

## **Seminar in Political Ecology**

Anthropology 277  
University of California, Riverside  
Fall 2010  
Watkins 1347  
Wednesday, 5:10 PM-8:00 PM

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Office hours: Wednesday 3-4 PM

### **Course Overview**

Since the 1980s, the field of political ecology has emerged in geography and anthropology from the intersection of political economy and cultural ecology. While generally maintaining these theoretical groundings, recent scholarship in political ecology has drawn upon a range of fields: environmental history, phenomenology, postcolonial and poststructuralist theory, governmentality studies, science and technology studies, and neo-institutional economics, among others.

For fall 2010, the course focuses on the relationships between political and economic policies of neoliberalization on one hand, and changes in conservation policy and practice on the other. Over the past thirty years, neoliberal policies aimed at downsizing the state, empowering "civil society," privatizing and commercializing state and public resources, and facilitating investment, have spread worldwide, reshaping human relations to the environment in the process. Concurrently, the proportion of the earth's land designated as protected areas (parks, nature reserves, etc.) has expanded dramatically, even as conservation policy and practice have shifted from exclusionary "fortress conservation," to community-based/joint management approaches, to more recent efforts to create trans-boundary multi-national protected areas and to take "rights-based" approaches to conservation.

The course interrogates the interconnections between these transformations in political economy, on one hand, and conservation, on the other, drawing upon diverse theoretical perspectives and ethnographic approaches. The questions we will ask include what is "neo" about neoliberalism, and what are its implications for the use, protection and commercialization of natural resources? How do people come to care about "nature" and participate in projects of environmental conservation? How has conservation articulated with and challenged processes of capitalist accumulation, governmental regulation (and/or deregulation and reregulation), and the formation and transformation of civil society in its various guises (non-governmental organizations, indigenous communities, consumer movements, etc.)?

### **Requirements**

This class will be run as a graduate-level reading-intensive research seminar. Preparation for class discussion by careful reading of the week's readings is required. This seminar relies upon the participants' capacity to participate in a fruitful discussion in the seminar meeting. This means that each student should be familiar with the central arguments of the required readings,

and be able to develop thoughts on the connections/disconnections in the larger body of readings for the week and across the term.

Additionally, each student will be expected to:

i) Prepare a one page *critical commentary* on the week's readings to be circulated electronically by 10 AM on Tuesday. For each week, the syllabus includes several "preliminary questions" which may be useful; these are often deliberately vague or ambiguous, and are meant only as a starting point.

ii) *Lead/chair at least one class discussion.* (The exact number will depend on the number of students in the class). This involves three things: 1) a short (10-minute) presentation of the key arguments made in the readings pertaining to that week; 2) using other materials to locate them in one or more debates or to show something of their intellectual genealogy; 3) leading the class discussion on the readings. Again, the presentation should be no more than ten minutes.

iii) Submit a paper or research proposal of 15-20 pages, no later than Wednesday, December 8th. Papers or proposals should use some of the readings from the class (probably in theoretical or context sections) and should not be the same as papers or proposals submitted for other classes or program requirements.

iv) Give a presentation of no more than 15 minutes on the paper / proposal in week 8, 9 or 10 of the course.

*Auditors:* Auditors are welcome in this class on two conditions: they need to come to most (preferably all) of the classes and they should be prepared to do all the readings and fulfill qualification (i) above, i.e. prepare a weekly commentary. Auditors can add a great deal to the discussion in the class but only if they prepare in the same way as students taking the class for credit.

*Grading:*

Participation (including commentaries and discussion leading): 45%

Paper / proposal: 45%

Presentation: 10%

## **Required Texts**

The following books are required for the course:

Braun, B.

2002. *The Intemperate Rainforest: Nature, Culture, and Power on Canada's West Coast.* University of Minnesota Press.

Brockington, D.

2009 *Celebrity and the Environment: Fame, Wealth and Power in Conservation.* London: Zed Books.

Heynen, N., McCarthy, J., Prudham, S., and Robbins, P., eds.

