

UKZN
COURSE OUTLINE: **ENGAGING ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT AND CRISIS**
2018
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AIM: This module enhances the understanding of key concepts and theories in nature-society relations, and engages with understandings of environmental conflicts, crises and security under conditions of environmental change. It has a threefold engagement with the ways environmental management interventions are designed, the way environmental crises are framed, and in whose interests security is defined; in order to tease out the 'biopolitical' implications for both human and non-human life of our actions and inactions with regards to environmental change.

Core values: Environmental Conflicts, as conceived and practised within this module, is distinguished as being:

- *Value-explicit:* in favour of peace with justice;
- *Critical:* recognising that the opposite of value-explicit is not value-neutral but value-concealed;
- *Counter-hegemonic*– rejecting the proposition that all ideas are 'orthodoxies' (accepted views), which can and/or should be criticised 'equally', and
- *Activist*– committed to engaging in community debates and joining positive efforts to contribute to peace with justice

These principles have been built into the concept for this module and the assessment

Module content:

This course draws on political ecology and Socio-Ecological Systems approaches to critically engage the ways environmental crisis and environmental conflict are understood and managed, in particular in Kwazulu-Natal.

Environmental change is a 'threat-multiplier', intensifying existing socio-economic, political and environmental conflicts and is undermining the security and long-term stability of the African continent. Environmental conflicts and crises are complex and highly context and time-specific. At their core are resource scarcity issues which are particularly pertinent where natural resource dependencies are strong. Conflicts are not only influenced by environmental change, but also conditions of specific environments, political economies, and adaptive capacity of communities.

The module supports political ecology approaches and integrated systems thinking in understanding reciprocal relationships between socio-ecological systems (SESs) under environmental change and conflict-sensitive adaptation.

The module examines several key issues:

- Conceptual frameworks

- Socio-spatial vulnerabilities
- Geopolitics and security
- Conceptualisations of crisis
- Geographic imaginaries
- Neoliberal interventions
- The economic and political underpinnings of different approaches to environmental conflict and crisis management
- Conservation ‘fads’
- Green Economy
- Strategies for conflict-sensitive adaptation
- Environmental justice

Learning Outcomes:

- To understand key socio-spatial vulnerabilities linked to conflicts on the African continent
- To critically examine the understanding of the concepts of environmental conflict, crisis, security, vulnerability and resilience
- To appreciate key conceptual theories that frame current environmental conflict, management and policy – including political ecology and adaptive management/ Socio-ecological System approaches
- To theorise the social production of nature and nature-society relations under neoliberal economic and political regimes, and the synergies and feedbacks between ecosystems and drivers of environmental change
- To appreciate the need for and understanding of power in environmental change, and as integrated systems thinking, in approaching concepts such as environmental management, environmental crisis and sustainable development
- To develop critical and strategic thinking about managing environmental conflicts and crises

Assessment: Class mark (50%); 3 h exam (50%)

DP Requirement: 80% attendance at lectures and seminars; 40% class mark.

The class mark is comprised of the following:

- 1 assignment on relevance of course concepts to your research project (30%)
- 5 reflection essays, one each week (5x12 = 60%)
- Seminar presentation and participation (10%): Prepare one or two brief reading summaries which will be presented in seminars, and conduct further reading for discussion in the seminar. The summaries will be circulated with the class for revision purposes.

Assignment – The student will attempt apply course themes and concepts to their research project area or a closely related topic, decided by the student. The students should ask themselves if there are any particular discourses or narratives around environment or development issues related to their research. Are there any security, crisis or conflict dynamics

reflected? Can any of the theory or empirics of the course readings be used to compare and contrast to the case in question? What is the political and economic background to the issues in question? Are interventions and measures to correct any issues framed in particular ways? Do these privilege some actors over others?

Reflection essays – students will write a weekly reflection essay of 2.5-5 pages regarding the material covered in the seminars and a topic posed each week.

Reading summaries – Please briefly account for the following in your reading summ

1. Clearly state your name and student number at the top and the relevant.
3. Identify 3 or 4 keywords that you associate with the reading that will help you remember what the seminar theme is about.
4. Provide a brief overview of the theoretical approach being focused on in the readings.
5. Concisely present the key argument(s) of each required reading and highlight any points of confusion.
6. Briefly analyse how the readings relate to each other.
7. Comment on how this theoretical framework/ empirical material could be used to study your chosen research project topic.

Fieldtrip – this course may include a brief fieldtrip if time allows. To be confirmed.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

This course is arranged around bi-weekly seminars that are approximately 1-2 hours in duration. The first part of each seminar will entail a discussion of an overview of aspects to be discussed. Clarifications of key concepts and issues will be included. The rest of the seminar will enable the class to look critically at the reading material and themes that are being raised

The course has an introduction week, a theory week discussing nature society relations, then a week on environmental security and conflict, a week on biosecurity and conservation, a week on a week on climate security, and finally a concluding week on environmental justice and conflict sensitive management.

The readings engaged in this course deal with various aspects of conflict, crisis and security, particularly regarding their human dimensions and the kinds of interventions embarked upon to ostensibly resolve them. The readings offer both critiques of such interventions and suggestions at better arrangements. These are often difficult readings by leading academics in their respective fields. Thus we will take time in the seminars to understand and engage with them.

The class will be invited to attend public seminars relevant to the course, including a panel discussion on environmental conflict in Northern KZN in memorial of Mr Dladla, a community activist. The class may also include a Fieldtrip to Bisley Nature reserve.

