

**TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PROJECTS:
LINKING POLITICAL ECONOMY AND POLITICAL ECOLOGY
PECO 5502W/PSCI 5502W/SOCI 5505W
Winter 2018**

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Aims and Learning Outcomes

The basic aim of this seminar is to consider and explore some of the major themes, theories and concepts that together constitute the fields of transdisciplinary research, political economy and political ecology. We revisit some texts and contemporary applications of these epistemological, theoretical and empirical literatures. Students learning outcomes for this course include:

- to demonstrate competence in key aspects of these theorizing and research traditions.
- to develop a working knowledge of how key concepts and ideas are applied to understand contemporary developments in the links between social and biophysical territorial processes
- to develop transdisciplinary skills by linking Political Economy and Political Ecology to analyze social and biophysical territorial processes

Successful completion of this course will help students to advance transdisciplinary research projects for analyzing the links between social and biophysical processes at different territorial and temporal scales.

Organization and assessment

The course will follow a seminar format. Students are expected to complete the required readings for each session, participate fully in the discussions, and fulfill their written assignments.

Seminars will be organized around the relevant literature for each topic.

Starting in week 3, and following the powerpoint presentation by the instructor, the sessions will be organized as a roundtable discussion by all students based on their required readings and other suggested references, followed by general discussion.

The evaluation process will be structured in three modalities. The first includes a short paper critical assignment of some aspects of the theoretical literature, previously agreed with the instructor. The second focuses on the presentation in classroom of a first version of his/her own research paper, also as previously discussed with the instructor. The third modality encompasses the presentation in classroom of his/her final version of the paper.

20%	short paper critical assignment. Variable due dates
10%	oral participation in the discussion seminars
20%	first version of the research paper
50%	final version of the research paper and presentation

The oral participation component is assessed over the entire semester. Aspects of the student's participation, which are graded, include the quantity of his/her comments, the familiarity which the student displays with the assigned reading material, the comprehension of the material as demonstrated by his/her comments, and the degree of value which his/her participation add to the seminar discussion. In terms of written assignments, both the outline and the essay are to be submitted via cuLearn.

The first written assignment should include secondary material where appropriate and relate the work in question to the theoretical traditions with which it engages. The MAXIMUM length of this essay is 2000 words (excluding notes and references) and it is worth 20% of the total grade. The due date for the first assignment is the second week following the presentation in the classroom.

The research paper is a longer essay on any aspect of the course literature. The topic(s) developed must be approved by the course instructor. This outline should contain the title, a brief description of the problem(s) explored, the research question(s), an indication of how the paper will be organized, a bibliography, and a summary of the intended argument. The complete research paper is due on (date).

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTORY SEMINAR

WEEK 2: RESEARCHING TERRITORIAL PROCESSES: EPISTEMOLOGICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

Required readings:

Elster, Jon. 1988. "A plea for mechanisms", chapter 3 in Peter Hedstrom and Richard Swedberg (editors) Social Mechanisms: An Analytical Approach to Social Theory. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Granovetter, Mark. 1985. "Economic Action and Social Structure: The Problem of Embeddedness", American Journal of Sociology 91(3):481-510

Holling, C.S. 2001. "Understanding the Complexity of Economic, Ecological, and Social Systems", Ecosystems 2001 (4):390-405

Mauser, W., et al. 2013. "Transdisciplinary global change research: the co-creation of knowledge for sustainability", Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability, SciVerse Science Direct (www.sciencedirect.com)

Scoones, Ian. 1999. "New Ecology and the Social Sciences: What Prospects for a Fruitful Engagement?", *Ann. Rev. Anthropol.* 28:479-507

Other references:

Bardhan, P. and Udry, Ch. 1999. *Development microeconomics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Besley, Timothy. 2004. *The New Political Economy*. London School of Economics

Chang, Ha Joon. 2017. "Economics and Public Life: Why everyone needs to learn (some) economics", *Global Policy* (<http://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/videos/dr-ha-joon-chang-economics-and-public-life-why-everyone-needs-learn-some-economics>)

Zezza, A., and Llambí, L. "Meso-Economic Filters Along the Policy Chain: Understanding the Links between Policy Reforms and Rural Poverty in Latin America", *World Development* 30(11):1865-1884

WEEK 3: QUALITATIVE and QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH TECHNIQUES

Required readings:

Chambers, Robert. 1989. "The Origins and Practice of Participatory Rural Appraisal", *World Development* 22(5):953-969