2007 *Neoliberal environments: false promises and unnatural consequences.* London: Routledge.

Hughes, D. M.

2010. *Whiteness in Zimbabwe: Race, Landscape, and the Problem of Belonging*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Jacoby, K.  
2003 *Crimes Against Nature: Squatters, Poachers, Thieves, and the Hidden History of American Conservation*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Neumann, R. P.  
1998 *Imposing Wilderness: Struggles over Livelihood and Nature Preservation in Africa*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- West, P.  
2006. *Conservation Is Our Government Now: The Politics of Ecology in Papua New Guinea*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Besides these books, there will be several articles and/or book chapters assigned most weeks, distributed via iLearn.

### **Optional Text**

Robbins, P. 2004. *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. London: Blackwell Publishers.

Robbins and/or other background readings listed below will be helpful for students without a background in environmental anthropology, geography and/or social theory. Additional optional texts are provided for each week of the course.

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/anthropology/courses/postgrad/SE831/outline.pdf> - syllabus for Raj Puri's graduate seminar in Environmental Anthropology at the University of Kent with an extensive and current bibliography.

Anderson, E. N. 2004. *An Introduction to Cultural Ecology*. Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press.

Moran, E. F. 2006. *People and nature: an introduction to human ecological relations*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Vayda, A. P. and Walters, B. B. 1999. Against Political Ecology. *Human Ecology* 27(1):167--179.

Bryant, R. L. 1992. Political Ecology: An Emerging Research Agenda in Third-World Studies. *Political Geography* 11(1):12--36.

Escobar, A., Berglund, E., Brosius, P., Cleveland, D. A., Hill, J. D., Hodgson, D. L., Leff, E., Milton, K., Rocheleau, D. E., and Stonich, S. C. 1999. After Nature: Steps to an Antiessentialist Political Ecology [and Comments and Replies]. *Current Anthropology* 40(1): 1--30.

## **Class Schedule**

### **Week One - September 28**

Introduction: Political Ecology and Neoliberal Conservation

Paulson, S., Gezon, L. L., and Watts, M.

2003 Locating the political in political ecology. *Human Organization* 62(3):205-217.

Jones, S.

2008 Political Ecology and Land Degradation: How Does the Land Lie 21 Years after  
Blaikie and Brookfield's *Land Degradation and Society*? *Geography Compass* 2(3):  
671-694.

Igoe, J. and Brockington, D.

2007 Neoliberal Conservation: A Brief Introduction. *Conservation and Society* 5(4):  
432--449.

### **Week Two - October 5**

The Origins of Modern Conservation

Jacoby, K.

2003 *Crimes Against Nature: Squatters, Poachers, Thieves, and the Hidden History of American  
Conservation*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Strong, D. H.

1981 Preservation Efforts at Lake Tahoe 1880 to 1980. *Journal of Forest History* 25(2):  
78-97.

Schelhas, J.

2002 The USA national parks in international perspective: have we learned the wrong  
lesson?. *Environmental Conservation* 28(04):300--304.

optional readings:

Thompson, E. P.

1976 *Whigs and Hunters: the Origins of the Black Act*. Pantheon.

Linebaugh, P.

1976 Karl Marx, the theft of wood and working class composition: A contribution to  
the current debate. *Crime and Social Justice* Fall/Winter:5-16.

Marx, K.

*Capital*, chapter 26, "The Secret of Primitive Accumulation," and chapter 27,  
"The Expropriation of the Agricultural Population from the Land."

Preliminary Questions:

- how do the origins of the parks movement relate to capitalism, class, and pre-capitalist social formations?
- how do place and space shape the politics of conservation?
- what theoretical approaches might help us understand the creation of parks and the origins of conservation?

### **Week Three - October 12**

#### Colonialism and Conservation

Neumann, R. P.

1998 *Imposing Wilderness: Struggles over Livelihood and Nature Preservation in Africa*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Igoe, J.

