

EDS 330 – Political Ecology

Spring 2019 Syllabus

Convener: Connor Joseph Cavanagh

Office Hours: Fridays, 1-2 PM, Parkgården P308 (by appointment)

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Image: Olaf Hajek (2017). *Natura Morte*.

Course Introduction and Overview

How do inequalities of power and wealth influence both the drivers and consequences of environmental change processes? Why and how do past economic or political injustices often appear to continuously impinge upon contemporary environmental problems? Who decides how we should pursue sustainability or sustainable development in the twenty-first century, and why are these proposals so often contested from both ‘above’ and ‘below’?

These and related questions have long been a source of reflection in the interdisciplinary field of study known as political ecology. In its earliest forms, the field originated within anthropology, human geography, and critical development studies in the late 1970s, but its real expansion occurred in the 1980s and 1990s. Today, political ecology has fully emerged as a leading source of innovative research on issues linked to poverty, inequality, conflict, and the environment. Though theoretically and methodologically diverse in their individual approaches, political ecologists generally agree that definitions, understandings, and responses to environmental problems will nearly always be inherently political. As a result, political ecology explores the main actors involved in the management of a wide range of environmental processes – as well as their often divergent interests, aims, norms and narratives – leading to

an investigation of power and power relations in various domains of environmental management and governance.

EDS 330 is a 'course with a history', as it was the first political ecology course to be offered in Norway, and has been ongoing since 2002. Although EDS 330 has evolved over time, lectures and discussions will deal with topics of ongoing relevance to the field, such as the theoretical roots, methods, and history of political ecology; environmental discourse and narrative analysis; drivers of and vulnerabilities to global climactic and environmental change processes; inequality and new economic valuations of carbon, biodiversity, or other 'ecosystem services'; large-scale land and resource acquisitions; property rights, tenure, and land reform; as well as the rise of 'community-based' conservation and its critique.

Learning Outcomes and Activities

The chief aim of this course is to strengthen and expand students' interdisciplinary understanding of environment and development issues by engaging different theoretical, conceptual, and methodological trends and debates in the field of political ecology. This will be accomplished through a survey of key themes and discussions within the field, as well as the examination of selected empirical studies of environmental issues that intersect with political-ecological themes. In doing so, the course will seek to develop students' capacity for critical thinking and independent analysis through an investigation of the politics and linkages between local, national, and global levels of environmental governance.

The first part of the course consists of double-hour lectures held twice a week. In the second part of the course, groups of students will hold a series of double-hour seminars on new and emerging conceptual, methodological, and/or empirical issues relevant to the field of political ecology.

Additionally, the course convener is available for support and further guidance during regular office hours (by appointment on Fridays, 1-2 PM, Parkgården P308).

Readings, Prerequisites, and Assessment

Readings: The course textbook is the following – **Paul Robbins (2012), *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. Second edition. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.** This is available at the NMBU bookstore. In addition, a collection of articles will be made available online via 'Canvas'. Readings have been divided into **required** and **recommended** categories. At a minimum, students are expected to carefully complete all required readings before each class. Given that the lectures will often draw substantially upon the recommended readings as well, students are also expected to obtain at least a working familiarity with these in order to participate fully in class discussions.

Prerequisites: B.Sc. degree; Recommended course prerequisites: EDS305, EDS101 and EDS 130.

Mandatory seminar activity: All students must participate in a presentation and facilitate subsequent class discussions at the group seminars. Before each seminar, students will submit a written reflection (300-500 words in length) on the assigned seminar readings, which will serve

as a basis for discussion in class. Students **must attend and submit written reflections for at least 80% of these seminars (4/5)** in order to pass the course.

Assessment: Exams and assignments will be submitted in English only. There will be two individual term papers (five pages in length, counting **25% each**), based upon course lectures and readings, as well as a final oral exam. Written reflections on assigned seminar readings, as well as constructive and thoughtful participation in class and seminar discussions count for **20%**. The oral exam counts for **30%** of the total grade. Results from the term papers will be available in Canvas two to three weeks after submission. Students must pass all three exam activities to pass the course.

Deadline for first term paper: Friday 8 March 2019 at 23.59 (via Canvas)

Deadline for second term paper: Friday 26 April 2019 at 23.59 (via Canvas)

Oral exams: Exact date(s) to be determined in consultation with students, but the exam will be held during scheduled NMBU dates for Spring Parallel examinations (13-27 May 2019).