Dasgupta, P. and Weale, M. 1992. "On Measuring the Quality of Life", *World Development* 20(1):119-131

Distaso, Alba. 2007. "Well-being and/or quality of life in EU countries through a multidimensional index of sustainability", *Ecological Economics* 67: 163-180

Mauser, Wolfram et al. 2013. "Transdisciplinary global change research: the co-creation of knowledge for sustainability", *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 2013 (5):420-431 (<https://www.sciencedirect.com>)

WEEK 4: POLITICAL ECONOMY: Introduction

Required readings:

Chang, Ha-Joon. 1997. "An Institutionalist Perspective on the Role of the State: Towards an Institutionalist Political Economy", in Burlamaqui, I., Castro, A., and Chang, H-J. (eds) *Institutions and the Role of the State*. London: Edward Elgar

Chang, Ha Joon. 2017. "Economics and Public Life: Why everyone needs to learn (some) economics", *Global Policy* (<http://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/videos/dr-ha-joon-chang-economics-and-public-life-why-everyone-needs-learn-some-economics>)

Dixit, Avinash. 2009. "Governance Institutions and Economic Activity", *American Economic Review* 99(1):5-24

Eggertsson, Thráinn. 1997. "The Old Theory of Economic Policy and the New Institutionalism", *World Development* 25(8):1187-1203

Granovetter, Mark. 1985. "Economic Action and Social Structure: The Problem of Embeddedness", *American Journal of Sociology* 91(3):481-510

Other references:

Besley, Timothy. 2004. *The New Political Economy*. London School of Economics, Bern: Springer

North, Douglass. 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press

WEEK 5: POLITICAL ECONOMY, PUBLIC POLICIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Required readings:

Ikenberry, John. 1994. "History's Heavy Hand: Institutions and the Politics of the State", New Perspectives on Institutions

Svendsen, Gunnar L.H. 2006. "Studying social capital in situ: A qualitative approach", Theory and Society 2006:35:39-70

Other References:

Chang, Ja Joon. 2017. "Economics and Public Life: Why everyone needs to learn (some) economics", Global Policy (<http://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/videos/dr-ha-joon-chang-economics-and-public-life-why-everyone-needs-learn-some-economics>)

Dorward, A., J. Kydd, J. Morrison, and Colin Poulton. 2005. "Institutions, Markets and Economic Co-ordination: Linking Development Policy to Theory and Praxis", Development and Change 36(1):1-25

Willow, A. and Wylie, S. 2014. "Politics, ecology, and the new anthropology of energy: exploring the emerging frontiers of hydraulic fracking", Journal of Political Ecology 21:222-236

Woolcock, Michael. 1998. "Social capital and economic development: Towards a theoretical synthesis and policy framework", Theory and Society 27:151-208

WEEK 6. POLITICAL ECONOMY and the NEW INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS

Required readings:

Eggertsson, Thráinn. 1997. "The Old Theory of Economic Policy and the New Institutionalism", World Development 25(8):1187-1203

Elster, Jon. 1988. "A plea for mechanisms", chapter 3 in Peter Hedstrom and Richard Swedberg (editors) Social Mechanisms: An Analytical Approach to Social Theory. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Williamson, Oliver E. 2000. "The New Institutional Economics: Taking Stock, Looking Ahead", Journal of Economic Literature 38(September 2000):595-613

Other references:

Burlamaqui, I., Castro, A., and Chang, H-J. (eds) Institutions and the Role of the State. London: Edward Elgar

David, Paul A. 2000. "Path dependence, its critics and the quest for historical economics" in Garrouste, P. and Ioannides, S. (eds.) Evolution and Path Dependence in Economic Ideas: Past and Present. Cheltenham (England): Edward Elgar Publishing

Dorward, A., J. Kydd, J. Morrison, and Coliin Poulton. 2005. "Institutions, Markets and Economic Co-ordination: Linking Development Policy to Theory and Praxis", Development and Change 36(1):1-25

Dixit, Avinash. 2009. "Governance Institutions and Economic Activity", American Economic Review 99(1):5-24

Granovetter, Mark. 1985. "Economic Action and Social Structure: The Problem of Embeddedness", American Journal of Sociology 91(3):481-510

Hall, Peter A. and Taylor, Rosemary C.R. 1996. "Political Science and the three New Institutionalisms", Political Studies XLIV: 936-957