Week 1 – Engaging Environmental Conflict and Crisis: The rise of environmental security

This course entitled ‘Managing environmental conflict’, covers important issues related to the environment and conflict, as well as how to understand and engage with the same. As written, however, the title is insufficient to encapsulate the scope of contemporary environmental issues and concerns, best considered as crises, or situations which demand urgent attention and action. While some situations and contexts can indeed benefit from applied management strategies, a central premise of this course is that we might question the degree to which we should ‘manage’ an assumed external ‘environment’ or ‘nature’ - as a sphere separate from culture and society is questionable. Critical scholars suggest we might also need to think about managing ourselves, and the socio-ecological entanglements we produce in an increasingly globalised and environmentally stressed society, in order to reduce environmental conflict and crisis. Climate change is of course not least amount these stresses, and has been called an acute ‘conflict multiplier’ for the way it exacerbates existing tensions and conflicts.

To be relevant, then, we also need to think about ‘engaging’ with concepts of ‘environmental crisis’ and the local, global and systemic risks to stability and sustainability that they pose in their different forms. Similarly we need to add an understanding of the relationship between ‘the environment’ and security, broadly defined. What kinds of life and what kinds of activities are we choosing, consciously or unconsciously, to sustain with our current global development pathway? What outcomes and effects do certain interventions to save or sustain life have on different populations of human and non-human persons? And what kinds of human or non-human life are we jeopardizing or ‘letting die’ through our actions and inactions?

Concerns about conflict, crisis and security are central to these questions and reflect in many environment and conservation debates. This week we will go over a number of readings which begin, in the spirit of an expanded course title, engage with environmental conflict, crisis and security.

Seminar 1: Environment, conflict and the protection/elimination of life

In the 21st century we have seen an exponential increase of problems such as inequality and environmental degradation. This could more accurately be portrayed as an intensification of processes and the language we use to engage them. Inequality is no longer about some having more than others – it has become extreme. Climate change looms as an urgent and existentially threatening shadow over society and its future, where the risks and costs of the environmental conflicts we are already experiencing intensify dramatically if we continue with ‘business-as-usual’.

We can also witness an increase in the intensity of the language we use to describe our interventions, where for instance today we aim to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. Accordingly sustainable development is no longer about development, it is about addressing a threat to life itself as we know it – where development and progress are seen to be

connected. Even the understandings of life and the way we engage with it politically are shifting. We now longer merely discuss the lives of individuals, but of societies, species and populations as a whole, and their embeddedness in complex socio-economic and socio-ecological systems with multiple drivers of social and environmental conflict, risk and hazard. In this we enter the realm of 'Biopolitics' and the governance not only individuals and development, but of populations and life itself.

These are interesting changes and dangerous times, but they also afford us intellectual opportunities to understand our societies and environments in a new light. It also affords us opportunities to apprehend the questions of justice that arise in the interventions we adopt to sustain societies and environments (particularly those interventions which privilege new types of accumulation at the expense of people and the environment).

Core readings:

Brauch et al Climate Change, Human Security and Violent Conflict: Challenges for Societal Stability.

- Please read the Introduction by Hans Günter Brauch and Jürgen Scheffranand
- Please also read the forwards by the top climate dogs: Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria; Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action; Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC; R.K. Pachauri, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Le Billon, P. Environmental Conflict. Handbook of Political Ecology Chapter 46.

Guardian. 2017. World has Three Years to Stop Dangerous Climate Change. Available: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jun/28/world-has-three-years-left-to-stop-dangerous-climate-change-warn-experts?CMP=share_btn_fb

Schwartz, D and Singh, A. 1999. Environmental Conditions, Resources, and Conflicts: An Introductory Overview and Data Collection. UNEP.

Extra reading

Rogers, K.S. 1997. *Ecological Security and Multinational Corporations*, in *Pre-empting Violent Conflict: Learning from Environmental Cooperation*, in Conflict and the Environment, Nils Petter Gleditsch, ed. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Homer-Dixon, T.F. 1994. Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict: Evidence from Cases, *International Security*, 19 (1), 5-40.

Seminar 2. Environmental Security - Conflict, crisis and security

In this seminar we look at the way Interventions are framed and the contexts in which we take action against threats (perceived or real). In particular the readings focus on the intersection between environment and security, and relatedly conflict and conflict/environmental management. Today's increased focus on environmental sustainability builds from classical

geopolitics and critical geopolitics within International Relations studies, but takes it into new realms. Notice for instance the security dimensions of the way conservation biology has been defined by the arch-conservation biologist Michael Soulé in his early writings:

“Conservation biology differs from most other biological sciences in one important way: it is often a crisis discipline. Its relation to biology, particularly ecology, is analogous to that of *surgery to physiology and war to political science*. In crisis disciplines, one must act before knowing all the facts; crisis disciplines are thus a mixture of science and art, and their pursuit requires intuition as well as information. A conservation biologist may have to make decisions or recommendations about design and management before he or she is completely comfortable with the theoretical and empirical bases of the analysis [...] Tolerating uncertainty is often necessary” (Soulé 1985 What is conservation biology? *BioScience* 35(11): 727)

It is clear that security threat bring about an urgent imperative to act to act on the part of those with the ability and will to do so, often in a context of uncertainty and incomplete knowledge. What is at stake, however, often depends on who has the power to act, how the threats are defined, even more broadly which parts of reality are reflected (or excluded) in the framing of the ‘crisis’ in the first place, and how the interventions are designed and implemented. In the rest of the course these factors will be seen to be of vital importance to the kind of outcomes of responses to environmental hazards, risks and problems, and who benefits and who loses as a result. Take the outcomes of George Bush’s discourse of ‘Weapons of mass destruction’ in Iraq (a fabrication) that justified the invasion of Iraq, though largely to secure Oil (itself a contributor of carbon emissions and thereby climate change), and essentially destabilised the region subsequently, with the eventual rise of IS and ISIS in the power vacuum. Crisis framings and their responses in this light can be misled, and thus it is critical to interrogate security discourses and the interventions they legitimate.