Workload: Lectures (40 hours), group seminars (12 hours) and reading/writing (248 hours). 300 hours of student work in all.

Examination and Grading: An external examiner will read a sample of the term papers to calibrate the grading done by the course convener. The examiner will also participate in all oral exams. Grading will be on a scale from A – F.

Lecture and Readings Schedule

Lecture 1 – What is Political Ecology?

Friday, 01 February 2019, 10.15-12.00, Parkgården P204

Lecturer: Connor Joseph Cavanagh

This lecture provides an overview of the interdisciplinary field of study known as political ecology, including its conceptual, historical, and methodological origins. We will discuss the broad relationship between politics, power, and asymmetrical power relations in the definition and understanding of environmental issues, as well as how and why these themes were highlighted by a first generation of political ecologists.

Required Readings:

Robbins, P. (2012). Chapter 1: Political versus apolitical ecologies (pp. 11-24). In *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. Second Edition. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Robbins, P. (2012). Chapter 2: A tree with deep roots (pp. 25-48). In *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. Second Edition. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Recommended Readings:

Blaikie, P. (1985). Chapter 1: The issues addressed (pp. 1-11). In *The Political Economy of Soil Erosion in Developing Countries*. London and New York: Longman.

Blaikie, P. and H. Brookfield. (1987). Chapter 1: Defining and debating the problem (pp. 1-26). In *Land Degradation and Society*. London: Methuen.

Watts, M. (1983). Introduction: The political economy of food and famine (pp. 1-38). In *Silent Violence: Food, Famine, and the Peasantry in Northern Nigeria*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Lecture 2 – Conservation and Protected Areas

Tuesday, 05 February 2019, 14.15-16.00, Parkgården P204

Lecturer: Connor Joseph Cavanagh

Since the 1990s, debates about conservation and the management of protected areas have emerged as one of the most fraught themes within political ecology. On one hand, processes of global climatic and environmental change denote that initiatives for the conservation of biodiversity are perhaps more pressing than ever before. On the other, political ecologists continue to highlight the ways in which dominant forms and discourses of conservation governance often entail negative livelihood impacts for the very communities who have stewarded now 'protected' resources in previous generations. This lecture explores such concerns, the rise of 'community-based conservation' rhetoric in response to them, as well as ongoing controversies about the nature of the latter.

Required Readings:

Robbins, P. (2012). Chapter 9: Conservation and Control. In *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell-Wily.

Adams, W.M. and J. Hutton. (2007). People, Parks and Poverty: Political Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation. *Conservation and Society* 5(2): 147-183.

Recommended Readings:

Cavanagh, C., & Benjaminsen, T. A. (2014). Virtual nature, violent accumulation: the 'spectacular failure' of carbon offsetting at a Ugandan National Park. *Geoforum*, 56, 55-65.

Chapin, M. (2004). A Challenge to Conservationists. *World Watch Magazine*. November/December 2014, pp. 17-31.

Roe, D. (2008). The origins and evolution of the conservation-poverty debate: a review of key literature, events and policy processes. *Oryx*, 42(4), 491-503.

West, P., Igoe, J., & Brockington, D. (2006). Parks and peoples: the social impact of protected areas. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 35: 251-277.

Lecture 3 – Degradation and Marginalization

Friday, 08 February 2019, 10.15-12.00, Parkgården P204

Lecturer: Tor Arve Benjaminsen

In this lecture, we explore and critically examine dominant narratives of degradation and marginalization in the environment and development sector, including the actors and organizations historically involved in the promulgation of these. In doing so, we compare and contrast these narratives with the findings of independent empirical research, including examples from Professor Benjaminsen's fieldwork in Mali and South Africa.

Required Readings:

Robbins, P. (2012). Chapter 5: Challenges in Ecology. In *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell-Wily.

Robbins, P. (2012). Chapter 8: Degradation and Marginalization. In *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell-Wiley.

Recommended Readings:

Benjaminsen, T. A., Rohde, R., Sjaastad, E., Wisborg, P., & Lebert, T. (2006). Land reform, range ecology, and carrying capacities in Namaqualand, South Africa. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 96(3), 524-540.

Benjaminsen, T.A. (2015). Political Ecologies of Environmental Degradation and Marginalization. In Perreault, T., Bridge, G., & McCarthy, J. (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*, 354-365. New York and London: Routledge.

