

A Walking Seminar for studying environmental ethics

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The idea

- * Students walk in small groups in a green area, and were instructed to
 - 1) discuss environmental ethics **and**
 - 2) take a photo and provide an explanation of something related to environmental ethics
- * Physical learning space in line with the contents
- * Use the learning space to enhance thinking about environmental ethics

Implementation

- * 25 February 2019, within the *Engineering Ethics* course (1TE687)
- * About 90 students (27 groups)
- * 60 minutes in total
- * Teacher present by the Sten Sture document to answer questions/discuss

Qualitative evaluation (by student group leaders directly after the seminar)

- * “different from the rest of the seminars”
- * “freedom of thought being outside class walls”
- * “healthy”, “refreshing”
- * “connect theory with something material (trees, travel, rivers...)”
- * “good to connect photo with theory”
- * “hands-on”
- * “we were in contact with our surrounding environment. we did not know this path although it was close to us.”
- * “difficult to hold a book, discuss, and walk at the same time”
- * “only works when the weather is nice”
- * “lack of time”

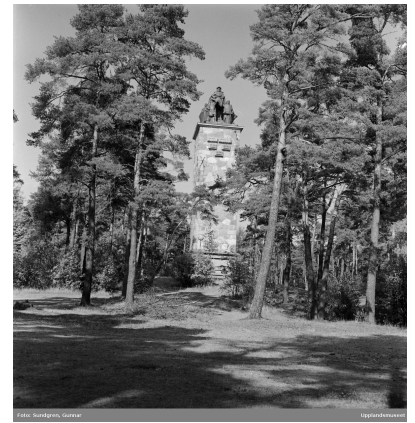


Photo of the learning space.
Kronåsen, Uppsala.

Example of a photo taken



“We found this cup, which in our view captures the spirit of our times perfectly.

The irony of the picture jumps right at the viewer. “Alltid ekologisk” is written on the cup: “always ecological”. Needless to say that chucking the cup into nature is all but ecological.

It shows how we have not come far from the “mickey mouse” model and many people behave according to weak sustainability at best.

We do not go beyond making the “right” purchasing decision but when it comes to waste these principles are once again abandoned.

Economy (we include expedience in this) clearly goes before society and environment.

Needless to say we took it upon ourselves to adequately dispose of the cup.”

Environmental ethics (Lennerfors 2019, ch. 13), contents:

Ethics and sustainability
Cultural background
Anthropocene
Technofix
Three models of sustainability
Moral standing of animals, plants, rivers..
Deep ecology