2004 "A Clash of Two Conservation Models," from *Conservation and globalization : a study of the national parks and indigenous communities from East Africa to South Dakota*. Belmont, CA, USA: Thomson/Wadsworth.

Vandergest, P. and Peluso, N. L.

1995 Territorialization and state power in Thailand. *Theory and Society* 24(3):385--426.

optional readings:

Williams, R.

1975 *The Country and the City*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, USA.

Scott, J. C.

1976 *The moral economy of the peasant : rebellion and subsistence in Southeast Asia*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Peluso, N.

1992 *Rich Forests, Poor People: Resource Control and Resistance in Java*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Carruthers, J.

1995 *The Kruger National Park: A Social and Political History*. Durban: University of Natal Press.

West, P., Igoe, J., and Brockington, D.

2006 Parks and Peoples: The Social Impact of Protected Areas. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 35:251-277.

Preliminary Questions:

- what is territorialization, and how does it differ from and transform other modes of rule?
- what are the connections between East African and U.S. conservation?
- how has conservation impacted the livelihoods of East African cultivators and pastoralists?

## **Week Four - October 19**

### Environmentalism and the Politics of Representation

Hughes, D. M. D.

- 2005 Third nature: making space and time in the Great Limpopo Conservation Area. *Cultural Anthropology* 20(2):157--184.

Braun, B.

- 2002 *The Intemperate Rainforest: Nature, Culture, and Power on Canada's West Coast*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

optional readings:

Foucault, M.

- 1984 Nietzsche, genealogy, history. In *The Foucault Reader*, pp. 76--100. Pantheon Books.

Latour, B.

- 1987 *Science in Action: How to Follow Scientists and Engineers through Society*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Cronon, W.

- 1996 The trouble with wilderness: or, getting back to the wrong nature. *Environmental History* 1(1):7--28.

Smith, N.

- 2008 [1984] *Uneven Development: Nature, Capital, and the Production of Space*. University of Georgia Press.

Preliminary Questions:

- what is third nature?
- how do the lenses of science studies, postcolonial theory, and/or poststructuralism transform political ecological analysis?
- what *is* the temperate rainforest?

## **Week Five - October 26**

### **“Roll-Back” Neoliberalism and The Environment: Commodification, Privatization and Deregulation**

Polanyi, K.

1944 The Self-regulating Market and the Fictitious Commodities: Labor, Land, and Money, in *The Great Transformation: the Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Braun, B.

2000 Producing vertical territory: geology and governmentality in late Victorian Canada. *Ecumene* 7(1):7-46.

Heynen, N., McCarthy, J., Prudham, S., and Robbins, P., eds.

2007 *Neoliberal environments: false promises and unnatural consequences*. Introduction, chapters 1, 3-9, 12. London: Routledge.

Huber, M. “Fossilized Subjectivities: Petro-Privatism, Neoliberalism, and Entrepreneurial Life” (unpublished ms.)

#### Optional Readings:

Harvey, D.

2005 *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

2005 *The New Imperialism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Foucault, M.

2008 *The Birth of Biopolitics: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1978-1979*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.

Sawyer, S.

2004 *Crude Chronicles: Indigenous Politics, Multinational Oil, and Neoliberalism in Ecuador*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Ferguson, J.

2006 Governing Extraction: New Spatializations of Order and Disorder in Neoliberal Africa. In *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

#### Preliminary Questions:

- what is neoliberalism and how can we recognize it?
- how have anthropologists and geographers understood neoliberalism’s effects on the environment?
- how might neoliberal conservation resemble or differ from the neoliberalization of extractive industries?

## **Week Six - November 2**

Governmentality, Governance and Conservation

Agrawal, A.

2005 Environmentalism: Community, Intimate Government, and the Making of Environmental Subjects in Kumaon, India. *Current Anthropology* 46(2):161--190.

Goldman, M.

2001 Constructing an Environmental State: Eco-Governmentality and Other Transnational Practices of a 'Green' World Bank. *Social Problems* 48(4):499--523.

Heynen, N., McCarthy, J., Prudham, S., and Robbins, P., eds.