In this seminar we will discuss concepts such as discourse, framing and crisis narratives. We will relate these to a particular contested vision for the future, termed ecological modernization.

Core Readings:

Hartmann, B. (2010) "Rethinking climate refugees and climate conflict: Rhetoric, reality and the politics of policy discourse", *Journal of International Development*, vol. 22, no. 2, pp. 233-246.

Larner, W. 2011. C-Change? Geographies of Crisis. *Dialogues in Human Geography* 1(3) 319–335

Redford, Kent H., Christine Padoch, and Terry Sunderland. "Fads, funding, and forgetting in three decades of conservation." *Conservation Biology* 27.3 (2013): 437-438.

See also - Aldo Orellana López and Alan Forsberg. 2016. 10 conservation “fads”: how have they worked in Latin America? Available:

<https://news.mongabay.com/2016/06/10-conservation-fads-how-have-they-worked-in-latin-america/>

Warner, R. 2010. "Ecological modernisation theory: Towards a critical ecopolitics of change?" *Environmental Politics*, 19:4: 538-556.

Dalby, S. 2002. *The Future of Environmental Security: Security and Ecology in the Age of Globalization*. Environmental Change and Security Project. Report Issue No. 8. The Woodrow Wilson Centre

Recommended Readings:

Dalby, S. 2012. *Environmental Geopolitics in the twenty first century*, Paper for presentation to the Sussex Conference on "Rethinking Climate Change, Conflict and Security" October 18 & 19, 2012.

Hajer, M. A. (1995) *The Politics of Environmental Discourse: Ecological Modernization and the Policy Process*. Oxford University Press. (3-32)

Dryzek, John (1997) *The Politics of the Earth: Environmental Discourses*, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

Klein, N. 2014. *This changes Everything. Capitalism vs. the Climate*. Introduction. London: Penguin.

Klein, N. Shock doctrine – capitalism calamity and technology

Essay reflection 1

Read and briefly discuss the ecological modernist manifesto and one or more of the articles below which debate ecological modernization. Outline both how the idea of ecological modernisation is contested, and what potentials for conflict might arise in practice should ecological modernisation understandings of crisis and legitimate responses be adopted in the mainstream

The Ecomodernist Manifesto - <http://www.ecomodernism.org/>

- A Degrowth Response <http://www.resilience.org/stories/2015-05-06/a-degrowth-response-to-an-ecomodernist-manifesto>
- Kallis. G. Against Ecomodernism - <http://ga.lsu.edu/blog/andrewsluyter/2015/07/09/against-ecomodernism/>
- Robbins P, and Moore, S. Love your symptoms – A sympathetic response to ecological modernism. <http://www.ecomodernism.org/responses/2015/6/19/love-your-symptoms>
- Ecological Modernism was a screwup of massive proportions - <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/sep/30/ecomodernism-launch-was-a-screw-up-of-impressive-proportions>
- Ecomodernism a response to my critics - <http://www.resilience.org/stories/2015-09-10/ecomodernism-a-response-to-my-critics/>
- Monbiot, G. Meet the Ecomodernists Ignorant of history and paradoxically old fashioned. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/georgemonbiot/2015/sep/24/meet-the-ecomodernists-ignorant-of-history-and-paradoxically-old-fashioned>
- Latour, B. Fifty Shades of Green - <https://entitleblog.org/2015/06/27/fifty-shades-of-green-bruno-latour-on-the-ecomodernist-manifesto/>

Week 2 - Nature and Society

In academic debates there is seen to be a close relationship between capitalism and the environment. As opposed to western enlightenment understandings of a nature separate from culture, non-western understandings and critical environmental studies emphasise conceptions of socio-natures. However, in recent decades we have seen the relationship between capitalism and the environment change to include the commodification, financialisation and what is termed the 'neoliberalisation' of nature and conservation. The extraction from, production of and conservation of natural resource, wild, human and molecular nature is increasingly intersecting with new technologies, engaged with new circulations with other entities and involved in new networks, and subject to forms of capitalist organisation. In fact when discussing issues like climate change scholars such as Jason Moore argue we should not merely consider this the 'anthropocene', but the 'capitalocene' for the ways that capital (seen as a dynamic process, not merely a store of wealth) at the core of the social and economic system of capitalism is reshaping the environment.

Yet capital is rarely addressed in discussions of security and change, and authors such as Murat and Gupta (not that Gupta) argue we need to bring the dynamics between capitalism and nature back into our understandings of development and change. Today life has been so re-embedded into capitalist networks that we face a paradox that while we struggle with its social and environmental impacts, but to exist without it ('too big to fail'), or to exist outside of it is seemingly inconceivable – or that capital has an unassailable place at the heart of our (neoliberal) political and economic systems. This makes it essential to understand the biopolitics of the pathologies that accompany the relationship between capitalism and nature (life), not least inequality and environmental degradation, the logics that underin them, and the ways to reconstitute these relationships.

