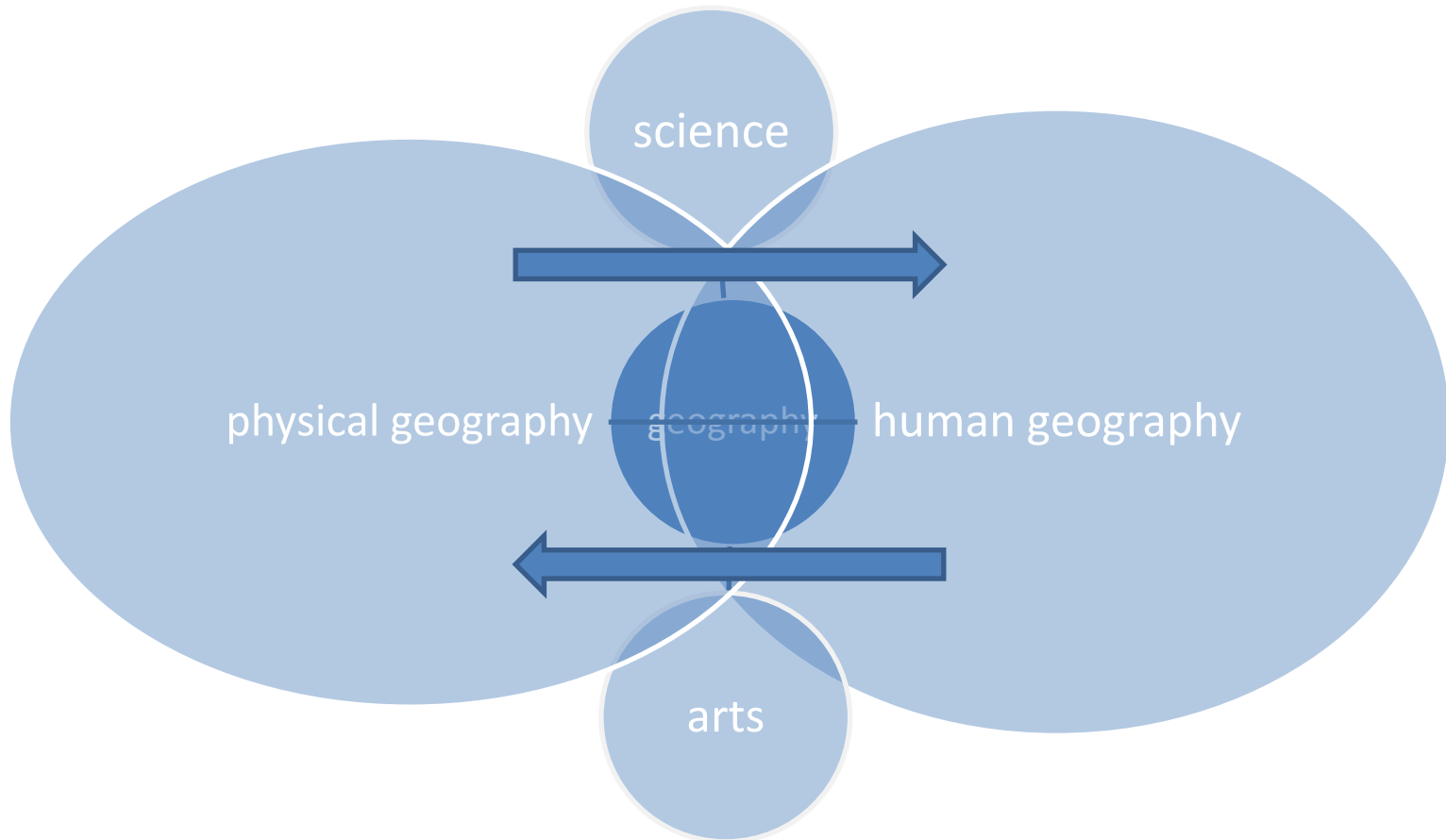


Insiderness and outsiderness in humanistic geography

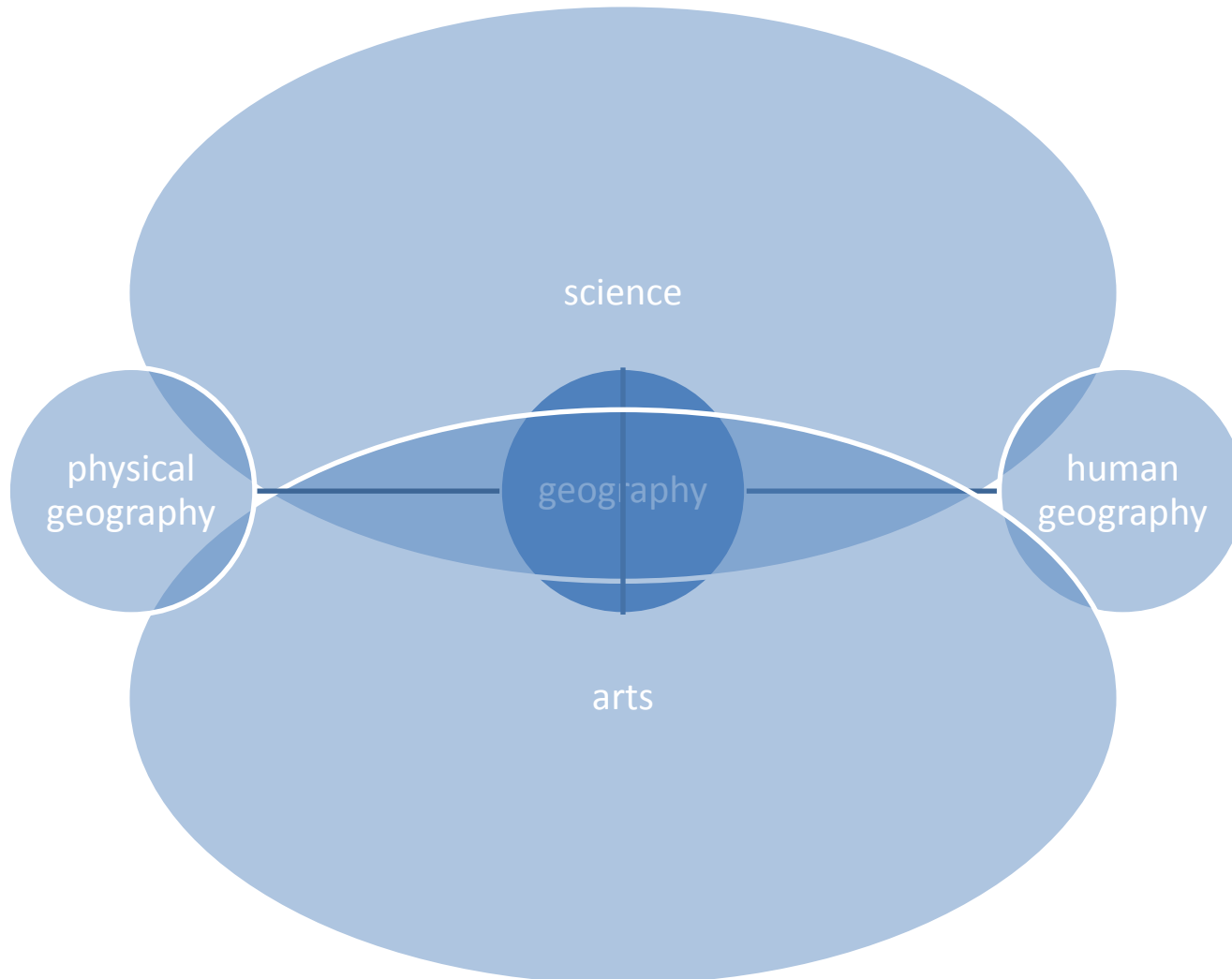
Holger Jahnke

(Geography Department, Europa University Flensburg)

What is geography about?



What is geography about?





Alexander von Humboldt, Geographie der Pflanzen in den Tropen-Ländern - ein Naturgemälde der Anden, 1807, Kupfertafel (Detail) (KNOBLOCH 2012, S. 25)

Geography's tradition as a national discipline

Geography of the nation state ...

- political power
- the nation as an ideological construction
- ethnicities, language and culture
...within a given (natural) territory

School geography has served for the construction of national identities

- by emphasizing the differences between “us” and “them” (culture, economy, language, landscapes, ...)
- “naturalizing” differences
- ordering the world (who and what belongs where...)



<http://historiana.eu/sources/show/nation-states>

Human geography today...

- Orientation in globalized lifeworlds...



What is *humanistic* geography?

