

# WORKSHOP ON FORESTS

Address: Medicinaregatan 3B, 413 90 Göteborg; Room: 2045 T Bjurström, University of Gothenburg  
Time: 14 November 2024; 15:00-18:00

The workshop is designed to critically explore and reflect on the multifaceted dimensions and significance of forests as a nexus for human-environmental interactions, inspired by our diverse disciplines and fields of study. Indeed, the world's forests are pivotal components of the Earth System, but they are also rich cultural, social, economic, and political environments that shape and have been shaped by human history. By combining the concept of “forest” with themes such as history, politics, religion, culture, technology, infrastructure, medicine, ethics, economy, architecture, design, art, literature, archaeology, cultural heritage, and handicraft from our respective disciplines, a wealth of research ideas can emerge. We therefore encourage moving beyond traditional discourse and reflect on the theme within your respective research milieu and bring your insights to the workshop.

## Program

**Welcome:** Feras Hammami

**Introduction of FORESTS:** Gertrud Olsson

**Presentation** of “The Future in the forest: Sustainable transition and artistic expression in a changing world”: Vera Telemo and Anders Lindgren

## FIKA

**Group discussion:** moderated by Gertrud Olsson and Feras Hammami

The group discussion follows those objectives:

- foster new interdisciplinary research collaborations;
- identify complementary ontologies of FORESTS; and,
- develop research ideas for potential joint project proposals.  
*At the workshop we will share with you two potential calls for funding that could help bring our forest-related project proposals to life.*



We are looking forward to meeting you at the workshop. **Please share the invitation with who might be interested.** New members can join CULTSUS by emailing their names, email addresses, and the names of their respective faculties and institutions to [cultsus@gu.se](mailto:cultsus@gu.se).

## The Future in the forest: Sustainable transition and artistic expression in a changing world

Over centuries of use, human hands have altered the forest landscape and the conditions for both themselves and others. Nearly 3/4 of Sweden's land area is covered by forest, making it perhaps our most important habitat – both for us and for all other living creatures. Can we continue to regard the forest as something that must be managed for our sake, or do the forest and its inhabitants have their own interests that we must also consider? Even though the forests are full of trees, alarming reports of an accelerating extinction rate suggest that one of the causes may be how modern forestry is conducted. Added to this is the right of public access, which makes private forests a common good, giving everyone access and the right to hold legitimate opinions – opinions that often diverge. This brings the question of who truly owns the forest to the forefront.

*Vera Telemo is an environmental scientist educated at the Stockholm Resilience Centre. She works as a development strategist and maker for sustainable transition at Mötesplats Steneby and is also involved in the LANDPATHS research project at Stockholm University.*

*Anders Lindgren is the director of Mötesplats Steneby located in Dals Långed. He works as a strategist and maker for culture driven development in Dalsland. Anders is educated at the Academy of Fine Arts, Umeå University.*

*Mötesplats Steneby's work is often based on the remnants of a former industrial society – remnants that now nourish new development. In the ruins, there are opportunities to create something new.*

*Gertrud Olsson, PhD, is an architect/designer and senior lecturer at the HDK-Valand Design Unit. Dr Olsson represents the University of Gothenburg's (GU) Artistic Faculty at CULTSUS. She is also a member of the executive group of the Centre for Critical Cultural Heritage Studies (CCHS) and the Heritage Academy of CCHS.*

*Feras Hammami is the coordinator of CULTSUS. He is an urban policy analyst and associate professor of conservation at the Department of Conservation, University of Gothenburg.*

*CULTSUS: The workshop is organized by the Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development profile area. As a distinguished profile area at the University of Gothenburg (GU), CULTSUS offers GU researchers a platform to engage in critical discussions pertinent to their fields of inquiry through the lens of cultural heritage. CULTSUS's approach fosters innovative dialogues and perspectives in the ongoing debates surrounding sustainable development.*