Seminar 3 – Capitalism and environmental change

In this seminar we engage with readings that discuss the relationship between capitalism and environmental change, and intensifications in the same. Issues of the production and neoliberalisation of nature are raised, as are issues of uneven development and the intensification of the pace of development and change, the intensifying form of surveillance and control that are applied in the face of increasing incidences of disaster and crisis, rising volatility in economic markets, the extension of market mechanisms into the governance and control of further areas of life and nature, the commoditization, marketization and exchange of nature, the blurring of the lines between human and non-human natures – from agricultural systems to the molecular level, and the rise of terms such as bioeconomy, natural capital, bioservices which naturalise capital as central to life. In recognising these connections it must be acknowledged that science and economics are political and without getting lost in 'post truth politics' acknowledge that there is a need to convince audiences of the connections.

Core Reading

Bakker, K. Neoliberalisation of Nature. Handbook of Political Ecology Chapter 34.

- Barret, G; Brooks, S; Josefsson, J and Zulu, N (2013). Starting the conversation: land issues and critical conservation studies in post-colonial Africa. *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 31:3, 336-344
- Magdoff, F & Foster, J.B. 2011. *What Every Environmentalist Needs to Know About Capitalism* New York: Monthly Review (Simply Browse Ch 1-3, but then read chapter 4.).
- Castree, N. 2014. Capitalism and the Marxist Critique of Political Ecology. Handbook of Political Ecology Chapter 21.
- Perkins, H. 2017. Neoliberalism and the Environment Published Online: 6 MAR 2017
- Naomi Klein - Crisis Capitalism

Required Readings:

- Peluso, Nancy Lee. 2012. "What's nature got to do with it? A situated historical perspective on socio-natural commodities." *Development and Change*, 43(1): 79-104.
- Ekers, M. and Loftus, A. 2013. "Revitalizing the production of nature thesis: A Gramscian turn?" *Progress in Human Geography*, 37(2), 234-252.
- O'Connor, J. (1988). "Capitalism, nature, socialism: a theoretical introduction." *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism* 1(1): 11-38.
- Li, T. M. 2014. "What is land? Assembling a resource for global investment." *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 39(4): 589-602.
- Harvey, D. 1993. "The nature of environment: Dialectics of social and environmental Change." *Socialist Register, Volume 29, Real Problems, False Solutions*, 1-52.
- Castree, N. 2007 "Neo-liberalising nature: the logics of deregulation and reregulation." *Environment and Planning A* 40, no. 1: 131-152.
- Barcia, S and Bridge, G. Industrialisation and environmental Change. Handbook of Political Ecology chapter 28

[Seminar 4 – Critical approaches to security and Nature-society relations](#)

There are various *Conflict Theories* which are applicable to understandings of environmental conflict and security. These include neo-malthusian, Resource curse, Resource scarcity, and Resource capture theory approaches. These attempt to explain conflict as determined within the relationship between societies and their environments/natural resources. While these can provide interesting insights, the elements of environmental determinism (the idea that environments strictly determine the lives of those within them) within them require further understandings to account for the complexity of socio-ecological change and conflict. More explicitly political approaches include eco-feminism, political Ecology, and critical security approaches. What the latter have in common is a questioning accepted understandings and narratives about environmental change, their causes, effects and justified interventions. This seminar will begin by discussing these approaches, and follow with an exploration of the political readings provided.

Core Readings:

- Robbins and Watts. 2011. Global environmental politics. Introduction to Part 4. pp. 225-227.
- Bryant, Raymond L. and Wilson, Geo A. 1998. "Rethinking environmental management." *Progress in Human Geography*, 22(3): 321-343.
- Rebecca E. 2011. Introducing new feminist political ecologies. *Geoforum* 42 (2011) 129–132
- Sundberg, J. (forthcoming). "Feminist political ecology." In Richardson D. (ed) *The International Encyclopedia of Geography*, Wiley Blackwell & Association of American Geographers.
- Swyngedouw, E. 2007a: 'Impossible "sustainability" and the post-political condition', in Krueger, R. and Gibbs, D., editors, *The Sustainable Development Paradox: Urban Political Economy in the United States and Europe*, London: Guildford Press, 13-40.
- Dalby, S. 2010. Recontextualising violence, power and nature: The next twenty years of critical geopolitics? *Political Geography* 29 (2010) 280–288

Extra Readings:

- Watts, M. 2009. "Political ecology." In Gregory, D., Johnston, R., Pratt, G., Watts, M.J. and Whatmore, S., *The Dictionary of Human Geography*, 5th edition. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 545-547
- Swyngedouw E. (2011) 'Depoliticized Environments: The End of Nature, Climate Change and the Post-Political Condition', *Royal Institute of Philosophy Supplements*, 69, pp. 253-274.
- Turner, M. D. 2016. "Political ecology II: Engagements with ecology." *Progress in Human Geography*, 40(3): 413-421.

Reflection essay 2

Drawing on two or more of the readings discussed this week discuss what a political approach to nature society relations involves.

[Week 3 – Environment, security and conflict](#)

This section is the first of three which deals with differing aspects of security and the environment. In it we touch upon new dynamics between the environment and violent conflict, including contestations over: different ways of understanding environmental processes and change; unequal access to resources and structural inequalities (often exacerbated by environmental policies); and increases in wildlife crime and militarised responses to the same. Correspondingly, as in the case of peace parks, some conservation interventions explicitly hope to resolve violent conflicts. In these we must question and critique the way these connections are formed under the predominant economic and political environment of neoliberal capitalism.

