



INSTITUT
BARCELONA
ESTUDIS
INTERNACIONALS

SUMMER SCHOOL IN GLOBAL POLITICS, DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY 2017

The Political Ecology of Development

Instructor: Prof. Giorgos Kallis (ICREA-Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Dr. Diego Andreucci (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Date: June 26 - 30

Time: 4.30 pm - 6.30 pm

Room: 24.224 - Mercè Rodoreda Building 24 (Floor 2)

The course is an examination of the Political Ecology of Development. We will look at the interdisciplinary field of Political Ecology, the study of ecological distribution conflicts and the ways in which power affects access over resources as well as opportunities for human-centred development. Drawing from a range of approaches in Political Ecology—particularly, ecological economics, post-structuralism and neo-Marxism—we will introduce and discuss key concepts and theoretical frameworks that underlie the contemporary critique of development and growth. We will then explore these issues through analysing two empirical case studies of struggles around development and natural resource extraction in Latin America. First, drawing insights from the case of neoliberal ‘extractivism’ in Peru, we will discuss how Michel Foucault’s notions of ‘biopolitics’ and ‘governmentality’ can help us to uncover the discursive mechanisms mobilised by governments and international institutions to de-politicise development and legitimise the violence necessary to sustain it. Second, by looking at the case of Bolivia under the leftist government of Evo Morales, we will reflect on the contradictions of extraction-based development in its progressive variant, and on the challenges involved in overcoming this model. Finally, we will discuss the impossibility theorem of making growth-based development compatible with environmental sustainability, and explore alternatives to economic growth.

Session 1. Introduction to Political Ecology (Giorgos Kallis)

This class introduces what Political Ecology is, distinguishing it from other related fields, and presenting its core theses, intellectual origins and evolution.

Required reading:

Robbins, P. 2004. What is Political Ecology? The hatchet and the seed. Chapter 1 in Political Ecology, Blackwell.

Martinez-Alier, J. 2009. Social metabolism, ecological distribution conflicts, and languages of valuation. *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, 20 (1): 58-87.

Further reading:

Watts, M. and Peet, R., 2004. Liberating political ecology. In Watts and Peet (eds). Liberation ecologies: Environment, development, social movements, pp.3-43. Routledge.

Bryant, Raymond L., and Sinead Bailey. Introduction and Chapter 1. Third world political ecology. Psychology Press, 1997.

Session 2. Nature, development and dispossession (Diego Andreucci)

Review of key concepts from Marxist political ecology approaches to development, with a focus on resource extraction as a form of 'dispossession'.

Required reading:

Peet, R. and Hartwick, H., 2015. "Marxism, socialism and development", in Theories of development: Contentions, arguments, alternatives. New York, The Guildford Press (chapter 5, especially pp. 183-204).

Harvey, D. 2003. "Accumulation by dispossession", in The New Imperialism. Oxford University Press (chapter 4).

Perreault, T., 2013. Dispossession by Accumulation? Mining, Water and the Nature of Enclosure on the Bolivian Altiplano. *Antipode* 45, 5: 1050-69.

Further reading:

Castree, N., 2015, "Capitalism and the Marxist critique of political ecology", in The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology, edited by Tom Perreault, Gavin Bridge, and James McCarthy. New York, Routledge. Pp. 279-292.

Smith, N., 2009, Nature as accumulation strategy. *Socialist register*, 43.

Session 3. Violence, resource extraction and 'eco-governmentality': the case of Peru (Diego Andreucci)

Exploration of post-structural approaches, through the analysis of green discourses of the World Bank versus the violent practices of the Peruvian government in the Amazon, justified in the name of national 'development'.

Required reading:

Foucault, M. 2007. Security, territory, population: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1977-78. New York, Palgrave Macmillan (chapter 4, pp. 87-114).

Goldman, M. 2004. "Eco-governmentality and other transnational practices of a 'green' World Bank". In, Peet, R. and Watts, M. Liberation Ecologies (chapter 6, pp. 153-178).

Andreucci, D. and Kallis, G. 2017. Governmentality, Development and the Violence of Natural Resource Extraction in Peru. *Ecological Economics*, 134, pp. 95-103.

Further reading:

Foucault, M., 2003. Society must be defended: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1975-76. Penguin, London. (Chapter 11).

Murray Li, T., 2007. The Will to Improve: Governmentality, Development, and the Practice of Politics. Durham, Duke University Press.

Watts, M., 2004. Resource Curse? Governmentality, Oil and Power in the Niger Delta, Nigeria. *Geopolitics*, 9, 1, pp. 50-80. doi:10.1080/14650040412331307832.

Session 4. Extractivism, populism and the left-turn in Latin America: the case of Bolivia (Diego Andreucci)

Draws on the ideas of Antonio Gramsci to analyse recent political, economic and ecological changes in Latin America. Discussion of the limitations faced in attempts to move beyond extraction-based development.

Required reading:

Ekers, M., Gillian Hart, Stefan Kipfer, and Alex Loftus, eds. 2012. Gramsci: Space, Nature, Politics. Malden, John Wiley & Sons (chapter 1, pp. 15-43).

Karriem, A. 2009. The Rise and Transformation of the Brazilian Landless Movement into a Counter-Hegemonic Political Actor: A Gramscian Analysis. *Geoforum*, 40, 3, pp. 316-25. doi:10.1016/j.geoforum.2008.10.005.

Andreucci, D. (forthcoming) Populism, Hegemony and the Politics of Natural Resource Extraction in Evo Morales's Bolivia. *Antipode*.

Further reading:

Simon, R., 1991. Gramsci's political thought: An introduction. Lawrence & Wishart, London.

D'Alisa, G. and Giorgos Kallis, 2016. A Political Ecology of Maladaptation: Insights from a Gramscian Theory of the State. *Global Environmental Change*, 38, pp. 230-42. doi:10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2016.03.006.

Andreucci, D., and Isabella M. Radhuber. 2015. Limits to 'counter-neoliberal' reform: Mining expansion and the marginalisation of post-extractivist forces in Evo Morales's Bolivia." *Geoforum*. doi:10.1016/j.geoforum.2015.09.002.

Session 5. Growth vs. the environment. The degrowth hypothesis (Giorgos Kallis)

The impossibility and undesirability of perpetual economic growth and the attempt to rethink human wellbeing beyond growth-based development.

Required reading:

Kallis, G., D'Alisa, G., Demaria, F. 2014. Degrowth. In D'Alisa, Kallis, Demaria (eds) *Degrowth: a vocabulary for a new era*. Routledge.

Kallis, G. and March, H., 2015. Imaginaries of hope: The utopianism of degrowth. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 105(2), pp.360-368.

Escobar, A., 2015. Degrowth, postdevelopment, and transitions: a preliminary conversation. *Sustainability Science*, 10(3), pp.451-462.

Further reading:

Latouche, S., 1996. *The westernizing of the world*. Cambridge: Polity Press

Fournier, V., 2008. Escaping from the economy: the politics of degrowth. *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 28(11/12), pp.528-545.