

## **Political Ecology**

S/A 4141: Fall 2007

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Political ecology examines the changing relationship of human social action and the physical environment in the context of power and social divisions within societies. I shall introduce several theoretical approaches that may be useful in studying particular issues. Next we shall consider sustainability, ecological modernization, population and food supply. From there we move to climate change, environmentalism and environmental politics. Then we cover environmental extraction and related impacts. We will look at energy, minerals, fish, wood, and water before ending with an overview of the environmental issues and globalization.

### **Course Structure**

After the general theoretical overview, which will follow a conventional lecture format, prior to most classes, I will give you a question to think about and assign at least one article or chapter to read. You should come to class having thought about the question and, ideally, having a key point or further question that you can raise for discussion.

### **Evaluation**

1. Mid-term test, 5 October. (20%) covering classes up to 28 September.
2. Essay (40%), due 23 November, but may be submitted until 30 November without penalty, after which a penalty of 5% per day will be applied. No papers will be accepted after 7 December without appropriate documentation for medical or personal factors. You are encouraged to submit an outline for review prior to writing your essay, which should be 2,500-3,000 words long.
3. Final examination (40%).

### **Readings**

There is no required text, but some copies of the following book have been ordered for the bookstore: Paehlke, Robert and Douglas Torgerson. 2005. *Managing Leviathan: Environmental Politics and the Administrative State*. Peterborough, Canada: Broadview. At least four chapters will be taken from this source, which will also be put on reserve. Most articles can be downloaded from internet sites through MUN library.

### **General Theory**

Neumann, Roderick P. 2005. *Making Political Ecology*. London: Hodder Education, chapters 2 and 3. (Reserved)

Scoones, I. 1999. "New ecology and the social sciences." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 28:479-507.

- Warren, William W. 2005. "Hierarchy theory in sociology, ecology, and resource management: a conceptual model for natural resource or environmental sociology and socioecological systems." *Society and Natural Resources* 18:447-466.
- Gould, Kenneth A., David N. Pellow, and Allan Schnaiberg. 2004. "Interrogating the treadmill of production: everything you wanted to know about the treadmill but were afraid to ask." *Organization & Environment* 17:296-316.
- Buttel, Frederick H. 2004. "The treadmill of production: an appreciation, assessment, and agenda for research." *Organization & Environment* 17:323-336.
- Spaargaren, Gert. 2003. "Sustainable consumption: a theoretical and environmental policy perspective." *Society and Natural Resources* 16:687-701.
- McGonigle, R.M. 1999. "Ecological economics and political ecology: towards a necessary synthesis." *Ecological Economics* 28:11-26.

### **Sustainability and Sustainable Development**

- Redclift, Michael. 2005. "Sustainable development (1987-2005): an oxymoron comes of age." *Sustainable Development* 13:212-227.
- Hopwood, Bill, Mary Mellor, and Geoff O'Brien. 2005. "Sustainable development: mapping different approaches." *Sustainable Development* 13:38-52.
- Lamberton, Geoffrey. 2005. "Sustainable sufficiency - an internally consistent version of sustainability." *Sustainable Development* 13:53-86.
- Plummer, Ryan. 2006. "The evolution of sustainable development strategies in Canada: an assessment of three federal natural resources management agencies." *Sustainable Development* 14:16-32.
- Neumann, Roderick P. 2005. *Making Political Ecology*. London: Hodder Education, chapter 4. (Reserved)

### **Ecological Modernization**

- Mol, A.P.J. 2001. *Globalization and Environmental Reform: the Ecological Modernization of the Global Economy*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press (Pp. 47-70). (Reserved)
- Fisher, Dana B. and William R. Freudenburg. 2001. "Ecological modernization and its critics: assessing the past and looking toward the future." *Society and Natural Resources* 14:701-708.
- Ashford, Nicholas A. 2002. "Government and environmental innovation in Europe and North America." *American Behavioral Scientist* 45:1417-1434.
- Davidson, Debra J. and Norah A. MacKendrick. 2004. "All dressed up and nowhere to go: the discourse of ecological modernization in Alberta, Canada." *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology* 41:47-65.
- Jay, Mairi, and Munir Morad. 2007. "Crying over spilt milk: a critical assessment of the ecological modernization of New Zealand's dairy industry." *Society and Natural Resources* 20:469-478.

