

**MAGAW 2017: Multiple Approaches to Game Analysis Workshop
IT University, Copenhagen**

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Reflection:

My approach in MAWAG 2017 was to contextualise the results of a hybrid game studies analysis within the field of landscape studies. During the workshop, it was questioned as to whether this was an approach of analysis per se, or whether it was a contextualising of conventional game analysis. On reflection, I think it is both. The results of my analysis were to question the significance of gameplay elements when contextually read through landscape studies. In the case of Lego Worlds, the analysis of the clumsy building mechanic coupled with the sandbox that does little to resist the player, led me to a contextual reading of an entropic landscape and play in the context of collapse. In my opinion, the contextualising of the gameplay elements through landscape studies produced a useful analysis of the game.

My expectations for MAGAW were well met. The format of not knowing the game, of having no choice in what game would be analysed, and of having to synthesise a critique of the game in a short amount of time was a useful way for me to test out my approach - the structure of MAGAW 2017 worked very well for me. Similarly, because all participants underwent the same process, with the same game, and in the same amount of time, it was very helpful to see the variation in critiques produced, and therefore the limitations of my own approach when compared to revelations brought about by other methodologies. The plurality of critique generated under common conditions was one of the most successful and useful aspects of MAGAW 2017.

In terms of my own research, my next step is to run similar tests on other games and see what sorts of critiques I produce, and to evaluate whether this approach produces a collective body of work that will form a useful contribution to the field, both as a dissertation and as publications and presentations.

Many thanks for an enriching and enjoyable experience!

Best regards,

Peter Nelson