

Political Ecology Syllabus (MSc in Geography)

February 2022

Jevgeniy Bluwstein

Lecturer in Human Geography

University of Fribourg (CH)

jevgeniy.bluwstein@unifr.ch

* Required reading

Introduction	
<i>PE roots</i>	Political economy of environmental change and degradation
	Critical PE: Problematizing environmental science and expertise
<i>PE epistemologies</i>	Postcolonial, Gramscian & Poststructuralist PE: subjects & identities
	Feminist PE
	More-than-human/posthuman PE
	Decolonial PE
	Geopolitical Ecology
<i>PE themes</i>	Nature/biodiversity conservation and environmental governance
	Environmental/resource conflict, war and security
	Disasters, famines, resilience and vulnerability
	Social movements, labor environmentalism, & environmental justice
	Urban PE
	PE of agriculture
	PE of energy & low-carbon transitions
	Climate Crisis: PE of the Future
Doing PE	

Introduction

Robbins P. (2012) *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction. 2nd Edition*, West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell. (Chapters 1,3,4)

Bryant RL. (2001) Political Ecology. A critical agenda for change? In: Castree N and Braun B (eds) *Social Nature: Theory, practice, and politics*. Wiley-Blackwell, 151-169

Paulson S, Gezon LL and Watts M. (2003) Locating the political in political ecology: An introduction. *Human organization* 62: 205-217.

Walker PA. (2005) Political ecology: where is the ecology? *Progress in Human Geography* 29: 73-82.

Turner MD. (2015) Political ecology II: Engagements with ecology. *Progress in Human Geography*.

PE roots

Political economy of environmental change and degradation

- * Benjaminsen T. (2015) Political ecologies of environmental degradation and marginalization. In: Perreault T, Bridge G and McCarthy J (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*. Taylor & Francis, 354-365.
- * Blaikie P and Brookfield H. (1987) *Land degradation and society*, London: Methuen. (Chapter 1)
- Castree N. (2001) Marxism, Capitalism, and the Production of Nature. In: Castree N and Braun B (eds) *Social Nature: Theory, practice, and politics*. Wiley-Blackwell, 189-207.
- Forsyth T. (2008) Political ecology and the epistemology of social justice. *Geoforum* 39:756-764.
- Watts M. (1983) On the poverty of theory: natural hazards research in context. In: Hewitt K (ed) *Interpretations of calamity*. Allen & Unwin, 231-262.

Critical PE: Problematising environmental science and expertise

- * Fairhead J and Leach M. (1995) False Forest History, Complicit Social Analysis - Rethinking some West-African Environmental Narratives. *World Development* 23: 1023-1035.
- * Forsyth T. (2003) *Critical Political Ecology: The Politics of Environmental Science*: Routledge (Chapter 1 and 2)
- Benjaminsen TA, Reinert H, Sjaastad E, et al. (2015) Misreading the Arctic landscape: A political ecology of reindeer, carrying capacities, and overstocking in Finnmark, Norway. *Norsk Geografisk Tidsskrift - Norwegian Journal of Geography* 69:219-229.
- Brockington D and Homewood K. (2001) Degradation debates and data deficiencies: The Mkomazi Game Reserve, Tanzania. *Africa* 71: 449-480.
- Neimark B, Childs J, Nightingale AJ, et al. (2019) Speaking Power to “Post-Truth”: Critical Political Ecology and the New Authoritarianism AU - Neimark, Benjamin. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*: 1-11.