2007 *Neoliberal environments: false promises and unnatural consequences*. Part three. London: Routledge.

Brockington, D., Duffy, R., and Igoe, J.

2008 "International Conservation," in *Nature Unbound: Conservation, Capitalism and the Future of Protected Areas*. London: Earthscan Publications Ltd..

Brockington, D.

2006 The politics and ethnography of environmentalisms in Tanzania. *African Affairs* 105(418):97-116.

Optional Readings:

Foucault, M.

2007 *Security, Territory, Population: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1977-1978*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.

Miller, P. and Rose, N.

2008 Introduction: Governing Economic and Social Life. In *Governing the Present*. Miller, P. and Rose, N., eds. Cambridge: Polity.

Chapin, M.

2004 A challenge to conservationists. *World Watch* 17(6):17-31.

Brockington, D. and Scholfield, K.

2010 The Conservationist Mode of Production and Conservation NGOs in sub-Saharan Africa. *Antipode* 42(3):551-575.

Preliminary Questions:

- what is governmentality?

- how does neoliberal governmentality differ from or resemble prior "arts of government"?

## **Week Seven - November 9**

Community, Belonging and Conservation

McCarthy, J.

2005 Devolution in the woods: community forestry as hybrid neoliberalism. *Environment and Planning A* 37(6):995--1014.

McCarthy, J.

2006 Neoliberalism and the Politics of Alternatives: Community Forestry in British Columbia and the United States. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 96(1):84-104.

Hughes, D. M.

2010 *Whiteness in Zimbabwe: Race, Landscape, and the Problem of Belonging*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.

Büscher, B.

2010 Seeking 'telos' in the 'transfrontier'? Neoliberalism and the transcending of community conservation in Southern Africa. *Environment and Planning A* 42(3): 644--660.

optional:

Li, T. M.

2001 Boundary Work: Community, Market, and State Reconsidered. In *Communities and the Environment: Ethnicity, Gender, and the State in Community-Based Conservation*. Agrawal, A. and Gibson, C., eds. Pp. 157-179. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. [and entire Agrawal and Gibson volume]

Igoe, J. and Fortwangler, C.

2007 Whither communities and conservation?. *International Journal of Biodiversity Science and Management* 3(2):65-76. [and entire special issue]

Dominy, M.

1995 White Settler Assertions of Native Status. *American Ethnologist* 22(2):358-374.

Duffy, R.

2000 *Killing for Conservation: Wildlife Policy in Zimbabwe*. Oxford: James Currey Ltd.

Preliminary Questions:

- how do community-based approaches relate to prior conservation strategies?
- what are the relationships in theory and practice between property, belonging, and conservation?

## Week Eight - November 16

Integrated Conservation and Development

### Presentations 1

West, P.

2006 *Conservation Is Our Government Now: The Politics of Ecology in Papua New Guinea*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Wittemyer, G., Elsen, P., Bean, W. T., Burton, A. C. O., and Brashares, J. S.

2008 Accelerated human population growth at protected area edges. *Science* 321(5885): 123.

Hoffman, D., Fay, D., and Joppa, L.

forthcoming Introduction: Human Migration to Protected Area Edges in Africa and Latin America: Questioning Large-Scale Statistical Analysis. *Conservation and Society*.

Hoffman, D.

forthcoming Do Global Statistics Represent Local Reality and Should They Guide Conservation Policy? Examples from Costa Rica. *Conservation and Society* forthcoming.

### Optional Readings:

Igoe, J. and Shoo, L.P. responses to Wittemyer *et al.* 2008, and Wittemyer *et al.* response. <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/eletters/321/5885/123?ck=nck>

Joppa, L. N., Loarie, S. R., and Pimm, S. L.

2009 On Population Growth Near Protected Areas. *PLoS ONE* 4(1):e4279.

Joppa, L. N., Loarie, S. R., and Nelson, A.

2010 Measuring population growth around tropical protected areas: current issues and solutions. *Tropical Conservation Science* 3(2):117-121.