Seminar 5 –Environmental conflict and Transboundary resources

This seminar engages the ways environmental conflict and transboundary resources are engaged through security interventions. In particular there is a focus on the framing and implementation of 'peace parks' initiatives in Southern Africa by the peace parks foundation and other stakeholders, and to a lesser degree the way water security is addressed as a transboundary issue. While in both cases resources are unevenly accessed and managed by differing populations readers should be encouraged to look beyond resource scarcity and overpopulation arguments to explain insecurities and conflict lines; likewise interventions should be questioned as to the degree they function as claimed. The premise for peace parks is to utilise conservation areas as vehicles for enhancing peace – 'a double win', and that water issues can be governed to promote security and reduce conflict. While these are laudable aims, the realities of peace park implementation and water security interventions in practice do not match their intent, as these readings show.

Core reading:

- Dalby: *Environmental Security* (Reviewed by Keith Krause) Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2002. In Page 111
- Duffy, R. 2006. The potential and pitfalls of global environmental governance: The politics of transfrontier conservation areas in Southern Africa. [Political Geography](#) Volume 25 (1) Pg 89-112
- Ramutsindela, M. (2011). Transfrontier conservation and the spaces of regionalisms. The Ashgate Research Companion to Regionalisms. Farnham: Ashgate, 361-373.
- Buscher, B. (2010). Seeking 'telos' in the 'transfrontier'? Neoliberalism and the transcending of community conservation in Southern Africa. *Environment and Planning*, 42: 644-660.
- Anthony R. Turton. 2003. A Southern African Perspective on Transboundary Water Resource Management ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE & SECURITY PROJECT REPORT NO. 9 Washington: The Woodrow Wilson Center. Page 75

Recommended Readings

- Duffy, R. 2001. Peace parks: The paradox of globalization. *Geopolitics* Volume 6, 2001 - Issue 2
- Bakker, K. and Morinville, C. 2013. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* 371.
- Boelens, R, Hoogesteger, J., Swyngedouw, E. Vos, J., and Wester, P. 2015. Hydrosocial territories: a political ecology perspective. *Water International*, 41, pg 1-14

Seminar 6 – Rhino wars

Seminar 6 continues to discuss environmental security through the lens of 'Rhino wars'. Intensifying conflict over rhino horn has impacted both human and non-human life. The increased militarisation of conservation in place like the Kruger Park and Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park raise a range of questions about conflict, crisis and security, and introduces debate amongst academics as to the causes and solutions to the crisis of rhino poaching. The readings illustrate the complexity of the contexts in question and call into question the efficacy of increasing militarisation as a response to a deepening crisis.

Core Readings:

- Thomas Homer-Dixon, Nancy Peluso, and Michael Watts, 2003. An Exchange on Violent Environments in The Environmental Change and Security Project Report NO. 9 Washington: The Woodrow Wilson Center. Page 89
- Büscher, B. and Ramutsindela, M. (2015). Green violence: Rhino poaching and the war to save Southern Africa's peace parks. *African Affairs*
- Duffy, R. 2014. Waging a war to save biodiversity: the rise of militarized conservation. *International Affairs* 90 (4) Pages 819–834
- Lunstrum, L. 2014. Green Militarization: Anti-Poaching Efforts and the Spatial Contours of Kruger National Park. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* Volume 104, 2014 - Issue 4
- Humphreys, J and Smith M. 2014. The 'rhinofication' of South African security. *International Affairs* (2014) 90 (4): 795-818.

Recommended Reading:

- Duffy, R. 2016. War, by Conservation. *Geoforum*, Vol 69, Pg 238-248
- Burnett, S. Race, Necropolitics, and the Rhino. Available: <http://www.theconmag.co.za/2017/06/21/race-necropolitics-and-the-rhino/>
- Marijnen, E., & Verweijen, J. (2016). Selling green militarization: The discursive (re) production of militarized conservation in the Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of the Congo. *Geoforum*, 75, 274-285.

Reflection Essay 3

Recently conservation biologist Wilson et. al (2016) in their article Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life, proposed that half the earth should be set aside for biodiversity conservation. Contrastingly Buscher and Fletcher (2016) have pushed back against this assertion. Briefly set out each argument and reflect on the security dimensions raised on the two seminars this week.

- Wilson, Edward O. 2016. Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life. New York: Liveright Publishing Corporation. (not need to find the book, just locate a review)
- Büscher, B, and Fletcher, R. 2017. Why E O Wilson is wrong about how to save the Earth. Available online on <https://aeon.co/ideas/why-e-o-wilson-is-wrong-about-how-to-save-the-earth>

Week 4 – Biosecurity and Conservation

This week we engage with arguments about how conservation has been re-oriented and reproduced through the application of logics of capitalism. The readings here discuss framings of crisis and those who benefit and lose out when environmental problems are addressed in specific ways, often which privilege capital.

Seminar 7 – Neoliberal biodiversity conservation

The Rhino wars and peace parks examples discussed in week 3 speak to a dual trends in conservation, where the preservation of biodiversity is increasingly wrapped up in security debates – seen as a shift from biodiversity to biosecurity - and secondly where conservation is increasingly impacted by intensifying modes of capital accumulation. The latter is the focus of this seminar, in which the review articles discuss give an overview of scholarship on so called 'neoliberal biodiversity conservation.

Core readings

- Lowe, S. From Biodiversity to Biosecurity in the Handbook of Political Ecology. In *The Handbook of Political Ecology*, Chapter 38. Perault et al. (eds),
- Brockington, D. and Duffy, R. 2011. "Capitalism and Conservation: The Production and Reproduction of Biodiversity Conservation" *Antipode* 42:3, pp. 469-484.
- Buscher et al. Towards a synthesised critique of neoliberal biodiversity conservation.
- Barretta, G., Brooks, S., Josefsson, J. and Zulu, N. 2013. "Starting the conversation: Land issues and critical conservation studies in post-colonial Africa." *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 31(3): 336-344.

