, reactionary European Romantic thinkers, writers and artists cultivated another notion of the North, as synonymous with wild nature. Heidi Hansson tells us that a "cluster of [chiefly masculine] associations surrounding [this] popular idea includes severe cold, distance from civilisation, dangerous conditions, barrenness and exposure to natural forces". This equally ubiquitous idea of the north, has over time been employed, adapted and critiqued by a variety of writers and artists including Casper David Friedrich, Mary Shelley, Jules Verne, Glenn Gould, and Seamus Heaney. And yet

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<sup>1</sup> The issue title takes its name from the first documentary from Glenn Gould's *Solitude Trilogy, The Idea of North* (1967).

there is a greater sense of irony with the romanticisation of northern landscapes in particular, given the increasing prominence of the Arctic region as *the* symbol of climate change. Ultimately of these two ideas, one could be said to have helped create the Anthropocene, while the other has often served to obscure it.

And yet the concept of north is multifarious and adaptable, especially with regard to scale and place – global, continental, regional, state, municipal. The landscapes of Northern China, the Nordic countries, North-West Australia, North Carolina, North Britain are defined politically, culturally and in many cases by prominent landscape features, such as the Yangtze River in the case of China or Hadrian's Wall in Great Britain.

With this in mind we invite broad interpretations of the theme in critical essays, creative non-fiction, poetry, photography, sound, multimedia, review essays and artwork of a broadly interdisciplinary nature, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Northern landscapes.
- Modern media representations of North.
- Historical understandings of North.
- The North as part of the Romantic episteme.
- The North as an Enlightenment Eurocentric notion or belief associated with hegemony/ethnocentrism/colonialization.
- The North Pole/Arctic region as climate change symbol.
- North as a global political, cultural, and/or geographical marker.
- Humanistic geography and the north.
- Ecocriticism and the idea of north.
- Any historically, politically and/or culturally defined area or region characterized by northernness.
- The North and nostalgia or solastaglia.
- Gender, race, ethnic, religious interpretations of the idea of the north.

All geographical and cultural foci are welcome. Critical essays of 6000–8000 words will be anonymously refereed by two readers who are expert in the essay's topic. Creative work will be selected by artists published in the genre. Scholarly articles should include an abstract of 150–200 words. All submissions should be accompanied by a brief (75 word) biographical note for each author. Please use the current edition of the MLA style for referencing.

The Journal's submission guidelines are available here:  
<http://ro.ecu.edu.au/landscapes/policies.html>

For further information, contact the issue editor David Gray,  
<landscapelanguage@gmail.com>

Submissions due on or before 1 March 2020. We look forward to receiving your contribution to the issue!