Swift, J. (1996). Desertification: Narratives, Winners and Losers. In M. Leach and R. Mearns (eds.), *The Lie of the Land: Challenging Received Wisdom on the African Environment* (pp. 73-90). Heinemann: Portsmouth.

Lecture 4 – Agricultural Development and Agrarian Change

Tuesday, 12 February 2019, 14.15-16.00, Parkgården P204

Lecturer: Connor Joseph Cavanagh

The question of how a still rapidly growing global population can be fed in ways that are both socially and environmentally just – as well as sustainable – continues to be one of the most pressing issues in environment and development studies. In this lecture, we consider the ways in which political ecologists and other critical scholars have engaged issues of agricultural development and agrarian change. In doing so, we focus on the contributions of political-economic theory to the study of these processes, with specific reference to the themes of inequality, class, and socioeconomic differentiation within agricultural populations. We conclude with the example of debates around the feasibility of proposals for modes of agricultural production rooted in the principle of food sovereignty.

Required Readings:

Robbins, P. (2012). The producer is the agent of history: peasant studies (pp. 59-63). In *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Bernstein, H. (2010). Chapter 1: Production and Productivity. In *Class Dynamics of Agrarian Change*. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing, pp. 13-27.

Bernstein, H. (2014). Food sovereignty via the ‘peasant way’: a sceptical view. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 41(6), 1031-1063.

Recommended Readings:

Bernstein, H., & Byres, T. J. (2001). From peasant studies to agrarian change. *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 1(1), 1-56.

Cavanagh, C. J., Chemarum, A. K., Vedeld, P. O., & Petursson, J. G. (2017). Old wine, new bottles? Investigating the differential adoption of ‘climate-smart’ agricultural practices in western Kenya. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 56, 114-123.

Li, T. M. (2011). Centering labor in the land grab debate. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 38(2), 281-298.

McMichael, P. (2015). A comment on Henry Bernstein's way with peasants, and food sovereignty. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 42(1), 193-204.

Lecture 5 – Property Rights, Tenure, and the Commons

Friday, 15 February 2019, 10.15-12.00, Parkgården P204

Lecturer: Connor Joseph Cavanagh

In 1990, Elinor Ostrom published *Governing the Commons*, a keystone publication within a broader research programme on common property that would eventually earn her a Nobel Prize in Economics. Though influential, Ostrom's scholarship has also been criticized by political ecologists in particular for its relative inattention to issues of asymmetrical relations of power and authority, inequality and informality, and socio-cultural variability. In this lecture, we survey some of these criticisms while also exploring the ways in which political ecologists have engaged Ostrom and other institutionalist scholars' work on the commons, property rights, and the governance of common-pool resources.

Required Readings:

- Hall, K., Cleaver, F., Franks, T., & Maganga, F. (2014). Capturing critical institutionalism: A synthesis of key themes and debates. *The European Journal of Development Research*, 26(1), 71-86.
- Robbins, P. (2012). Common Property Theory (pp. 51-54). In *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Sikor, T., & Lund, C. (2009). Access and property: a question of power and authority. *Development and Change*, 40(1), 1-22.

Recommended Readings:

- Alden Wily, L. (2016). Customary tenure: remaking property for the 21st century. In: M. Graziadei and L. Smith (eds), *Comparative Property Law: Global Perspectives*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar., pp. 458-478.
- Ostrom, E. (2009). A general framework for analyzing sustainability of social-ecological systems. *Science*, 325(5939), 419-422.
- Singleton, B. E. (2017). What's missing from Ostrom? Combining design principles with the theory of sociocultural viability. *Environmental Politics*, 26(6), 994-1014.
- Turner, M. D. (2017). Political ecology III: The commons and commoning. *Progress in Human Geography* 41(6): 795-802.

Lecture 6 – Neoliberalism and Environmental Governance

Tuesday, 19 February 2019, 14.15-16.00, Parkgården P204

Lecturer: Connor Joseph Cavanagh

What implications do global processes of neoliberalization entail for conservation and other forms of environmental management? In this lecture, we review and explore a number of recent debates in political ecology concerning the drivers and effects of the rise of apparently 'neoliberal natures'. In doing so, we trace the connections of these debates beyond political ecology to the political economy of development and growth under conditions of global environmental change more broadly.

Required Readings:

- Castree, N. (2010). Neoliberalism and the biophysical environment: a synthesis and evaluation of the research. *Environment and Society*, 1(1), 5-45.
- Holmes, G., & Cavanagh, C. J. (2016). A review of the social impacts of neoliberal conservation: formations, inequalities, contestations. *Geoforum*, 75, 199-209.