Extra Readings:

- Neumann, R. Nature Conservation. *Handbook of Political Ecology* Chapter 30
- Greenwashing capitalism: Conservation's cosy relationship with corporations
By Chris Lang William M. Adams published in the *Journal of Political Ecology*
- Dressler, W. and Roth, R. 2011. "The good, the bad, and the contradictory: neoliberal conservation governance in rural Southeast Asia." *World Development* 39(5): 851-862.
- Jones, Samantha. 2006. "A Political Ecology of Wildlife Conservation in Africa." *Review of African Political Economy*, Vol. 33, No. 109
- Hansen, M, Islar, M. & Krause, T. (2015). The Politics of Natural Resource Enclosure in South Africa and Ecuador. *Conservation and Society*, 13(3): 287-298
- Hansen, M.; Faran, T & O'Byrne, D (2015). The Best Laid Plans: Using the Capability Approach to Assess Neoliberal Conservation in South Africa—The Case of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. *Journal of Environment & Development*, Vol. 24(4) 395–417
- Hansen, M. (2013). New geographies of conservation and globalisation: the spatiality of development for conservation in the ISimangaliso Wetland Park, South Africa. *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 31:3, 481-502.
- Kamuti, T. (2014). The fractured state in the governance of private game farming: the case of KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa. *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 32:2, 190-206
- Kamuti, T. (2015). A Critique of the Green Economy: Approach in the Wildlife Ranching Sector in South Africa. *Africa Insight*, Vol 45 (1)
- Nustad, K.G and Sundnes, F. (2013). The nature of the land: the Dukuduku forest and the Mfolozi flats, KwaZulu-Natal. *Journal of Modern African Studies*. 51, 3: 487-506.

Seminar 8 – Questioning community conservation

In this seminar we discuss readings which question the degree to which communities feature in contemporary conservation practices. Research articles discuss the balance between community interests and those of the state or capital in various contexts. The differences in the interests of diverse stakeholders in conservation must be seen as a central political tension to its effectiveness.

Core Readings

Buscher, B and Dressler, W (2012). Commodity conservation: the restructuring of community conservation in South Africa and the Philippines. *Geoforum* 43: 367-376.

Nelson, F and Agrawal, A (2008). Patronage or participation? Community-based natural resource management reform in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Development and Change* 39, 4: 557-585.

Brooks, S & Ngubane, M (2013). Land beneficiaries as game farmers: conservation, land reform and the invention of the 'community game farm' in KwaZulu-Natal. *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 31:3, 399-420

Extra Readings

King, H.B (2007). Conservation and community in the new South Africa: a case study of the Mahushe Shongwe Game Reserve. *Geoforum*, 38: 207-219.

Metcalfe, S. and Kepe, T. (2008). "Your Elephant on Our Land" The Struggle to Manage Wildlife Mobility on Zambian Communal Land in the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area. *Journal of Environment and Development*, 17: 98-117.

Dressler, W & Buscher, B, (2008). Market triumphalism and the CBNRM 'crisis' at the South African section of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. *Geoforum*, 39, 452 – 465

Goldman, M. 2003. "Partitioned nature, privileged knowledge: Community-Based Conservation in Tanzania." *Development and Change*, Vol. 34, No.5, 833-862.

Agarwal, B. 2001. "Participatory exclusions, community forestry, and gender: An analysis for South Asia and a conceptual framework." *World Development*, 29(10), 1623–1648.

Agrawal, A. 2005. "Community, intimate government, and the making of environmental subjects in Kumaon India." *Current Anthropology*, 46 (2): 161-181.

Miraftab, F. 2004. Making neo-liberal governance: The disempowering work of empowerment." *International Planning Studies*, 9(4), 239–259.

Essay reflection 4

Drawing from the material covered this week, respond to the following article:

Carnie, T. 2017. Tough Choices for Kruger Op-Ed: Tough choices ahead for Kruger National Park DAILY MAVERICK.

To what extent are debates about changing forms of conservation represented in this article? What is your perspective on the changes and the direction conservation in places like Kruger and Hluhluwe-iMfolozi should take?

Week 5 – Climate Security and ecosystem services

This week we engage the securitisation of climate change through multi-lateral action and the criticisms of both the current levels of commitment, and the interventions and adaptation frameworks in place to combat climate change's adverse effects. In it we address readings on Multi-scalar environmental politics and governance, and discuss debates over climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the role of market environmentalism in securitising climate change.

Seminar 9 – Securitizing climate change

This seminar questions what it means to securitize climate change – to turn climate change into a security issue with attendant responses - and the kinds of implications that such initiatives might have.

Core Readings

- Liverman, D. Reading Climate Change and Climate Governance as Political Ecology - Diana Liverman. Handbook of Political Ecology, Chapter 23.
- Oels, A. From 'Securitization' of Climate Change to 'Climatization' of the Security Field: Comparing Three Theoretical Perspectives. In Climate Change, Human Security and Violent Conflict: Challenges for Societal Stability. By Hans Günter Brauch (ed) Hexagon Series on Human and Environmental Security and Peace Vol. 8.
- von Lucke, F., Wellmann, Z and Diez, T. 2014. What's at Stake in Securitising Climate Change? Towards a Differentiated Approach *Geopolitics*, 19 (4), 857-884
- Klein, N. Sharing the Sky, Chapter 12 in 'This changes Everything'. Available: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/true-north/2017/jul/17/neoliberalism-has-conned-us-into-fighting-climate-change-as-individuals>
- Luckaks, M. 2017. Neoliberalism has conned us into fighting climate change as Individuals. Available: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/true-north/2017/jul/17/neoliberalism-has-conned-us-into-fighting-climate-change-as-individuals>

Extra Readings.