### **Human Population and Food Supply**

- Cohen, Joel E. 2003. "Human population: the next half century." *Science* 302:1172-75.
- Demery, Paul. 2004. "Population futures for the next three hundred years: soft landing or

- surprises to come?" *Population and Development Review* 30:507-517.
- Alexandratos, Nikos. 2005. "Countries with rapid population growth and resource constraints: issues of food, agriculture, and development." *Population and Development Review* 31:237-258.
- Schäfer, Wolf. 2005. "The uneven globality of children." *Journal of Social History* 38:1027-1039.
- York, Richard, Eugene A. Rosa, and Thomas Dietz. 2003. "Footprints on the earth: the environmental consequences of modernity." *American Sociological Review* 68:279-300.

### **Climate change**

- Foster, John Bellamy. 2001. "Ecology against capitalism." *Monthly Review* 53(5):1-15.
- Gonzalez, George A. 2005. "Urban sprawl, global warming and the limits of ecological modernisation." *Environmental Politics* 14:344-362.
- McCright, Aaron M., and Riley E. Dunlap. 2003. "Defeating Kyoto: the conservative movement's impact on U.S. climate change policy." *Social Problems* 50:348-373.
- Roberts, J. Timmons. 2001. "Global Inequality and climate change." *Society and Natural Resources* 14:501-509.

### **Environmentalism (culture and the movement)**

- Johnson, Erik. 2006. "Changing issue representation among major United States environmental movement organizations." *Rural Sociology* 71:132-154.
- Sonnenfeld, David A. 2002. "Social movements and ecological modernization: the transformation of pulp and paper manufacturing." *Development and Change* 33:1-27.
- Sinclair, Peter R. and Honna Janes-Hodder. 2007. "Contested forest: management of the Main River watershed in western Newfoundland, Canada." Pp. 160-174 in *Rural Governance: International Perspectives*, edited by L. Cheshire, V. Higgins, and G. Lawrence. Oxon: Routledge.
- Riemer, Jeffrey W. 2003. "Grass-roots power through internet technology - the case of the Crandon mine." *Society and Natural Resources* 16:853-868.

### **Environmental Politics**

- Gibson, Robert B. 2005. "We just don't know: lessons about complexity and uncertainty in Canadian environmental politics." Pp. 145-170 in *Managing Leviathan: Environmental Politics and the Administrative State*, edited by R. Paehlke and D. Torgerson. Peterborough, Canada: Broadview. (Reserved)
- Christoff, Peter. 2005. "Green governance and the green state: capacity building as a political project." Pp. 289-310 in *Managing Leviathan: Environmental Politics and the Administrative State*, edited by R. Paehlke and D. Torgerson. Peterborough, Canada: Broadview. (Reserved)
- Doonan, Julie, Paul Lanoie, and Benoit Laplante. 2005. "Determinants of environmental performance in the Canadian pulp and paper industry: an assessment from inside the industry." *Ecological Economics* 55:73-84.
- Sinclair, Peter R., and Robert W. Kean. 2007. "Forest politics: contested issues and governance in forest management for Newfoundland's Great Northern Peninsula." *Newfoundland and Labrador Studies*.

## Environmental Extraction and Related Issues

### a) Energy

- Shelley, Toby. 2005. *Oil: Politics, Poverty and the Planet*. New York: Zed Books. (Reserved)
- Aleklett, Kjell and Colin J. Campbell. 2003. "The peak and decline of world oil and gas production." *Minerals and Energy* 18:5-20.
- Mathews, John A. 2007. "Biofuels: what a biopact between North and South could achieve." *Energy Policy* 35:3550-3570.
- Joberta, Arthur, Pia Laborgne, and Solveig Mimler. 2007. "Local acceptance of wind energy: factors of success identified in French and German case studies." *Energy Policy* 35:2751-2760.
- Breukers, Sylvia and Maarten Wolsink. 2007. "Wind power implementation in changing institutional landscapes: an international comparison." *Energy Policy* 35:2737-2750.

