

FES 83056a/ANT 597
SOCIAL SCIENCE OF DEVELOPMENT & CONSERVATION
Fall 2008

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Course Description

This course is intended to provide a fundamental understanding of the social aspects involved in implementing sustainable development and conservation projects. Social science has two sorts of things to contribute to the practice of development and conservation. First, it provides ways of thinking about, researching, and working with social groupings -- including rural households and communities, but also development and conservation institutions, states, and NGOs. This aspect includes relations between groups at all these levels, and the role of power in these relations. Second, social science tackles the analysis of the knowledge systems that implicitly shape development and conservation policy and impinge on practice. We will thus examine our ideas about sustainable development and conservation. Finally, we will attempt to look at development and the institutions that implement it from the perspective of communities. The stance throughout will be on how these things shape the practice of sustainable development and conservation.

The goal of the course is to stimulate students to apply informed and critical thinking (which means not criticizing others but questioning their and our own underlying assumptions) to whatever roles they play in sustainable development and conservation, in order to move towards more environmentally and socially sustainable projects and policies. The course is also designed to help MEdS and doctoral students shape future research by learning to ask questions that build on but are unanswered by the social science theory of conservation and development.

This course provides students the opportunity to master the social science literature on development and conservation.

Classes will be about 3 hours long, structured as lectures followed by questions, a short break, and student-led discussion of readings and lecture. This course is a prerequisite for F&ES 80153b.

Readings

All of the required and recommended readings for the course will be available electronically at the class website (<http://classes.yale.edu>).

Use of Class Website

The class website will be used to circulate assignments so that everyone can read them before the relevant class, and for announcements by the Instructor or TF.

Requirements

Each class: Thesis sentences on required readings and participation in class discussions, for 25 % of final grade. Due by 5 PM each Monday before class. These will be emailed to the TF, compiled, and posted on the class website at “Discussion.” Everyone should read them all before Tuesday’s class.

Two times during semester: A one-page (single-spaced) comparative analyses and turn leading discussion, for 25% of final grade. These will be posted on the website at “Discussion” each Monday before class by 5 PM.

Final 25-page paper applying class readings and lectures to a project or topic of your choice, for 50% of final grade. Use this assignment as an opportunity to prepare for research, if you are a MEdSc or doctoral student, or to digest past experiences or prepare for future internships or jobs.

Guidelines for Writing Requirements

Thesis sentences: Capture the primary argument of the reading in a single sentence, for each of the required readings. This is not a general description of the article’s topic, but a rephrasing of its thesis that shows that you understand it. Not, for example, “Zerner describes how local environmental regulations have changed through time,” but rather: “Zerner reviews the history of how successive rulers have used local environmental regulations, highlighting how each regime has ‘discovered’ and used a version of these practices crafted to suit its needs in governance and resource control as well as conservation.” They don’t have to be this long!

Comparative Analyses: Limit to one page single-spaced.

- First paragraph: the thesis sentences for all required readings, as above. You may also use an introductory sentence.
- Second and third paragraphs: COMPARE and CONTRAST all the required authors’ views on the subject of the lecture. Imagine that the authors are sitting around a table discussing their articles with each other. What are some points of commonality or agreement among the authors? On what points do they differ or disagree? You may choose to have one paragraph comparing all the authors, and another paragraph contrasting them on some point, or compare/contrast different sets of authors in each

paragraph. Beginning with similarities may help you move to more complex differences.

- Final paragraph: conclude your comparative analysis with one phrase or sentence that highlights a significant practical or theoretical point you gained from reading the articles. This phrase is meant to remind you of what you have learned, and to focus class discussion. For example: “Political regimes use environmental law to control people and resources, not just for conservation.”

Final Paper:

The project you select for the final paper must have both environmental and social aspects. Collect everything you can on the project, including project papers and evaluations. Your analysis must include a description of those aspects of the local society relevant to the project, based on your reading of ethnographic literature, and a description of relevant aspects of all the players involved in the project, including their politics and financial status. Finding material about the players (and about the project itself) may require creativity and perseverance.

In your paper, detail some aspect or related set of aspects of the project and its players that promise success or threaten failure for the project – based on your understanding of underlying issues from class readings and lectures. Where you predict problems, try to propose possible solutions. Proposed solutions should not come off the top of your head, but be linked to what you learned in the course. You may describe the research that needs to be done to make a project work better.

I will be looking for critical thinking, not criticism, and for creative literature searches and creative proposed solutions – but also for your ability to apply what you learned in the course. I will also be looking for a certain level of detail that shows that you have carefully examined the information that you have read.