PE epistemologies

Postcolonial, Gramscian and Poststructuralist PE: subjects and identities

- * Li TM. (2000) Articulating Indigenous Identity in Indonesia: Resource Politics and the Tribal Slot. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 42: 149-179.
- * Valdivia G. (2015) Eco-governmentality. In: Perreault T, Bridge G and McCarthy J (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*. Taylor & Francis.
- Asher K and Ojeda D. (2009) Producing nature and making the state: Ordenamiento territorial in the Pacific lowlands of Colombia. *Geoforum* 40: 292-302.
- Mann G. (2009) Should political ecology be Marxist? A case for Gramsci's historical materialism. *Geoforum* 40: 335-344.
- Jakobsen J. (2022) Beyond subject-making: Conflicting humanisms, class analysis, and the “dark side” of Gramscian political ecology. *Progress in Human Geography*.
- Watts M. (2004) Resource curse? governmentality, oil and power in the Niger Delta, Nigeria. *Geopolitics* 9: 50-80.
- Willems-Braun B. (1997) Buried Epistemologies: The Politics of Nature in (Post)colonial British Columbia. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 87: 3-31.

Feminist PE

- * Mollett S and Faria C. (2013) Messing with gender in feminist political ecology. *Geoforum* 45: 116-125.
- * Moeckli J and Braun B. (2001) Gendered Natures: Feminism, Politics, and Social Nature. In: Castree N and Braun B (eds) *Social Nature: Theory, practice, and politics*. Wiley-Blackwell, 189-207.
- Ojeda D, Sasser JS and Lunstrum E. (2019) Malthus's specter and the anthropocene. *Gender, Place & Culture*: 1-17.
- Elmhirst R. (2011) Introducing new feminist political ecologies. *Geoforum* 42: 129-132.
- Rocheleau D. (1995) Maps, Numbers, Text, and Context: Mixing Methods in Feminist Political Ecology. *The Professional Geographer* 47: 458-466.

More-than-human/posthuman PE

- * Margulies JD and Karanth KK. (2018) The production of human-wildlife conflict: A political animal geography of encounter. *Geoforum* 95: 153-164.
- * Lave R. (2015) Reassembling the structural. Political ecology and actor-network theory. In: Perreault T, Bridge G and McCarthy J (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*. 1st ed. New York: Routledge.
- Barua M. (2019) Animating capital: Work, commodities, circulation. *Progress in Human Geography* 43: 650-669
- Battistoni A. (2017) Bringing in the Work of Nature: From Natural Capital to Hybrid Labor. *Political Theory* 45: 5-31.
- Büscher B. (2021) The nonhuman turn: Critical reflections on alienation, entanglement and nature under capitalism. *Dialogues in Human Geography*.
- Greco E. (2022) Engaging with the non-human turn: A response to Büscher 2021. *Dialogues in Human Geography*.
- Chagani F. (2014) Critical political ecology and the seductions of posthumanism. *Journal of Political Ecology* 21: 424-436.
- Hobson K. (2007) Political animals? On animals as subjects in an enlarged political geography. *Political Geography* 26: 250-267.
- Kallis G and Swyngedouw E. (2018) Do Bees Produce Value? A Conversation Between an Ecological Economist and a Marxist Geographer. *Capitalism Nature Socialism* 29: 36-50.

Decolonial PE

- * Whyte K. (2018) Settler colonialism, ecology, and environmental injustice. *Environment and Society* 9: 125-144.
- * Loftus A. (2018) Political ecology I: Where is political ecology? *Progress in Human Geography*
- Bluwstein J. (2021) Colonizing landscapes/landscaping colonies: from a global history of landscapism to the contemporary landscape approach in nature conservation. *Journal of Political Ecology* 28.
- Chandler D and Reid J. (2020) Becoming Indigenous: the 'speculative turn' in anthropology and the (re)colonisation of indigeneity. *Postcolonial Studies*: 1-20.
- Leff E. (2012) Political ecology - a Latin American perspective, in culture, civilization and human society. *Encyclopedia of life support systems (EOLSS)*. Oxford, UK: Eolss Publishers.
- Schulz KA. (2017) Decolonizing political ecology: ontology, technology and 'critical' enchantment. *Journal of Political Ecology* 24: 125-143.
- Sundberg J. (2014) Decolonizing posthumanist geographies. *Cultural Geographies* 21: 33-47.
- Todd Z. (2016) An Indigenous Feminist's Take On The Ontological Turn: 'Ontology' Is Just Another Word For Colonialism. *Journal of Historical Sociology* 29: 4-22.

