

categories and degrees of iconicity, not in themselves unproblematic, as discussed by Peirce and later by for instance Moles and Sonesson, may help us demount the paradox of non-representational architecture, and its influential capacity.

Key words: architecture, aesthetics, iconicity, model

## **TUSCANY AMIDST BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES ETHNIC AND HISTORICAL MEDIATION IN THE MENTAL CONSTRUCTION OF LANDSCAPES.**

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This paper aims to offer insights into the complex and various ways in which boundaries influence social identities, identities that in turn use history to shape the interpretation of landscapes. This attempt is done drawing on anthropological, historical and semiotic perspectives. Starting from a distinction between spatial, social and conceptual boundaries, this paper tries to unravel the relations between these concepts, with an emphasis on the meanings attributed to and the roles played by spatial boundaries. This focus on spatial boundaries serves an underlying interest in the signification of landscape.

In a case- study on the Italian region of Tuscany, renowned for its cultural landscapes, a method is chosen where, moving backward in history like an archaeologist, the several characteristics and mechanisms of boundaries are explored in the changing political and cultural contexts. History in this approach is used as raw material: it serves as a collection

of archetypal situations to draw analysable examples from, not as an object of research to be fully described. History figures in a second role too: in the Tuscan analysis of the diverse types of boundaries, it becomes clear that a theory on boundaries cannot exist without a theory on identities.

An identity theory was used featuring the concepts of personal identity, social identity, spatial identity and image of history. Within the space of this article, several aspects have been uncovered of the complex network of relations between these concepts and the types of boundaries already mentioned. It stands out that history, in its personalised variant of 'image of history' has a pervasive influence on identity formation as well as on boundary formation (and maintenance). In the interpretation of Tuscan landscapes, a multitude of boundaries perform an essential part. Aspects of history are never far away.

Keywords : Landscape, interpretation, semiotics, history, anthropology, social geography.