**Master in Political Ecology**

**Academic year: 2022-2023**

**POLITICAL ECOLOGY**

**Module coordinators**

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**Objectives**

The course offers a critical introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Political Ecology (PE), the study of the ways in which power affects socio-environmental relations and processes. The course will offer a global view of the current ecological crisis and its political, economic, cultural and epistemological dimensions and interconnections. Drawing from a range of critical approaches, the course will examine key concepts and theoretical frameworks that underlie the contemporary political ecological critique of capitalism and development. Students will learn to think politically about environmental problems, and to critically engage with “apolitical” approaches that explain environmental issues simply in terms of population, biophysical, or human-behavioural drivers.

**Structure**

Each class’s **readings** consist of one required text (journal article or academic book chapter) as well as additional (suggested) readings. The additional readings are meant to clarify key concepts, expand on relevant debates and provide further empirical illustrations. While we do not expect you to read all of the suggested readings, we will address some of the ideas raised in them. All readings will be made available in digital format beforehand.

**Classes** will follow a seminar format with a combination of lecture and discussion of the assigned readings. They will  include discussion in small groups, debates, use of audio-visual material, and other activities.

**Assignments and evaluation**

Students will be evaluated on the basis of weekly assignments (20%) (responses to the readings), a final group project consisting of an oral presentation of book review (40%) and an opinion piece (40%) (in any format) of a selection of photos from the world press photo exhibition (which will be explained further in class).

Further instructions for preparing the presentation and writing the blog will be provided in advance.

**Programme outline**

**1. Introduction to Political Ecology (Brototi Roy)- 6 October 2022**

Required readings:

Robbins, 2012 “Political Ecology Emerges” (Ch. 4).  In: *Political Ecology. A Critical Introduction.* Wiley-Blackwell

Further readings:

Robbins, 2012 “Political versus apolitical Ecologies” (Ch. 1).  In: *Political Ecology. A Critical Introduction.* Wiley-Blackwell

Bridge, McCarthy, and Perreault, 2015, “Editors’ Introduction” (Ch. 1). In: *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*, edited by Tom Perreault, Gavin Bridge, and James McCarthy. New York, Routledge.

**2. Political Ecology of the Future: Proactive political ecology (Brototi Roy)- 13 October 2022**

Required readings:

Harris, Dylan M. (2021). Storying climate knowledge: Notes on experimental political ecology. *Geoforum* 126, 331-339.

Further readings:

Blaikie, P. (2008). Epilogue: Towards a future for political ecology that works. *Geoforum*, *39*(2), 765-772.

**3. Feminist Political Ecologies  - embodied and situated knowledges (Panagiota Kotsila)- 20 October 2022**

Required readings:

Doshi, S. (2017). Embodied urban political ecology: Five propositions. Area, 49(1), 125-128.

Additional readings:

Farhana Sultana (2020). “Political ecology 1: From margins to center”. *Progress in Human Geography.*

Singh, NM (2013) The affective labor of growing forests and the becoming of environmental subjects: Rethinking environmentality in Odisha, India. *Geoforum* 47: 189–198. DOI: 10.1016/j.geoforum.2013.01.010.

Nightingale, A. J. (2016). Adaptive scholarship and situated knowledges? Hybrid methodologies and plural epistemologies in climate change adaptation research. *Area*, 48(1), 41-47.

**4. The agrarian question, peasants, and political ecology (Rita Calvário)- 27 October 2022**

Required readings:

Castellanos-Navarrete, A., & Jansen, K. (2017). Oil palm expansion without enclosure: smallholders and environmental narratives. In *Global Land Grabbing and Political Reactions ‘from Below’* (pp. 325-350). Routledge.

Further readings:

Watts, M. (2021). The agrarian question. In *Handbook of Critical Agrarian Studies* (pp. 53-66). Edward Elgar Publishing.

Akram-Lodhi, A. H., & Kay, C. (2010). Surveying the agrarian question (part 2): current debates and beyond. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, *37*(2), 255-284.

Calvário, R. (2022). The making of peasant subalternity in Portugal: histories of marginalisation and resistance to agrarian modernisation. *The Journal of Peasant Studies.* <https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2021.2020256>

**5. Fieldwork - (Rosa Binimelis) - 3 November 2022**

**6. Capital: Nature and dispossession (Diego Andreucci)- 10 November 2022**

Required readings:

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

Additional readings:

Harvey, D. (2003) “Accumulation by dispossession” (Ch. 4). In: *The New Imperialism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Navarro Trujillo, M. L. (2018).  MULTIPLE DISPOSSESSION ON THE WEB OF LIFE: IMPACTS AND SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL RESISTANCES. *Textual*, (73), 11-42.

<https://www.chapingo-cori.mx/textual/textual/article/view/r.textual.2018.73.01/3>

**7. Development institutions: Governmentality and nature’s legibility (Diego Andreucci) - 17 November**

Required readings:

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).

Additional readings:

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

Valdivia, Gabriela (2015) “Eco-governmentality”. In: *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*, Ed. by Tom Perreault, Gavin Bridge, y James McCarthy, pp. 467-80. New York: Routledge.

Andreucci, D., & Kallis, G. (2017). Governmentality, development and the violence of natural resource extraction in Peru. *Ecological Economics*, *134*(C), 95-103.

**8. Social movements: From ‘environmental conflicts’ to counter-hegemony -Diego Andreucci- 24 November**

Required readings:

Karriem, A. (2009) The rise and transformation of the Brazilian landless movement into a counter-hegemonic political actor: A Gramscian analysis, *Geoforum* 40, 3: 316-25.

Additional readings:

Simon, R. (1991) *Gramsci’s Political Thought: An Introduction*. London: Lawrence & Wishart, Selected chapters.

Fraser, N. (2021) Climates of Capital. For a Trans-Environmental Eco-Socialism. *New Left Review*, 127.

Routledge, P. (2015). Engendering Gramsci: Gender, the philosophy of praxis, and spaces of encounter in the Climate Caravan, Bangladesh. *Antipode*, 47(5), 1321-1345.

**9. Decolonizing Political Ecology- The Need for Intersectionality?- (Brototi Roy )- 1 December 2022**

Required readings:

Mollett, S. (2017). Gender’s critical edge: Feminist political ecology, postcolonial intersectionality, and the coupling of race and gender. In *Routledge handbook of gender and environment* (pp. 146-158). Routledge.

Additional readings:

Tuck, E., & Yang, K. W. (2012). Decolonization is not a metaphor. *Decolonization: Indigeneity, education & society*, *1*(1).

Bhambra, G. K. (2014). Postcolonial and decolonial dialogues. *Postcolonial studies*, *17*(2), 115-121.

**10. Class Presentation- Group book review- 2 December 2022**