Geopolitical ecology

- * O'Lear S. (2018) *Environmental geopolitics*: Rowman & Littlefield. (Introduction chapter)
- * Bigger P and Neimark BD. (2017) Weaponizing nature: The geopolitical ecology of the US Navy's biofuel program. *Political Geography* 60: 13-22.
- Dalby S. (2013) The geopolitics of climate change. *Political Geography* 37: 38-47
- Labban M. (2011) The geopolitics of energy security and the war on terror: the case for market expansion and the militarization of global space. In: Peet R, Robbins P and Watts M (eds) *Global Political Ecology*. London, New York: Routledge, 325-344.
- Massé F and Margulies JD. (2020) The geopolitical ecology of conservation: The emergence of illegal wildlife trade as national security interest and the re-shaping of US foreign conservation assistance. *World Development* 132.

PE themes

Nature/biodiversity conservation and environmental governance

- * Fletcher R, Dressler W and Büscher B. (2015) Nature Inc: nature as neoliberal capitalist imaginary. In: Bryant RL (ed) *The international handbook of political ecology*. Edward Elgar Publishing, 359-372.
- * Brock A. (2020) Securing accumulation by restoration – Exploring spectacular corporate conservation, coal mining and biodiversity compensation in the German Rhineland. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*.
- Adams WM and Hutton J. (2007) People, Parks and Poverty: Political Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation. *Conservation & Society* 5: 147-183.
- Biermann C and Anderson RM. (2017) Conservation, biopolitics, and the governance of life and death. *Geography Compass* 11.
- Bluwstein J. (2018) From colonial fortresses to neoliberal landscapes in Northern Tanzania: a biopolitical ecology of wildlife conservation. *Journal of Political Ecology* 25: 144-168.
- Bakker K. (2009) Neoliberal Nature, Ecological Fixes, and the Pitfalls of Comparative Research. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space* 41: 1781-1787.
- Castree N. (2009) Researching Neoliberal Environmental Governance: A Reply to Karen Bakker. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space* 41: 1788-1794.
- Igoe J and Brockington D. (2007) Neoliberal Conservation: A Brief Introduction. *Conservation & Society* 5: 432-449.
- Lansing D, Collard R-C, Dempsey J, et al. (2015) Nature Inc.: environmental conservation in a neoliberal age. *Environment and Planning A* 47: 2389-2408.
- Neumann RP. (2004) Nature-State-Territory. Towards a critical theorization of conservation enclosures. In: Peet R and Watts M (eds) *Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development and Social Movements*. Routledge.
- West P, Igoe J and Brockington D. (2006) Parks and Peoples: The Social Impact of Protected Areas. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 35: 251-277.

Environmental/resource conflict, war and security

- * Peluso NL and Watts M. (2001) *Violent Environments*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press. (Chapter 1)
- * Homer-Dixon TF, Peluso N and Watts M. (2003) Exchange on Violent Environments. *ECSP*: 89-96.
- Benjaminsen TA, Alinon K, Buhaug H, et al. (2012) Does climate change drive land-use conflicts in the Sahel? *Journal of Peace Research* 49: 97-111.
- Duffy R. (2016) War, by Conservation. *Geoforum* 69: 238-248.
- Le Billon P. (2001) The political ecology of war: natural resources and armed conflicts. *Political Geography* 20: 561-584.

- Massé F and Lunstrum E. (2016) Accumulation by securitization: Commercial poaching, neoliberal conservation, and the creation of new wildlife frontiers. *Geoforum* 69
- Peluso NL and Vandergeest P. (2011) Political Ecologies of War and Forests: Counterinsurgencies and the Making of National Natures. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 101: 587-608.

