

## **Social Memory**

**- Narrating the past through time and space**

carina.green@slu.se



# What is remembering? What is a memory?



- I present a broad perspective
- Different cultural perspectives on Memory
- An anthropological research perspective on memory

PERSONAL MEMORY

VS



SOCIAL (COLLECTIVE) MEMORY

# MEMORY



- not simply remembering and retelling past events

**It's a messy, complex, intricate,  
context-dependent process!**

## Memory and narratives of the past

Social memory is visualised – displays of the past.

Memory and materiality –

‘Things’ keep memories, tell stories and create memory.

Forgetfulness is also part of the memory-process



## Memory and the present

- Memories are *dynamic* – they change over time
- Memories are *reflections and manifestations* of how the present understands the past
- Memories are always a result of a *relational* process (relational between people, people and place, etc.)
- Memories are *constructed* to make sense in the present and to make meaning of the present

## Example of how memory is constructed: Pristine environments



From homepage of Rewilding Europe  
<https://rewildingeuropa.com/>

- Swedish Lapland in a 'natural state'

## Memory in time and space





## Memory and different ontological understandings

What has life?

What is a person?

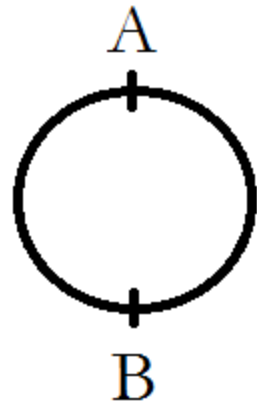
What is intangible/tangible?



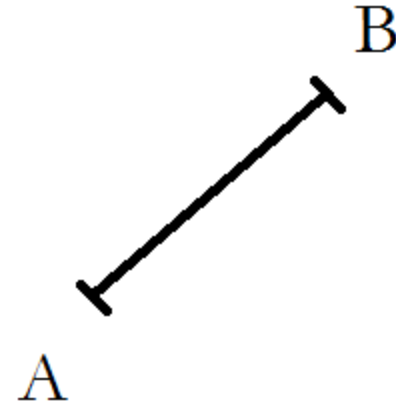
## Memory and perception of time

- Linear time perspective

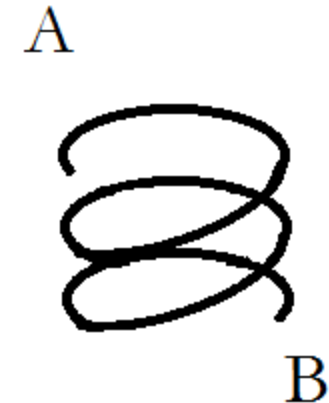
Circular Time



Linear Time



Spiral Time



- Circular time perspective

- Spiral time perspective

**Circular time -  
When time can merge and history doesn't count**

*Thank You For  
Listening*