- Prof. Fariborz Zelli (Lund University, Sweden): The institutional architecture of global climate politics: Regime complex or institutional fragmentation?
- Hawkins this is the most dangerous time in our planet.
- Angela Oels (Lund University, Sweden): The history of the international climate negotiations
- Leck and Roberts. Municipal climate change adaptation.
- Dalby, S. 2013. *Climate geopolitics: Securing the global economy*, presented at the Workshop on Political Economy, State Transformation and the New Security Agenda at Queen Mary University of London, 7–8 March 2013.

Dalby, S. 2015. *Framing the Anthropocene: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly*, presented to a panel on “planetary politics” at the Association of American Geographers, annual convention, Chicago April 2015.

Global Justice Ecology Project, 2016. A Successful Climate Summit, but no progress for Environmental Justice. Available: <http://globaljusticeecology.org/a-successful-climate-summit-but-no-progress-for-climate-justice/>

Seminar 10 – Market environmentalism and carbon trading

This set of readings revolves around instances of market environmentalism – the extension of market mechanisms and institutions into new areas of life and the governance of nature and the environment. Market environmentalism is premised on the idea that markets will be more ‘efficient’ in allocating environmental ‘goods’, like common pool resources, water and forest productions, and ‘bads’, like pollution, waste and CO2 emissions. This can include privatisation, deregulation, or even the creation of new markets. The social and ecological outcomes of these mechanisms, however, should be brought into question.

Arguably the exemplar of the logic of market environmentalism finds its expression in carbon markets and carbon trading. These relate to the valuation and trading of commodified ecosystem services, like water and forests, in global market places, in an attempt to secure environmental outcomes, or mitigate dangerous risks. Whole ranges of new actors and processes are applied to make these projects come about, with the crisis of climate change in particular a strong driver of ‘carbon forestry offset’ projects. The critical readings in this section however contest that not only is climate change a direct result of human agency, but that instead of changing our economic system to make it fit within the natural limits of the planet, carbon markets and carbon trading further entrench the political and economic system responsible for the problems in the first place.

Core Readings:

Cock, J (2007) *The War Against Ourselves: Nature, Power and Justice*. Johannesburg: WUP. Ch 5: 'Privatising Nature

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

Murat; Buscher, Bram. 2012. “Nature Inc.: Changes and continuities in Neoliberal Conservation and Market-based environmental policy.” *Development and Change*, **43**(1): 57-78).

McAfee, K. 2012. “The contradictory logic of global ecosystem services markets.” *Development and Change*, **43**(1): 105-31.

Recommended readings:

Robertson, Morgan M. 2004. The neoliberalization of ecosystem services: Wetland mitigation banking and problems in environmental governance. *Geoforum*, **35**: 361-373.

Osborne, T. 2013. “Fixing carbon, losing ground: Payments for environmental services and land (in)security in Mexico.” *Human Geography*, **6**(1): 119-133

Prof. Matthew Paterson (Ottawa University, Canada): The basics of carbon markets, an overview of carbon markets around the world

- Neo-Colonial Expansion in the Guise of Addressing Climate Change: The Problem With REDD+Monday, 30 November 2015 00:00 By Vijay Kolinjivadi, Speakout | Op-p ed 5
- Beymer-Farris, B.A., and T.J. Bassett. "The REDD menace: resurgent protectionism in Tanzania's mangrove forests." Special issue in *Global Environmental Change*, Adding insult to injury: climate change, social stratification, and the inequities of intervention, E. Marino and J. Ribot (eds.), 22 (2012): 332-341.
- Galvin, M. 2015. "Talking shit: is Community-Led Total Sanitation a radical and revolutionary approach to sanitation?" *WIRES Water*, 2:9–20.
- Narsiah, S. (2008). Discourses of privatisation: the case of South Africa's water sector. *Development Southern Africa*, 25(1), 21-35.
- Samson, M. 2007. "Privatizing collective public goods - Re-fracturing the public and re-segmenting labour markets. A case study of street cleaning in Johannesburg, South Africa," *Studies in Political Economy*, 79(Spring): 119-143.

Essay reflection 5

Comment on the blurring of the lines between the state and the market in the utilisation of ecosystems. Are these interventions reconciling the tensions we have with our use of the environment or further entrenching them?

The Umoja Project | A partnership between the Ushujaa Game Reserve, EcoSpect, and Savannah Capital Assets.

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/transformation/camila-moreno-lili-fuhr-daniel-speich-chass/beyond-paris-avoiding-trap-of-carbon-metr>

Or

Read over the climate change crisis narratives presented in the following article. What is the second article in Jacobin suggesting that the first article overlooks? What might it mean to correct the problem in reality? Refer to the other readings this week if need be.

- <http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2017/07/climate-change-earth-too-hot-for-humans.html>
- <https://jacobinmag.com/2017/07/climate-change-new-york-magazine-response>

Week 6 – Environmental justice and Conflict sensitive management

We conclude the course with two seminars which more explicitly discuss progressive responses to environmental conflict. Environmental justice approaches and social movements advocate 'environments for people, not profit' and the sustenance of global environmental commons, while conflict sensitive adaptation approaches favour sustainable peacebuilding.