Disasters, famines, resilience and vulnerability

- * Pelling M. (2001) Natural Disasters? In: Castree N and Braun B (eds) *Social Nature: Theory, practice, and politics*. Wiley-Blackwell, 170-188.
 - * Jarosz L. (2015) Contesting hunger discourses. In: Bryant RL (ed) *The international handbook of political ecology*. Edward Elgar Publishing, 305-317.
- Ribot JC. (2011) Vulnerability before adaptation: Toward transformative climate action. *Global Environmental Change* 21: 1160-1162.
- Turner MD. (2014) Political ecology I: An alliance with resilience? *Progress in Human Geography* 38: 616-623.
- Watts MJ and Bohle HG. (1993) The space of vulnerability: the causal structure of hunger and famine. *Progress in Human Geography* 17: 43-67.
- Wisner B, Blaikie P, Cannon T, et al. (2004) At risk: natural hazards, people's vulnerability and disasters: Routledge. (Chapter 1)

Social movements, labor environmentalism, and environmental justice

- * Agyeman J, Schlosberg D, Craven L, et al. (2016) Trends and Directions in Environmental Justice: From Inequity to Everyday Life, Community, and Just Sustainabilities. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 41: 321-340.
 - * Wolford W and Keene S. (2015) Social movements. In: Perreault T, Bridge G and McCarthy J (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*. Taylor & Francis, 573-584.
- Barca S. (2017) Labour and the ecological crisis: The eco-modernist dilemma in western Marxism(s) (1970s-2000s). *Geoforum*.
- Di Chiro G. (2008) Living environmentalisms: coalition politics, social reproduction, and environmental justice. *Environmental Politics* 17: 276-298.
- Schlosberg D and Collins LB. (2014) From environmental to climate justice: climate change and the discourse of environmental justice. *WIREs Climate Change* 5: 359-374.
- Scheidel A, Temper L, Demaria F, et al. (2018) Ecological distribution conflicts as forces for sustainability: an overview and conceptual framework. *Sustainability Science* 13
- Swyngedouw E. (2014) Where is the political? Insurgent mobilisations and the incipient “return of the political”. *Space and Polity* 18: 122-136.

Urban PE

- * Apostolopoulou E and Kotsila P. (2021) Community gardening in Hellinikon as a resistance struggle against neoliberal urbanism: spatial autogestion and the right to the city in post-crisis Athens, Greece. *Urban Geography*: 1-27.
 - * Swyngedouw E. (2015) Urbanization and environmental futures. Politicizing urban political ecologies. In: Perreault T, Bridge G and McCarthy J (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*. Taylor & Francis, 609-619.
- Christophers B. (2018) Risk capital: Urban political ecology and entanglements of financial and environmental risk in Washington, D.C. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space* 1: 144-164.
- Swyngedouw E and Heynen NC. (2003) Urban political ecology, justice and the politics of scale. *Antipode* 35: 898-918.
- Tzaninis Y, Mandler T, Kaika M, et al. (2021) Moving urban political ecology beyond the ‘urbanization of nature’. *Progress in Human Geography* 45: 229-252.

PE of agriculture

- * Hall D. (2015) The political ecology of international agri-food systems. In: Perreault T, Bridge G and McCarthy J (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*. Taylor & Francis, 406-417.
- * Agyeman J and McEntee J. (2014) Moving the Field of Food Justice Forward Through the Lens of Urban Political Ecology. *Geography Compass* 8: 211-220.
- Blanchette A. (2015) Herding Species: Biosecurity, Posthuman Labor, and the American Industrial Pig. *Cultural Anthropology* 30: 640-669.
- Emel J and Neo H. (2011) Killing for profit: global livestock industries and their socio-ecological implications In: Peet R, Robbins P and Watts M (eds) *Global Political Ecology*. London, New York: Routledge, 67-83.
- Fischer K, Jakobsen J and Westengen OT. (2021) The political ecology of crops: From seed to state and capital. *Geoforum*.
- Mitchell D. (2007) Work, struggle, death, and geographies of justice: The transformation of landscape in and beyond California's imperial valley. *Landscape Research* 32: 559-577.
- Moore JW. (2010) The End of the Road? Agricultural Revolutions in the Capitalist World-Ecology, 1450–2010. *Journal of Agrarian Change* 10: 389-413.
- Patel R. (2013) The Long Green Revolution. *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 40: 1-63.