Recommended Readings:

- Bakker, K. (2009). Neoliberal nature, ecological fixes, and the pitfalls of comparative research. *Environment and Planning A*, 41(8), 1781-1787.
- Castree, N. (2009). Researching neoliberal environmental governance: a reply to Karen Bakker. *Environment and Planning A*, 41(8), 1788-1794.
- Fletcher, R. and B. Buscher. (2017). The PES conceit: Revisiting the relationship between payments for environmental services and neoliberal conservation. *Ecological Economics*, 132, 224-231.
- Van Hecken, G., Kolinjivadi, V., Windey, C., McElwee, P., Shapiro-Garza, E., Huybrechs, F., & Bastiaensen, J. (2017). Silencing agency in payments for ecosystem services (PES) by essentializing a neoliberal 'monster' into being: a response to Fletcher and Buischer's 'PES conceit'. *Ecological Economics*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2017.10.023>.

Lecture 7 – Conflict, Green Militarization, and Green Wars

Friday, 22 February 2019, 10.15-12.00, Parkgården P204

Lecturer: Connor Joseph Cavanagh

Do rebel groups and terrorist organizations pose a threat to the conservation of biodiversity? What is the relationship between organized crime and the international trade in ivory, rhino horn, and illegally-acquired forest products? How will impoverished rural populations be affected by the ongoing 'arms race' between poachers, conservationists, and other apparently 'illegal' users of natural resources? In this lecture, we examine related themes within a rapidly growing literature in political ecology on the apparent rise of 'green militarization', 'green wars', and other attempts to deal with environmental challenges primarily through a reliance on military, security, or law enforcement approaches. In exploring these issues, we view the controversial 2014 film *Virunga* and follow this with a discussion of the film's message, framing, and underlying assumptions from a political-ecological perspective.

Required Readings:

- Baaz, M.E. and D. Gondola, E. Marijnen, and J. Verweijen. (2015). *Virunga's* White Saviour Complex. *Foreign Affairs* (05 March 2015), URL=<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/africa/2015-03-05/virungas-white-savior-complex> (PDF on Canvas).
- Lunstrum, E. (2014). Green militarization: anti-poaching efforts and the spatial contours of Kruger National Park. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 104(4), 816-832.

Recommended Readings:

- Büscher, B., & Fletcher, R. (2018). Under Pressure: Conceptualising Political Ecologies of Green Wars. *Conservation and Society*, 16(2), 105-113.
- Cavanagh, C. J., Vedeld, P. O., & Trædal, L. T. (2015). Securitizing REDD+? Problematizing the emerging illegal timber trade and forest carbon interface in East Africa. *Geoforum*, 60, 72-82.
- Jooste, J., & Ferreira, S. (2018). An Appraisal of Green Militarization to Protect Rhinoceroses in Kruger National Park. *African Studies Quarterly*, 18(1): 49-60.
- Le Billon, P. (2001). The political ecology of war: natural resources and armed conflicts. *Political Geography*, 20(5), 561-584.
- Shaw, M., & Rademeyer, J. (2016). A flawed war: rethinking 'green militarisation' in the Kruger National Park. *Politikon*, 43(2), 173-192.

Lecture 8 – ‘Green Grabbing’, Accumulation by Dispossession, and the State

Tuesday, 26 February 2019, 14.15-16.00, Parkgården P204

Lecturer: Connor Joseph Cavanagh

Many first-generation political ecologists were strongly influenced by Marxist and neo-Marxist theory. While the field’s theoretical influences have long since become much more diverse, Marxism and Marxist political economy continue to provide critical tools that many find highly useful for understanding both the drivers and effects of global environmental change processes. This lecture explores a selection of these with a focus on how the Marxist geographer David Harvey’s work has been taken up and adapted within political ecology, as well as on the role of the state in mediating between capital and the environment.

Required Readings:

Robbins, P. (2012). Marxist Political Economy (pp. 54-59). In *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Fairhead, J., Leach, M., & Scoones, I. (2012). Green grabbing: a new appropriation of nature? *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 39(2), 237-261.

Loftus, A. (2018). Political ecology II: Whither the state? *Progress in Human Geography*. Ahead-of-print, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0309132518803421>.

Recommended Readings:

Cavanagh, C. J. (2017). Resilience, class, and the antifragility of capital. *Resilience*, 5(2), 110-128.