North, Douglass. 1990. Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press

Paavola, Jouni and Adger, W. Neil. 2006. "New Institutional Economics and the Environment: Conceptual Foundations and Policy Implications", CSERGE Working Paper EDM 02-06

Steinmo, Sven. 2008. "What is Historical Institutionalism", in Donatella Della Porta and Michael Keating (eds.) Approaches in the Social Sciences, Cambridge University Press

Swyngedouw, Erik. 2005. "Governance Innovations and the Citizen: Governance beyond the State", Urban Studies 42(11):1191-2006

Tabellini, Guido. 2004. "The Role of the State in Economic Development". Working Paper No. 265, Milano: IGIER, Università Bocconi (<http://igier.uni-bocconi.it>)

Thelen, Kathleen. 1999. "Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics", Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci. 1999(2):369-404

WEEK 7: POLITICAL ECOLOGY: INTRODUCTION

Required readings:

Biersack, A. 1999. "Introduction: from the 'new ecology' to the new ecologies", American Anthropologist 10:15:5-18

Greenberg, James and Park, Thomas K. 1994. "Political Ecology", Journal of Political Ecology Vol. I.

Gunderson, L., Folke, C. y Janssen, M. 2005. "Integrating Ecology and Society to Navigate Turbulence", Ecology and Society XX(YY):ZZ (online). (<http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/volXX/issYY/artZZ/>)

Paavola, Jouni and Adger, W. Neil. 2006. "New Institutional Economics and the Environment: Conceptual Foundations and Policy Implications", CSERGE Working Paper EDM 02-06

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

Other References:

Ash, Neville et al. 2010. Ecosystems and human well-being: a manual for assessment practitioners. Washington D.C.: Island Press

The TEEB Framework. 2009. "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: an interim report", European Communities Teebweb (www.teebweb.org).

United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity. 1992

WEEK 8: POLITICAL ECOLOGY: Analyzing ecosystems

Required Readings:

Abel, Thomas and Stepp, John Richard. 2003. "A New Ecosystems Ecology for Anthropology", Conservation Ecology 7(3):12 (<http://www.consecol.org/vol7/iss3/art12>)

Nelson, Gerald C. et al. 2006. "Anthropogenic Drivers of Ecosystem Change: an overview", DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska – Lincoln (<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/agronomyfacpub/364>)

Scoones, Ian. 1999. "New Ecology and the Social Sciences: What Prospects for a Fruitful Engagement?", Ann. Rev. Anthropol. 28:479-507

Scoones, I. (2007). "Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: A Framework for Analysis", IDS Working Paper 72:1-22

Other references:

Simon, Gregory. 2016. "How regions do work, and the work we do: a constructive critique of regions in political ecology", Journal of Political Ecology 23

WEEK 9: POLITICAL ECOLOGY: Methodological perspectives

Required readings:

Biersack, A. 1999. "Introduction: from the 'new ecology' to the new ecologies", American Anthropologist 101:5:5-18

Folke, C. et al. 2007. "The Problem of Fit between Ecosystems and Institutions: Ten Years Later", Ecology and Society 12(1):30

Greenberg, James and Park, Thomas K. 1994. "Political Ecology", Journal of Political Ecology Vol. I.

Gunderson, L., Folke, C. y Janssen, M. 2005. "Integrating Ecology and Society to Navigate Turbulence", Ecology and Society XX(YY):ZZ (online). (<http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/volXX/issYY/artZZ/>)

Scoones, Ian. 1999. "New Ecology and the Social Sciences: What Prospects for a Fruitful Engagement?", Ann. Rev. Anthropol. 28:479-507

Other References:

United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity. 1992

de Janvry, A. and Sadoulet, E. 2004. "Toward a territorial approach to rural development", Adobe Acrobat Reader pdf

Zanotti, Laura. 2014. "Political ecology of movement: trekking and territoriality among the Kayapó", Journal of Political Ecology 21:108-126

WEEK 10: TERRITORIAL ANALYSES: time and space

Required readings:

Escobar, Arturo. 2011. "Territories of Difference: Place, Movements, Life", J. of Agric Environ Ethics 24:199-201

Hottinsky, S., Cobb and Bond. 2006. "Contracts of Scripts?: A Critical Review of the Application of Institutional Theories to the Study of Environmental Change", Ecology and Society 11(1):41 (<http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol11/iss.art41/>)

Neumann, Roderick P. 2009. "Political ecology: theorizing scale", Progress in Human Geography 33(3):398-406