Davis, Fay and Pellegrino articles forthcoming in *Conservation and Society*.

Foucault, M.

2007 *Security, Territory, Population: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1977-1978*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.

### Preliminary Questions:

- how do ICDPs reconfigure the political ecology of conservation?
- to what degree can ICDPs be considered to attract migration?
- are ICDPs a solution or part of the problem?

## **Week Nine - November 23**

Conservation, Production and Spectacle

### **Presentations 2**

Garland, E.

2008 The Elephant in the Room: Confronting the Colonial Character of Wildlife Conservation in Africa. *African Studies Review* 51(3):51--74.

Fortwangler, C.

2007 Friends with Money: Private Support for a National Park in the US Virgin Islands. *Conservation And Society* 5(4):504.

Duffy, R. and Brockington, D.

2010 Capitalism and Conservation: The Production and Reproduction of Biodiversity Conservation. *Antipode* 42(3):469-484.

Büscher, B.

2010 Derivative Nature: interrogating the value of conservation in 'Boundless Southern Africa'. *Third World Quarterly* 31(2):259--276.

King, B.

2009 Commercializing conservation in South Africa. *Environment and Planning A* 41(2): 407--424.

Brockington, D.

2009 *Celebrity and the Environment: Fame, Wealth and Power in Conservation*. London: Zed Books.

Additional Readings:

Brockington, D., Duffy, R., and Igoe, J.

2008 *Nature Unbound: Conservation, Capitalism and the Future of Protected Areas*. London: Earthscan Publications Ltd.

*Antipode* 42(3) [contents]

Preliminary Questions:

- how do parks relate to capitalism and neoliberalism?
- what are the roles of spectacle and celebrity in conservation?

## Week Ten - November 30

### The Challenges of Rights-Based Conservation

#### Presentations 3

Stevens, S.

2009 Seeking respect for a Sherpa community conserved area: Responsibility, recognition and rights in the Mount Everest region of Nepal. In *Rights-based approaches: Exploring issues and opportunities for conservation*. Campese, J., Sunderland, T., Greiber, T., and Oviedo, G., eds. Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Bogor, Indonesia.

Larson, A. M., Barry, D., and Ram Dahal, G.

2010 New Rights for Forest-Based Communities? Understanding Processes of Forest Tenure Reform. *International Forestry Review* 12(1):78--96.

Walker, C.

2008 "Land of dreams: claiming the Eastern Shores of Lake St Lucia." *Landmarked: Land Claims and Restitution in South Africa*. Athens: Ohio University Press.

Comaroff, J. L. and Comaroff, J.

2009 Reflections on the Anthropology of Law, Governance and Sovereignty. In *Rules of Law and Laws of Ruling: On the Governance of Law*. von Benda-Beckmann, F., von Benda-Beckmann, K., and Eckert, J., eds. Pp. 31. Farnham: Ashgate Publishing.

Fay, D.

ms. Why Political Ecology Needs Legal Anthropology: Neoliberal Conservation and Lawfare at Dwesa-Cwebe, South Africa

#### Additional Readings:

Kepe, T.

2008 Land Claims and Comanagement of Protected Areas in South Africa: Exploring the Challenges. *Environmental Management* 41(3):311--321.

Dekoninck, V.

2007 Deconstructing the stakeholder: A case study from Garig Gunak Barlu National Park, Australia. *The International Journal of Biodiversity Science and Management* 3:77-87.

Robins, S. and van der Waal, K.

2008 "Model Tribes" and Iconic Conservationists? The Makuleke Restitution Case in Kruger National Park. *Development and Change* 39(1):53-72.

Metcalf, S. and Kepe, T.

2008 Dealing Land in the Midst of Poverty: Commercial Access to Communal Land in Zambia. *African and Asian Studies*, 7 2(3):235--257.

#### Preliminary Questions:

- how might rights-based conservation reconfigure the politics of conservation?
- what are the strengths and weaknesses of legal and rights-based approaches to community engagement with conservation?