Harvey, D. (2003). Accumulation by Dispossession. In *The New Imperialism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press., pp. 137-182.

Peluso, N. L., & Lund, C. (2011). New frontiers of land control: Introduction. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 38(4), 667-681.

Smith, N. (2009). Nature as an accumulation strategy. *Socialist Register* 43: 16-36.

Lecture 9 – Agency, Resistance, and ‘Responses from Below’

Friday, 01 March 2019, 10.15-12.00, Parkgården P204

Lecturer: Connor Joseph Cavanagh

Are ‘local communities’ organically or inevitably cohesive and homogenous groups? How do communities and other actors respond to land and resource acquisitions for conservation, commercial agriculture, or extractive industry? Why do both individuals and groups choose to react in the way(s) that they do, and for what reasons might they differ in their responses? In this lecture, we review important debates in political ecology on individual and collective agency, resistance, and various other ‘responses from below’ in order to begin developing some provisional answers to these questions.

Required Readings:

Hall, R., Edelman, M., Borrás Jr, S. M., Scoones, I., White, B., & Wolford, W. (2015).

Resistance, acquiescence or incorporation? An introduction to land grabbing and political reactions ‘from below’. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 42(3-4), 467-488.

Scott, J. (1986). Everyday forms of peasant resistance. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 13(2), 5-35.

Recommended Readings:

- Agrawal, A., & Gibson, C. C. (1999). Enchantment and disenchantment: the role of community in natural resource conservation. *World Development*, 27(4), 629-649.
- Brockington, D. (2004). Community conservation, inequality and injustice: Myths of power in protected area management. *Conservation and Society*, 2(2), 411.
- Cavanagh, C. J., & Benjaminsen, T. A. (2015). Guerrilla agriculture? A biopolitical guide to illicit cultivation within an IUCN Category II protected area. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 42(3-4), 725-745.
- Mitchell, T. (1990). Everyday metaphors of power. *Theory and Society*, 19(5), 545-577.

Lecture 10 – Economic Growth, Degrowth, and the Environment

Tuesday, 05 March 2019, 14.15-16.00, Parkgården P204

Lecturer: Erik Gómez-Baggethun

Can compounding economic growth continue indefinitely on a finite planet? Might there be social as well as ecological ‘limits to growth’? Are there viable alternatives for pursuing human prosperity and sustainability beyond the growth paradigm? In this lecture, we explore these and similar questions through an introduction to and overview of the global ‘degrowth’ movement – as well as its critique – examining opportunities and challenges for the movement’s success in both the Global North and South.

Required Readings:

Gómez-Baggethun, E. and J.M. Naredo. (2015). In search of lost time: the rise and fall of limits to growth in international sustainability policy. *Sustainability Science*, 10(3), 385-395.

Recommended Readings:

D’Alisa, G., Demaria, F., & Kallis, G. (2014). *Degrowth: A Vocabulary for a New Era*. New York and London: Routledge.

Schwartzman, D. (2012). A critique of degrowth and its politics. *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, 23(1), 119-125.

Lecture 11 – Dams, Hydropower, and Development

Friday, 08 March 2019, 10.15-12.00, Parkgården P204

Lecturer: Bill Derman

According to the World Energy Council, hydropower currently provides nearly 16 percent of the world’s energy supply, and approximately 71 percent of energy from renewable sources. Moreover, as pressure mounts to lower global greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the recent IPCC-mandated target of net-negative emissions by 2050, hydropower appears set for considerable expansion in the short-to-medium term future. Despite its contributions to global renewable energy supplies, however, hydropower production and the large-scale dam infrastructure that it requires have already wrought considerable transformations in landscapes and rural socio-ecological systems across the globe. Often, this has precipitated forced displacements and other deleterious consequences for affected rural communities. Consequently, this lecture explores how political ecologists and other critical scholars have engaged with issues of dams, hydropower, and ostensibly ‘sustainable’ energy development.

Required Readings:

Johnston, B. R. (2010). Chixoy dam legacies: The struggle to secure reparation and the right to remedy in Guatemala. *Water Alternatives*, 3(2), 341-361.

Richter, B. D., Postel, S., Revenga, C., Scudder, T., Lehner, B., Churchill, A., & Chow, M. (2010). Lost in development's shadow: The downstream human consequences of dams. *Water Alternatives*, 3(2), 14-42.