- School of thought within geography inspired by the humanities, especially philosophy
- Critical approach to the dominating spatial science

Geography as a spatial science

Spatial science

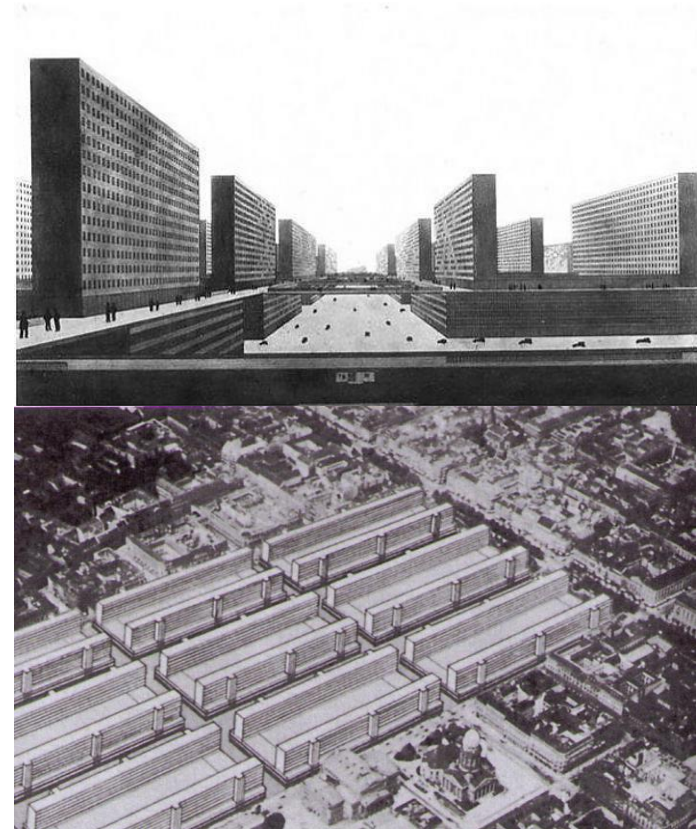
as the dominant paradigm since the 1960s...

- objectivity
- rationality
- positivism
- quantitative methodology

- explanation
- spatial planning

→ space

Ludwig Hilberseimer, 1927



Geography as a spatial science

Spatial science (1960s...)

- objectivity
- rationality
- positivism
- quantitative methodology

- explanation
- spatial planning



Le Corbusier – Plan Voisin and Unité d'habitation



→ space

Geography as a spatial science

Spatial science (1960s...)

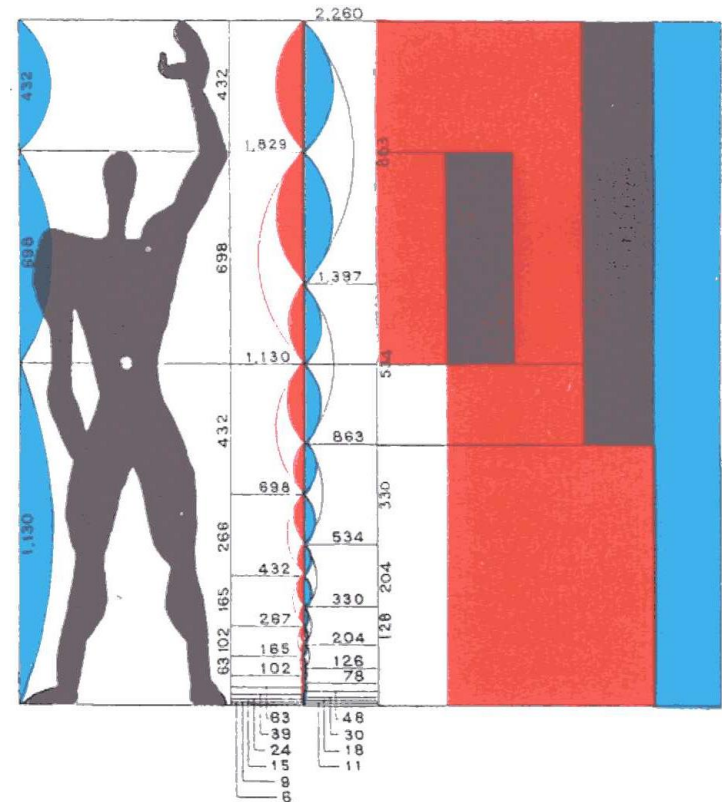
- objectivity
- rationality
- positivism
- quantitative methodology

- explanation
- spatial planning

- equality
- homogeneity

→ space

Le Corbusier „Modulor“



What is *humanistic* geography?

Spatial science (1960s...)

- objectivity
- rationality
- positivism
- quantitative methodology

- explanation
- spatial planning

- equality
- homogeneity

→ space

Humanistic geography (1970s...)

- subjectivity
- emotions
- hermeneutics
- qualitative methodologies

- understanding
- lifeworld

- individuality
- diversity

→ place

What is *humanistic* geography?

*Critique of the spatial approach in geography,
focussing on...*

- ...the human condition
- ...humanism
- ...the humanities (literature, philosophy, esp. phenomenology)

What is humanistic geography?