### b) Minerals

- Richards, Rebecca T. and Rodney L. Brod. 2004. "Community support for a gold cyanide process mine: resident and leader differences in rural Montana." *Rural Sociology* 69:552-575.
- Muradian, Roldan, Joan Martinez-Alier, and Humberto Correa. 2003. "International capital versus local population: the environmental conflict of the Tambogrande mining project, Peru." *Society and Natural Resources* 16:775-792.
- Korsah-Brown, Douglas. 2002. "Environment, human rights and mining conflicts in Ghana." Pp. 79-95 in *Human Rights and the Environment : Conflicts and Norms in a Globalizing World*, edited by L. Zarsky. London: Earthscan. (internet book)
- Doyle, Timothy. 2005. "Outside the state: Australian green politics and the public inquiry into Uranium." Pp. 235-256 in *Managing Leviathan: Environmental Politics and the Administrative State*, edited by R. Paehlke and D. Torgerson. Peterborough, Canada: Broadview. (Reserved)

### c) Fish

- Pauly, Daniel, Reg Watson, and Jackie Alder. 2005. "Global trends in world fisheries: impacts on marine ecosystems and food security." *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, Series B: Biological Sciences* 360(1453):5-12.
- Neis, Barbara and Rob Kean. 2003. "Why fish stocks collapse: an interdisciplinary approach to the problem of 'fishing up'." Pp. 65-102 in *Retrenchment and Regeneration in Rural Newfoundland*, edited by R. Byron. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. (Reserved)
- Murray, Grant, Dean Bavington, and Barbara Neis. 2005. "Local ecological knowledge, science, participation and fisheries governance in Newfoundland and Labrador: a complex, contested and changing relationship." Pp. 269-90 in *Participation in Fisheries Governance*, edited by T. S. Gray. Dordrecht: Springer. (Reserved)
- Wilkinson, John. 2006. "Fish: a global value chain driven onto the rocks." *Sociologia Ruralis* 46:139-153.
- Sinclair, Peter R., Jahn Petter Johnsen, and Paul Ripley. 2007. "Power and the production of science: assessing cod stocks as the cyborg fishery collapses." Paper presented at

*People and the Sea IV*. Amsterdam.

Hernes, Hans-Kristian, Svein Jentoft, and Knut H. Mikalsen. 2005. "Fisheries governance, social justice and participatory decision-making." Pp. 103-118 in *Participation in Fisheries Governance*, edited by T. S. Gray. Dordrecht: Springer. (Reserved)

#### **d) Wood**

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization). 2007. "State of the World's Forests." Rome: FAO. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0773e/a0773e00.htm>

Carr, David L., Laurel Suter, and Alisson Barbieri. 2005. "Population dynamics and tropical deforestation: state of the debate and conceptual challenges." *Population and Environment* 27:89-113.

Sinclair, Peter R., Conner Bailey, and Mark Dubois. 2003. "One engineer and a dog: technological change and social restructuring in Alabama's pulp and paper industry." *Southern Rural Sociology* 19:70-93.

Wittman, Hannah and Charles Geisler. 2005. "Negotiating locality: decentralization and communal forest management in the Guatemalan highlands." *Human Organization* 64:62-74.

Nygren, Anja. 2005. "Community-based forest management within the context of institutional decentralization in Honduras." *World Development* 33:639-655.

#### **e) Water**

Bakker, Karen. 2006. "Water is life: the debate over private sector participation in water supply." Pp. 141-154 in *Not For Sale: Decommodifying Public Life*, edited by G. Laxer and D. Soron. Peterborough, Canada: Broadview. (Reserved)

Johnston, Barbara Rose. 2003. "The political ecology of water: an introduction." *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism* 14:73-90.

Muller, Mike. 2003. "Public-private partnerships in water: a South African perspective on the global debate." *Journal of International Development* 15:1115-1125.

Young, Douglas and Roger Keil. 2005. "Urinetown or Morainetown? debates on the reregulation of the urban water regime in Toronto." *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism* 16(2):61-83.

#### **Impact of globalization**

Kull, Christian A., Camellia Ibrahim, and Thomas C. Meredith. 2007. "Tropical forest transitions and globalization: neo-liberalism, migration, tourism, and international conservation agendas." *Society and Natural Resources* 20:723-737.

Clapp, Jennifer. 2005. "Responses to environmental threats in an age of globalization." Pp. 271-288 in *Managing Leviathan: Environmental Politics and the Administrative State*, edited by R. Paehlke and D. Torgerson. Peterborough, Canada: Broadview. (Reserved)

van der Hiejden, Hein-Anton. 2006. "Globalization, environmental movements, and international political opportunity structures." *Organization & Environment* 19:28-45.