Recommended Readings:

Goodland, R. (2010). Viewpoint – The World Bank versus the World Commission on Dams. *Water Alternatives* 3(2), 384-398.

Lecture 12 – The Political Ecology of Trees: Deforestation, Carbon Offsetting and Compensatory Afforestation in India

Tuesday, 12 March 2019, 14.15-16.00, Parkgården P204

Lecturer: Eva Døgg Davidsdottir

As climate change becomes an increasing threat to capitalist modes of accumulation, new strategies of capturing carbon and leveraging reduced emissions of greenhouse gasses have emerged as a means to legitimize continued extraction. These changing dynamics have entailed profound implications for ecologies and forest-dependent communities, often leading to new appropriations of land and resources. Focusing on empirical cases from India, the lecture will aim to unpack the political ecologies of forests and the discursive processes involved in the shifting valuation of forests.

Required Readings:

Bumpus, A. G., & Liverman, D. M. (2011). Carbon colonialism? Offsets, greenhouse gas reductions, and sustainable development. In R. Peet, P. Robbins, and M. Watts (eds), *Global Political Ecology*. New York and London: Routledge, pp. 203-224.

Kohli, K., & Menon, M. (2011). *Banking on Forests: Assets for a Climate Cure?* Delhi: Kalpavriksh.

Recommended Readings:

Asiyanbi, A. P. (2016). A political ecology of REDD+: Property rights, militarised protectionism, and carbonised exclusion in Cross River. *Geoforum*, 77, 146-156.

Lyons, K., & Westoby, P. (2014). Carbon colonialism and the new land grab: Plantation forestry in Uganda and its livelihood impacts. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 36, 13-21.

McGregor, A., Challies, E., Howson, P., Astuti, R., Dixon, R., Haalboom, B., ... & Afiff, S. (2015). Beyond carbon, more than forest? REDD+ governmentality in Indonesia. *Environment and Planning A*, 47(1), 138-155.

Lecture 13 – ‘Rewilding’ Conservation’s Rulebook? Origins, Opportunities and Challenges

Friday, 15 March 2019, 10.15-12.00, Parkgården P204

Lecturer: Dara Sands

Rewilding has emerged as an approach to conservation which aims to restore natural ecosystems by reducing human influences, purportedly resulting in benefits to both people and wildlife. This lecture introduces the origins and diverging meanings of rewilding, and explores whether rewilding can really produce win-win outcomes for wildlife and landowners.

Required Readings:

Jepson, P., 2018. Recoverable Earth: a twenty-first century environmental narrative. *Ambio*, Ahead-of-print, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13280-018-1065-4>.

Tanasescu, M., (2017). Field Notes on the Meaning of Rewilding. *Ethics, Policy & Environment*, 20(3), 333-349.

Recommended Readings:

Braun, B. (2015). Rethinking political ecology for the Anthropocene. In T. Perreault, G. Bridge, and J. McCarthy (eds), *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*, London and New York: Routledge, pp. 102-114.

Lorimer, J., & Driessen, C. (2013). Bovine biopolitics and the promise of monsters in the rewilding of Heck cattle. *Geoforum*, 48, 249-259.

Lorimer, J., & Driessen, C. (2014). Wild experiments at the Oostvaardersplassen: Rethinking environmentalism in the Anthropocene. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 39(2), 169-181.

Lecture 14 – Social Construction, Critical Realism, and their Critique

Tuesday, 19 March 2019, 14.15-16.00, Parkgården P204

Lecturer: Connor Joseph Cavanagh

What does it mean to claim that ‘nature’ itself is socially constructed? In this lecture, we examine the rise of social constructivist perspectives in political ecology from the 1990s onward. In doing so, we also address critiques of social constructivism rooted in critical realism as well as in more recent theoretical perspectives such as actor-network theory, assemblage theory, and science and technology studies (STS).

Required Readings:

Robbins, P. (2012). Chapter 6: challenges in social construction. In *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Forsyth, T. (2003). Chapter 1: Political ecology and the politics of environmental science. In *Critical Political Ecology: The Politics of Environmental Science*. London: Routledge, pp. 1-22.

Recommended Readings:

Benjaminsen, T. A., Aune, J. B., & Sidibe. (2010). A critical political ecology of cotton and soil fertility in Mali. *Geoforum*, 41(4), 647-656.

Demeritt, D. (2002). What is the social construction of nature? A typology and sympathetic critique. *Progress in Human Geography*, 26(6), 767-790.