Yi-Fu Tuan

- *Topophilia* (1974)
- *Space and Place: The Perspective of Experience* (1977)

Edward Relph

- *Place and placelessness* (1976)

Anne Buttimer

- *Grasping the dynamism of lifeworld* (1976)
- *The human experience of place and space* (1980, with D. Seamon)
- *Geography and the human spirit* (1994)

Gunnar Olsson

- *Social Science and Human Action or On Hitting Your Head against the ceiling of language* (1974)
- *Birds in eggs / Eggs in bird* (1980)
- *Abysmal* (2007)

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Edward Relph *Place and placelessness*

What aspects of the text did attract your attention?

Edward Relph – Identity *of* places

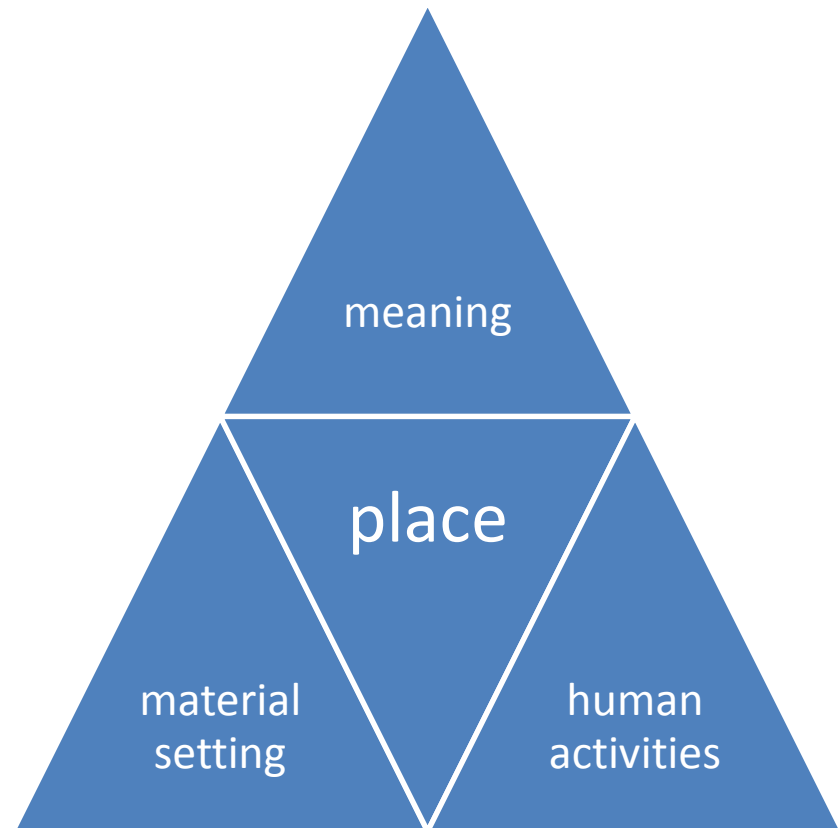
identity *of* places

Every place is a unique combination of...

1. physical / **material setting**,
2. **human activities**, situations, and events and
3. the individual and group **meanings** created through people's experiences and intentions in regard to that place.

... at different scales

... with a certain persistence in time



Edward Relph – Identity *of* places

identity *of* places

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... with a certain persistence in time

Schools as places

Imagine the school you went to as a place with its three dimensions:

1. *What did it look like?*
2. *What activities do you remember?*
3. *What was the image of the school?*
4. *What was your own experience of that place?*

Edward Relph – Identity *with* places

Insiderness and outsiderness

- individuals are emotionally and cognitively attached to or involved in places, but in different degrees of intensity
- Relph proposes the terms *insiderness* and *outsiderness* to describe different modes of place experiences

insiderness – outsiderness

here – there

safe – threatened

enclosed – exposed

at ease – stressed

Modes of *insideness* and *outsideness*

Existential outsideness – sense of unreality, of not belonging, uninvovement

Objective outsideness – deliberate dispassionate attitude, geographers as spatial scientists

Incidental outsideness – largely unselfconscious attitude of uninvovement; visitors, businessmen at meetings

Vicarious insideness – „secondhand experience“ without visit, emotional involvement through the arts

Behavioural insideness – being in a place, in a more cognitive, mode, predominantly visual experience

Empathetic insideness – deliberate experience of a place with all senses

Existential insideness – deep and complete identity, unreflected

Insiderness and outsiderness

Imagine your stay in Wien so far as an experience of different places (i.e. the youth hostel, the different university buildings, etc.)

1. Try to describe them in terms of material setting, different activities and the meanings.

2. Think of your personal experiences of these individual places (or Vienna as a whole) in terms of different modes of outsiderness and insiderness. Have there been any changes? What happened to make you feel more inside?

Lunchtime 😊