Noss, R.F. (1990). Indicators for monitoring biodiversity: a hierarchical approach. Conserv. Biol. 4 (4), 355-364 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1523-1739.1990.tb00309.x>)

Reynolds, H.L., Smith, A.A., and Farmer, J.R. (2014). Think globally, research locally: paradigms and place in agroecological research. Am. J. Bot. 101 (10), 1631-1639 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.3732/ajb.1400146>)

Schubert, Jon. 2005. "Political Ecology in Development Research: An Introductory Overview and Annotated Bibliograph". Bern, NCCR North-South SwissPeace Foundation: IP 7 Working Paper (www.swisspeace.org/research/environmental_conflicts.htm) (www.nccr-noth-south-unibe.ch)

Schulz, Karsten A. 2017. "Decolonizing political ecology: ontology, technology and 'critical' enchantment", Journal of Political Ecology 24:126-143

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

Zanotti, Laura. 2014. "Political ecology of movement: trekking and territoriality among the Kayapó", Journal of Political Ecology 21:108-126

Other References:

Hottinsky, S., Cobb, and Bond. 2006. "Contracts or Scripts?: A Critical Review of the Application of Institutional Theories to the Study of Environmental Change", Ecology and Society 11(1):41 (<http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol11/iss.art41/>)

Jeroen, C.J.M. van den Bergh. 2007. "Evolutionary thinking in environmental economics", J. Evol. Econ (2007):17:521-549

Khan, Mohammad Tanzimuddin. 2013. "Theoretical frameworks in political ecology and participatory nature/forest conservation: the necessity of a heterodox approach and the critical moment", Journal of Political Ecology (<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/28678221>)

Martínez-Alier, Joan et al. 2010. "Social Metabolism, Ecological Distribution Conflicts, and Valuation Languages", Ecological Economics 70:153-158

McKinnon, Innisfree and Hiner, Coleen C. 2016. "Does the region still have relevance? (re) considering 'regional' political ecology", Journal of Political Ecology 23

van der Bergh, Jeroen. 2007. Ecological Economics: Themes, Approaches, and Differences with Environmental Economics", Regional Environmental Change 3(1):13-23

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

Willow, Anna J. and Wylie, Sara. 2014. "Politics, ecology, and the new anthropology of energy: exploring the emerging frontiers of hydraulic fracking", Journal of Political Ecology 21:222-236

WEEK 11. RENTIER STATES, NEO-EXTRACTIVISM AND TERRITORIAL RIGHTS

Required readings:

Bramanti, Alberto. 1998. From Space to Territory: Relational Development and Territorial Competitiveness: The GREMI Approach within the Contemporary Debate (<http://citerseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.202.640&rep=rep1&type=pdf>)

McAvrey, Ruth. 2006. "Getting Close to the Action: The Micro-Politics of Rural Development", Sociologia Ruralis 46(2):85-103

McDowell, Linda. 2001. "Linking scales: or how research about gender and organizations raises new issues for economic geography", Journal of Economic Geography 2001:227-250

McKinnon, I. and Hiner, C. 2016. "Does the region still have relevance?: (Re) considering 'regional political ecology'", Journal of Political Ecology 23

Trouvé, A., Berriet-Solliec and Déprés, C. 2007. "Charting and theorising the territorialisation of agricultural policy", Journal of Rural Studies 23:443-452

Vickerman, Roger. 2003. "An Introduction to geographical economics: trade, location and growth", Journal of Economic Geography 3(2003):335-342

Wiggins, Steve and Proctor, Sharon. 2001. "How Special are Rural Areas?: The Economic Implications of Location for Rural Development", *Development Policy Review* 19(4):427-436

Winter, Michael. 2006. "Rescaling rurality: Multilevel governance of the agro-food sector", *Political Geography* 25(2006):735-751

Witte, Jan Martin, Reinicke, W., and Benner, T. 2002. *Networked Governance: Developing a Research Agenda* (www.globalpublicpolicy.net)

Other references:

Noss, R.F. (1990). Indicators for monitoring biodiversity: a hierarchical approach. *Conserv. Biol.* 4 (4), 355–364 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1523-1739.1990.tb00309.x>)

Reed, David. 2001. "The 3xM Approach: Bringing Change across Micro, Meso and Macro Levels", *World Wildlife Fund*.