Forsyth, T. (2001). Critical realism and political ecology. In A. Stainer and G. Lopez (eds), *After Postmodernism: Critical Realism?* London: Athlone Press, pp. 146-154.

Murray Li, T. (2007). Practices of assemblage and community forest management. *Economy and society*, 36(2), 263-293.

Lecture 15 – Politics of Identity, Indigeneity, and Territory

Friday, 22 March 2019, 10.15-12.00, Parkgården P204

Lecturer: Connor Joseph Cavanagh

In recent years, one of the most controversial themes in political ecology has centered upon the implications of exclusionary conservation, extractivism, and land or resource acquisitions for the lives and livelihoods of indigenous populations. Simultaneously, however, skeptics have pointed out the occasional tendency of some activists and scholars to romanticize indigenous peoples in ways that are occasionally awkwardly reminiscent of colonial-era discourses of “environmentally noble savages” and related tropes. This lecture surveys these recent debates

with an eye towards illuminating their implications for political ecology's apparent "territorial turn", or growing interest in collective land titling schemes for protecting indigenous and other rural populations from the dispossessions entailed within contemporary processes of uneven development.

Required Readings:

Robbins, P. (2012). Chapter 11: Environmental subjects and identities. In *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Li, T. M. (2000). Articulating indigenous identity in Indonesia: Resource politics and the tribal slot. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 42(1), 149-179.

Recommended Readings:

Anthias, P., & Radcliffe, S. A. (2015). The ethno-environmental fix and its limits: Indigenous land titling and the production of not-quite-neoliberal natures in Bolivia. *Geoforum*, 64, 257-269.

Cavanagh, C. J. (2017). Anthropos into humanitas: Civilizing violence, scientific forestry, and the 'Dorobo question' in eastern Africa. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 35(4): 694-713.

Hope, J. (2017). The constraints of an 'ironic scholar': Negotiating critical engagement with indigeneity and nature conservation. *Geoforum*, 78, 74-81.

Li, T. M. (2010). Indigeneity, capitalism, and the management of dispossession. *Current Anthropology*, 51(3), 385-414.

Lecture 16 – Beyond Political Ecology? Critique, Counter-Critique, and Persistent Global Environmental Challenges

Tuesday, 26 March 2019, 14.15-16.00, Parkgården P204

Lecturer: Connor Joseph Cavanagh

Although political ecology has steadily grown in influence since its emergence in the late 1970s, it has also faced its share of critiques. In this lecture, we review the most pressing concerns arising from methodological, political, and policy-oriented criticisms of political ecology as a field of study, as well as the ways in which various political ecologists have responded to these. We conclude with a series of reflections about how – regardless of the outcome of these debates – deleterious processes of global environmental change continue largely unabated in ways that will continue to demand engagement from both political ecologists and other critical scholars of environment and development processes. This is especially crucial in fostering the formulation of what we might call "alternative sustainabilities", or means of simultaneously pursuing both environmental change mitigation and socio-environmental justice.

Required Readings:

Cavanagh, C. J., & Benjaminsen, T. A. (2017). Political ecology, variegated green economies, and the foreclosure of alternative sustainabilities. *Journal of Political Ecology*, 24, 200-341.

Robbins, P. (2012). Chapter 13: Beyond Political Ecology? In *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Recommended Readings:

Vayda, A. P., & Walters, B. B. (1999). Against political ecology. *Human Ecology*, 27(1), 167-179.

- Walker, P. A. (2005). Political ecology: where is the ecology? *Progress in Human Geography*, 29(1), 73-82.
- Walker, P. A. (2007). Political ecology: where is the politics? *Progress in Human Geography*, 31(3), 363-369.
- Walker, P. A. (2006). Political ecology: where is the policy? *Progress in Human Geography*, 30(3), 382-395.

STUDENT SEMINARS (NB – Attendance and submission of written reflections for **80% (at least 4/5) of these is mandatory** in order to pass the course. More seminars may also be scheduled, depending on course enrolment. Seminar group composition, topics and assigned readings (1 article per seminar) are to be selected by students in consultation with the course convener no later than **Friday, 22 March 2019**).

- Seminar 1 – Friday, 29 March 2019, 10.15-12.00
Seminar 2 – Tuesday, 02 April 2019, 14.15-16.00
Seminar 3 – Friday, 05 April 2019, 10.15-12.00
Seminar 4 – Tuesday, 09 April 2019, 14.15-16.00
Seminar 5 – Friday, 12 April 2019, 10.15-12.00

Seminar written reflections: These are due by 23.59 the evening before each seminar (on Canvas). Length: 300-500 words each. Students are encouraged to read each others' reflections in advance of each seminar in order to facilitate discussion in class. Submission of written reflections for **80% (at least 4/5) of these seminars is mandatory** in order to pass the course.

