



SUMMER SCHOOL IN GLOBAL POLITICS, DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY 2019

The Political Ecology of Development

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Date: June 25 - 28

Time: 3.00 pm - 5.30 pm

Room: 24.133 Fred Halliday - Mercè Rodoreda Building 24 (Floor 1)

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.

Session 1. Introduction to Political Ecology: Ecological Distribution conflicts

This class introduces what Political Ecology is, distinguishing it from other related fields. It explains how political ecologists study ecological distribution conflicts, that is conflicts over the distribution of environmental goods and bads. We focus on core analytical categories, such as social metabolism, languages of valuation, cost-shifting and environmental justice.

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:

Heynen N. C., Kaika M., and Swyngedouw E., 2006. Urban political ecology: Politicizing the production of urban natures. In Heynen N. C., Kaika M., and Swyngedouw E. (eds), *In the Nature of Cities: Urban Political Ecology and the Politics of Urban Metabolism*. Routledge, Oxford, pp. 1-20

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.

Demaria, F., 2010. Shipbreaking at Alang-Sosiya (India): an ecological distribution conflict. *Ecological Economics*, 70(2): 250-260.

Session 2. Construction of nature

Here we focus on post-structuralist approaches to political ecology and approach environmental conflicts as 'truth wars' and conflicts over whose knowledge counts.

Required reading:

Robbins, P., 2004. Challenges in Social Construction. Chapter 6 in *Political Ecology*, Blackwell (2nd edition).

Sletto B, 2008, The Knowledge that Counts: Institutional Identities, Policy Science, and the Conflict Over Fire Management in the Gran Sabana, Venezuela. *World Development*, 36 (10) 1938-1955.

Further reading:

Foucault, M. Governmentality. From *The Foucault effect: studies in governmentality*.

Bryant, R.L., 2002. Non-governmental Organizations and Governmentality: 'Consuming' Biodiversity and Indigenous People in the Philippines, *Political Studies*, 50(2): 268-292.

Session 3. Accumulation by dispossession and the enclosure of the commons

This class focuses on (neo) Marxist theories of environmental change, and the way conflicts over access to resources are conflicts related to the enclosure of the commons.

Required reading:

Perelman, M. 2007. Primitive Accumulation from Feudalism to Neoliberalism. *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism*, 18 (2): 44-61

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

Further reading:

Prudham, S., 2007. The fictions of autonomous invention: accumulation by dispossession, commodification, and life patents in Canada, *Antipode* 39(3): 406-429.

Johnson, L. 2012. The fearful symmetry of Arctic climate change: accumulation by degradation, *Environment and Planning D*.

Session 4. Post-development and degrowth

Here we look at how political ecologists have critiqued the development process and discuss a recent discourse on degrowth, which claims that environmental sustainability is not compatible with continuous economic growth. The class will focus also on alternative models that rethink human wellbeing beyond growth-based development.

Required reading

Escobar, A. *Encountering Development*. Chapters 1 and 2. Princeton University Press

Kallis, G. *Degrowth*, chapters 1 and 4. Newcastle: Agenda Publishing

Further reading:

Kallis, G. *Degrowth*, chapters 2, 3 and 5. Newcastle: Agenda Publishing

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.

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.