Seminar 13 – Environmental Justice and Environmental movements

Sustainable environmental peacebuilding could be said to go hand in hand with environmental justice movements and non-violence and movements for social change. The readings in this seminar engage with environmental justice movements and the way they contest dominant conceptions of 'green economy' and environmental security.

In particular question over

This seminar contrasts attempts to adapt to climate change with contestations over climate justice. The former is arguable more practical and pragmatic, however there is so much at stake that we must ask what are the costs of not adopting radical responses to climate crisis, as climate justice activists often advocate. For some, however, climate change is increasingly seen as an 'inevitable' factor of life to be accommodated to as well as possible. With global attempts at mitigating climate change stalling, the debate between these two positions is an increasingly important factor of climate security.

Core Reading:

- Brockington, D. (2012) "A radically conservative vision? The challenge of UNEP's *Towards a Green Economy*", *Development and Change* 43(1): 409-422.
- Hallegatte, S. 2011. "From growth to green growth." *Policy Research Working Paper no 5872*. Washington: World Bank.
- Wallis, V. (2010) 'Beyond Green Capitalism'. *Monthly Review* 61(9): 32-47.
- Patel, Z. 2009. "Environmental Justice in South Africa: Tools and Tradeoffs." *Social Dynamics*, 35(1): 94-110.
- Death, C. 2014. "Environmental movements, climate change, and consumption in South Africa." [Environmental Movements, Climate Change, and Consumption in South Africa. Journal Of Southern African Studies](#) Vol. 40 (6).
- Wolford, W and Keene, S. Social Movements. Handbook of Political Ecology Chapter 44.
- Holifield, R. Environmental Justice and Political Ecology. Handbook of Political Ecology Chapter 45.

Recommended Reading

- Nixon, Rob. (2007). "Slow Violence, Gender, and the Environmentalism of the Poor." *Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies*, 13 14–37.
- Holifield, R. 2001. "Defining environmental justice and environmental racism." *Urban Geography*, 22(1): 78-90.
- Rogers, H. 2007. "Garbage capitalism's green commerce." *Socialist Register 2007: Coming to Terms with Nature*, volume 43: 231-253.
- Samson, M. 2016. "Old Trash, New Ideas: Reconceptualizing the Public in Waste Management." In D. McDonald (ed). *Making Public in a Privatized World: The Struggle for Essential Services*. London: Zed Books, pp. 41-58.
- Salleh, A and James Goodman. 2013. 'The Green Economy: Class Hegemony and Counter-Hegemony', *Globalizations*, Vol. 10, No. 3, 343-356.

Seminar 14 – Conflict sensitive adaptation

This seminar engages with Conflict-sensitive adaptation. This form of adaptation and management emphasises capacity building, and practical tools for adaptation in initiatives including livelihood and risks assessments to account for the specificities of different interests and needs with regards to prospective environmental change. By integrating concepts of vulnerability and resilience into planning on issues like food systems and global change these approaches can go some way to reframing crisis narratives and the interventions they support.

Core Readings

- Bob, U and Bronkhorst, S. 2010. Environmental conflicts: Key issues and management implications, ACCORD
- Soroos, M.S. 2004. Tools for Environmental Peacebuilders, *International Journal of Peace Studies*, 9 (2), 87-107.
- Khagram, S., Clark, W and Firas Raad, D. 2003. From the Environment and Human Security to Sustainable Security and Development *Journal of Human Development: A Multi-Disciplinary Journal for People-Centered Development* 4 (2), 289-313.
- Monbiot, G. Finally, a breakthrough alternative to growth economics – the doughnut <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/apr/12/doughnut-growth-economics-book-economic-model>
- Cote, M and Nightingale, A.J. 2012. Resilience thinking meets social theory: Situating social change in socio-ecological systems (SES) research, *Progress in Human Geography*, 36(4), 475–489.
- Cudworth, E and Hobden, S. 2011. Beyond environmental security: complex systems, multiple inequalities and environmental risks, *Environmental Politics*, 20(1), 42-59.
- Wenden, A.L. 2014. Greening peace and sustaining justice, *Journal of Peace Education*, 11 (3), 261- 266.
- Beymer-Farris, B., T.J. Bassett, and I. Bryceson. (2012). “Promises and pitfalls of adaptive management in resilience thinking: the lens of political ecology.” Chapter 15 in T. Plieninger and C. Bieling (eds.) *Resilience and the cultural landscape: understanding and managing change in human-shaped environments*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Magdoff, F & Foster, J.B. 2011. Can Capitalism go Green. Chapter 5 in. *What Every Environmentalist Needs to Know About Capitalism* New York: Monthly Review
- Beymer-Farris, B.A. (2013) “Rethinking resilience through a political ecology lens: producing biodiversity in Tanzania’s mangrove forests?” Chapter 10 in *Land change science, and political ecology and sustainability: synergies and divergences*, C. Brannstrom and J.M. Vadjunec (eds.). Oxford, UK: Earthscan Publications.

Cock, J. 2015. Alternative conceptions of a 'just transition' from fossil fuel capitalism. Sustainable Development, 03/2015 (http://www.rosalux.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/JCock-Futures-Commission-3_2015.pdf)

Discussion

Read the following articles and contrast their approaches to a better conservation future.

- Guardian. 2017. Reserves and parks not enough to protect nature – David Attenborough. Available: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/sep/03/david-attenborough-nature-conservation-wildlife>
- Buscher and Fletcher, 2017. Available: The Trump Moment in Environmental Conservation. Available: <https://entitleblog.org/2017/02/02/the-trump-moment-in-environmental-conservation/>