

Abstract

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Temporal Consciousness under Threat? Archaeological Heritage and the Future of Tourism

This presentation will present the main objectives and theoretical aspects of my doctoral thesis. The subject of my research is tourism and its possible futures in Finnish archaeological sites. I am using relevant methods of futures research, for example the Delphi process¹, to construct ethnologically interesting and meaningful scenarios and pictures of future of touristic activity in the archeological sites.

In this presentation I will examine definitions of future consciousness from the perspective of time and values. For example futurist Thomas Lombardo has argued that "*future consciousness is part of our general awareness of time, our temporal consciousness of past, present and future.*"². In Lombardo's holistic definition of future consciousness there is also a moral dimension that can be connected to the protection and preservation of archaeological heritage. In recent years there have been significant changes in the process of protection of archaeological heritage in Finland at the organizational level. For example the systematic site management of ancient remains has decreased severely. Some sites have been adopted by volunteers; others have no actors who will be responsible for the site.

The essential question in this presentation is: what will be the consequences of this kind of development? How do local people understand the meanings and values of the prehistory, and more concretely the meanings of ancient remains, in the future? What kind of opportunities and threats there will be from the perspective of the ancient remains and on the other hand from the perspective of tourism activities?

Increasing interest to the community archaeology, reformations in administrative structures, and new innovations in technology, especially in the tourism sector, will probably create totally a new environment for tourism. In this presentation I will examine these changes and their influence to archaeological heritage in Finland. Theoretical aspects of the presentation will arise from the concentration on the temporal and normative aspects of future consciousness.

¹ More about Delphi process, see *Technological Forecasting & Social Change* 78/2011.

² Lombardo, Thomas (2008): *The Evolution of Future Consciousness*: 5.