PE of energy & low-carbon transitions

- * Carton W. (2019) “Fixing” Climate Change by Mortgaging the Future: Negative Emissions, Spatiotemporal Fixes, and the Political Economy of Delay. *Antipode* 51: 750-769.
- * Huber M. (2015) Energy and social power: from political ecology to the ecology of politics. In: Perreault T, Bridge G and McCarthy J (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*. Taylor & Francis, 481-492.
- Brock A, Sovacool BK and Hook A. (2021) Volatile Photovoltaics: Green Industrialization, Sacrifice Zones, and the Political Ecology of Solar Energy in Germany. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*: 1-23.
- Bumpus AG and Liverman D. (2008) Accumulation by Decarbonization and the Governance of Carbon Offsets. *Economic Geography* 84: 127-155.
- Cederlöf G. (2021) Out of steam: Energy, materiality, and political ecology. *Progress in Human Geography* 45: 70-87.
- Daggett C. (2018) Petro-masculinity: Fossil Fuels and Authoritarian Desire. *Millennium* 47: 25-44.
- McCarthy J. (2015) A socioecological fix to capitalist crisis and climate change? The possibilities and limits of renewable energy. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space* 47: 2485-2502.

Climate Crisis: PE of the Future

- * Rice JL, Long J and Levenda A. (2021) Against climate apartheid: Confronting the persistent legacies of expendability for climate justice. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*
- * Bluwstein J. (2021) Transformation is not a metaphor. *Political Geography*: 102450.
- Andreucci D and Zografos C. (2022) Between improvement and sacrifice: Othering and the (bio)political ecology of climate change. *Political Geography* 92: 102512.
- Braun B. (2015b) Futures: Imagining Socioecological Transformation—An Introduction. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 105: 239-243.
- Robbins P. (2019) Is less more ... or is more less? Scaling the political ecologies of the future. *Political Geography*.
- Gómez-Baggethun E. (2020) More is more: Scaling political ecology within limits to growth. *Political Geography* 76: 102095.

- Kallis G. (2021) Limits, ecomodernism and degrowth. *Political Geography*: 102367.
- Hickel J. (2021) The anti-colonial politics of degrowth. *Political Geography*: 102404.
- Huber MT. (2021) The case for socialist modernism. *Political Geography* 87: 102352.
- Blumenfeld J. (2022) Climate barbarism: Adapting to a wrong world. *Constellations* n/a.
- McCarthy J, Perreault T and Bridge G. (2015) Editors' conclusion. In: Perreault T, Bridge G and McCarthy J (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*. Taylor & Francis, 620-629.
- Thomas KA and Warner BP. (2019) Weaponizing vulnerability to climate change. *Global Environmental Change* 57: 101928.

Doing PE

- Braun B. (2015) From Critique to Experiment? Rethinking political ecology for the Anthropocene. In: Perreault T, Bridge G and McCarthy J (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*. Taylor & Francis, 102-114.
- Doolittle A. (2015) The best of many worlds: methodological pluralism in political ecology. In: Bryant RL (ed) *The international handbook of political ecology*. Edward Elgar Publishing, 515-529.
- Turner M. (2015a) Integrating politics and ecology through mixed methods. In: Bryant RL (ed) *The international handbook of political ecology*. Edward Elgar Publishing, 530-544.
- Wesner A, Moore SS, Martin JV, et al. (2019) Left Coast Political Ecology: a manifesto. *Journal of Political Ecology* 26: 529-544.