Propositions

1. A historical perspective on scientific results is crucial. It allows a better understanding and challenges notions of certainty, objectivity and diachronicity in mental constructs, which obstruct knowledge and augment the distance between what happens and what we believe that happens.

2. It is illuminating to study similarities and/or differences among landscape research practices and projects, and explore how these relate to a historical development of the discipline. Grouping research patterns and approaches into ‘Traditions’ or schools of thought, however, does not undermine the fact that these have demonstrated a complex interaction over time and variable degrees of consistency. They are not linked in a simple, linear and evolutionary manner.

3. The greatest obstacles in challenging interpretations and using results of archaeological landscape research are inadequate publication and lack of clarity in the relationship between data observed, methodology used and interpretations suggested. The ambiguity of terms used and assumptions made, is a great impediment in the communication and co-operation among archaeologists.

4. Archaeological survey should aim at the highest possible resolution and precision in interpretations of site function and chronology, incorporating characterizations of uncertain or unknown interpretations as viable classes in the interpretative process.

5. To allow integrability of survey results, we need clarity over which methods and which quantitative and qualitative characteristics lead to specific interpretations of human activity over time. We also need to understand what the social meaning of site characterizations is thought to be.

6. Archaeological landscape research is indispensable in the study of human societies; it can discover bonds and multi-scalar inter-relationships among space, place and human activity over time, and thus illuminate vital aspects of social structure and process.

7. Historical developments do not concern isolated spatial windows, which coincide with survey boundaries. A social archaeology can not be restricted to the description of systems and patterns, but needs to focus on people, who operate at multiple levels of time and space.

8. The information collected in archaeological landscape research is the result of different research orientations, questions, methods and desires, which are subject to historical and epistemological contingencies.

9. The search for knowledge is certainly a private and solitary journey. Sharing parts of this journey with other people however, is an invaluable experience.

10. Breaking borders of time and space encourages a feeling of freedom.