Reynolds, H.L., Smith, A.A., and Farmer, J.R. (2014). Think globally, research locally: paradigms and place in agroecological research. *Am. J. Bot.* 101 (10), 1631–1639 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.3732/ajb.1400146>)

Schubert, Jon. 2005. "Political Ecology in Development Research: An Introductory Overview and Annotated Bibliography". Bern, NCCR North-South SwissPeace Foundation: *IP 7 Working Paper* (www.swisspeace.org/research/environmental_conflicts.htm) (www.nCCR-noth-south-unibe.ch)

Schulz, Karsten. 2017. "Decolonizing political ecology: ontology, technology and 'critical' enchantment", *Journal of Political Ecology* 24:126-143

Simon, Gregory. 2016. "How regions do work, and the work we do: a constructive critique of regions in political ecology", *Journal of Political Ecology* 23

Swyngedouw, Erik. 2005. "Governance Innovations and the Citizen: Governance beyond the State", *Urban Studies* 42(11):1191-2006

Thelen, Kathleen. 1999. "Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics", *Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.* 1999(2):369-404

Trouvé, A., Berriet-Solliec and Déprés, C. 2007. "Charting and theorising the territorialisation of agricultural policy", *Journal of Rural Studies* 23:443-452

Wiggins, Steve and Proctor, Sharon. 2001. "How Special are Rural Areas?: The Economic Implications of Location for Rural Development", *Development Policy Review* 19(4):427-436

WEEK 12: NORMATIVE GOALS: Human Rights, Empowerment and Self-managed organizations

Required readings:

Grindle, Merilee S. 2007. "Good Enough Governance Revisited", *Development Policy Review* 25(5):553-574

Holt-Giménez, E. 2010. Grassroots voices: Linking farmers' movements for advocacy and practice. *Journal of Peasant Studies* 37(1):203-236

Khan, Mohammad Tanzimuddin. 2013. "Theoretical frameworks in political ecology and participatory nature/forest conservation: the necessity of a heterodox approach and the critical moment", *Journal of Political Ecology* (<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/28678221>)

Kroger, Markus and Lalander, Richard. 2006. "Ethno-territorial rights and the resource extraction boom in Latin America: do constitutions matter?", *Third World Quarterly* 37(4):682-702

Lang, Daniel et al. 2012. "Transdisciplinary research in sustainability science: practice, principles, and challenges", *Sustain Sci* (2012) 7 (Supplement 1):25-43

Lalander, Richard. 2016. "Extractivism and the de jure and de facto ethno-territorial rights in Latin America: How important are the constitutions?", *Critical Sociology* 42(4-5):623-642

Mauser, W., et al. 2013. "Transdisciplinary global change research: the co-creation of knowledge for sustainability", *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, SciVerse Science Direct (www.sciencedirect.com)

Pieterse, J.N. 2004. "Ethnicities and multiculturalism: politics of boundaries", In S. May, T et al *Ethnicity, Nationalism and Minority Rights* (pp. 27-49). New York: Cambridge University Press

Scoones, I. (2007). "Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: A Framework for Analysis", *IDS Working Paper* 72:1-22

Vayda, A. 1996. "Methods and explanations in the study of human actions and their environmental effects", *CIFOR/WWF Special Publications*. Jakarta: Indonesia

Other References:

Anaya, S. James and Williams, Robert A. 2001. "The protection of indigenous peoples' rights over lands and natural resources under the Inter-American Human Rights System", 14 *Harv.Hum.Rts. J.* 33.

Kymlicka, W. 2001. *Politics in the Vernacular: Nationalism, Multiculturalism and Citizenship*. New York: Oxford University Press

Lijphart, A. 2004. Constitutional Design for Divided Societies. *Journal of Democracy* 96-109

Murphy, M. 2012. *Multiculturalism: A critical introduction*. London and New York: Routledge

Pieterse, J.N. 2004. "Ethnicities and multiculturalism: politics of boundaries", In S. May, T et al *Ethnicity, Nationalism and Minority Rights* (pp. 27-49). New York: Cambridge University Press

Söderbaum, Peter. 2017. "Do we need a new economics for sustainable development?", *Real-World Economics Review* 80

Spink, Peter K. and Best, Nina J. 2009. "Introduction: Local Democratic Governance, Poverty Reduction and Inequality: The Hybrid Character of Public Action", *IDS Bulletin* 40(6)

Stavenhagen, Rodolfo. 2008. Indigenous peoples: land, territory, autonomy, and self-determination", chapter 2, in Rosset, Peter 2008. *Promisedland* 2008:208-217

United Nations. "Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Human Rights", 2013. United Nations Human Rights. Office of the Commissioner, *Fact Sheet* No. 9/2