- Seminar reflection 1: Thursday, 28 March 2019 at 23.59
Seminar reflection 2: Monday 01 April 2019 at 23.59
Seminar reflection 3: Thursday 04 April 2019 at 23.59
Seminar reflection 4: Monday 08 April 2019 at 23.59
Seminar reflection 5: Thursday 11 April 2019 at 23.59

EDS 330 – Political Ecology
 Lecture and Reading Overview, Spring Term 2019
 Convenor: Connor Joseph Cavanagh
 Room: Parkgården P204

Date and time	Topic	Lecturer	Required Readings
Friday 01 February 10.15-12.00	1. What is Political Ecology?	Connor Joseph Cavanagh	Robbins (2012, Chapters 1 and 2)
Tuesday 05 February 14.15-16.00	2. Conservation and Protected Areas	Connor Joseph Cavanagh	Robbins (2012, Chapter 9), Adams & Hutton (2007)
Friday 08 February 10.15-12.00	3. Degradation and Marginalisation	Tor A. Benjaminsen	Robbins (2012, Chapters 5 and 8)
Tuesday 12 February 14.15-16.00	4. Agricultural Development and Agrarian Change	Connor Joseph Cavanagh	Robbins (2012, pp. 59-63), Bernstein (2010, 2014)
Friday 15 February 10.15-12.00	5. Property Rights, Tenure, and the Commons	Connor Joseph Cavanagh	Robbins (2012, pp. 51-54), Sikor & Lund (2009), Hall et al. (2014)
Tuesday 19 February 14.15-16.00	6. Neoliberalism and Environmental Governance	Connor Joseph Cavanagh	Castree (2010), Holmes & Cavanagh (2016)
Friday 22 February 10.15-12.00	7. Conflict, Green Militarization, and Green Wars	Connor Joseph Cavanagh + Film: <i>Virunga</i> (2014)	Baaz et al. (2015), Lunstrum (2014)
Tuesday 26 February 14.15-16.00	8. 'Green Grabbing', Accumulation by Dispossession, and the State	Connor Joseph Cavanagh	Fairhead et al. (2012), Loftus (2018), Robbins (2012, pp. 54-59)
Friday 01 March 10.15-12.00	9. Agency, Resistance, and 'Responses from Below'	Connor Joseph Cavanagh	Hall et al. (2015), Scott (1986)
Tuesday 05 March 14.15-16.00	10. Economic Growth, Degrowth, and the Environment	Erik Gómez-Baggethun	Gómez-Baggethun & Naredo (2015)
Friday 08 March 10.15-12.00	11. Dams, Hydropower, and Development	Bill Derman	Johnston (2010), Richter et al. (2010)
Tuesday 12 March 14.15-16.00	12. The Political Ecology of Trees: Deforestation, Carbon Offsetting and	Eva Døgg Davidsdottir	Bumpus & Liverman (2011), Kohli & Menon (2011)

	Compensatory Afforestation in India		
Friday 15 March 10.15-12.00	13. 'Rewilding' Conservation's Rulebook? Origins, Opportunities and Challenges	Dara Sands	Jepson (2018), Tanasescu (2017)
Tuesday 19 March 14.15-16.00	14. Social Construction, Critical Realism, and their Critique	Connor Joseph Cavanagh	Robbins (2012, Chapter 6), Forsyth (2003)
Friday 22 March 10.15-12.00	15. Politics of Identity, Indigeneity, and Territory	Connor Joseph Cavanagh	Robbins (2012, Chapter 11), Murray Li (2000)
Tuesday 26 March 14.15-16.00	16. Beyond Political Ecology? Critique, Counter-critique, and Persistent Global Environmental Challenges	Connor Joseph Cavanagh	Robbins (2012, Chapter 13), Cavanagh & Benjaminsen (2017)
Friday 29 March 10.15-12.00	Student-led seminar		
Tuesday 02 April 14.15-16.00	Student-led seminar		
Friday 05 April 10.15-12.00	Student-led seminar		
Tuesday 09 April 14.15-16.00	Student-led seminar		
Friday 12 April 10.15-12.00	Student-led seminar		