These analyses will be completely confidential: I will never circulate them or share their contents in any way with anyone.

Schedule of Readings

September 9: **Introduction**

By September 10, please email the Instructor and TA one paragraph including your name and email address, a summary of any past development or conservation experience you have (including organizations you worked for), your career goals concerning development and conservation, and your international experience.

September 16: **What Matters and Image Management in Development & Conservation**

Required

- Cronon, William. 1992. A Place for Stories: Nature, History, and Narrative. *The Journal of American History*. March. Pp.1347-1376.
- Rappaport, Roy A. 1993. Distinguished Lecture in General Anthropology: The Anthropology of Trouble. *American Anthropologist* 95(2): 295-303.
- Mosse, D. 2004. Is Good Policy Unimplementable? Reflections on the Ethnography of Aid Policy and Practice. *Development and Change* 35(4): 639-671.

Recommended

- Brown, Katrina. 2003. Three Challenges for a Real People-Centred Conservation. *Global Ecology & Biogeography* 12: 89-92.
- Tsing, A.L. 2005. The Economy of Appearances. Chapter 2 of: *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*. Princeton University Press. Pp.55-77,278-282.
- Latour, Bruno. 2004. Why Has Critique Run out of Steam? From Matters of Fact to Matters of Concern. *Critical Inquiry* 30: 225-248.
- Star, S.L. & J.R. Griesemer. 1989. Institutional Ecology, ‘Translations’ and Boundary Objects: Amateurs and Professionals in Berkeley’s Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, 1907-39. *Social Studies of Science* 19(3): 387-420.

September 23: **Western Discourses of Development and Conservation**

Required

- Scott, J.C. 1998. Authoritarian High Modernism. Chapter 3 of: *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. Yale University Press. Pp.87-102, 376-381. *Note: Missing pages are a second document on class site.*
- Cronon, W. 1995. The Trouble with Wilderness; or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature. In: *Uncommon Ground*. W. Cronon, Ed. W.W. Norton. Pp. 69-90.
- Fairhead, J. & M. Leach. 1995. False Forest History, Complicit Social Analysis: Rethinking Some West African Environmental Narratives. *World Development* 23(6): 1023-1035.

Recommended

- Mathews, A.S. 2003. Suppressing Fire and Memory: Environmental Degradation and Political Restoration in the Sierra Juarez of Oaxaca, 1887-2001. *Environmental History* 8: 77-108.

- Luke, T.W. 1995. On Environmentality: Geo-Power and Eco-Knowledge in the Discourses of Contemporary Environmentalism. *Cultural Critique* 31, The Politics of Systems and Environments II: 57-81.
- Gupta, A. 1998. Peasants and Global Environmentalism: A New Form of Governmentality? In: *Postcolonial Developments*. Duke University Press. Pp. 291-329, 369-378.
- Belsky, Jill M. 2000. Changing Human Relationships with Nature: Making and Remaking Wilderness Science. *USDA Forest Service Proceedings* 1: 39-47.
- Rossi, B. 2004. Order and Disjuncture: Theoretical Shifts in the Anthropology of Aid and Development. *Current Anthropology* 45(4): 556-560. *Note: go to p.556 of electronic copy.*
- Scott, J.C. 1998. Nature and Space. Chapter 1 of: *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. Yale University Press. Pp.11-52, 359-369.
- Hoben, A. 1995. Paradigms and Politics: The Cultural Construction of Environmental Policy in Ethiopia. *World Development* 23(6): 1007-1021.
- Adger, W.N. et al. 2001. Advancing a Political Ecology of Global Environmental Discourses. *Development and Change* 32: 681-715.

September 30: **Project selections due today! Bring to class two copies of a one-page description of the project you have selected, giving: project name, location, all the players involved, very brief description of environmental and social aspects of project, and your interest in it.**

September 30: **Third World Discourses of Development and Conservation**

Required

- Orlove, B.S. 1998. Down to Earth: Race and Substance in the Andes. *Bulletin of Latin American Research* 17(2): 207-222.
- Ingold, T. 1996. Hunting and Gathering as Ways of Perceiving the Environment. In: *Redefining Nature: Ecology, Culture and Domestication*. R. Ellen & K. Fukui, Eds. Pp.117-155.
- Ferguson, J. 2006. Of Mimicry and Membership: Africans and the “New World Society.” Chapter 6 of: *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Duke University Press. Pp.155-175,221-224.

Recommended

- West, Paige. 2006. A Land of Pure Possibility. Chapter 5 of: *Conservation Is Our Government Now: The Politics of Ecology in Papua New Guinea*. Duke University Press. Pp.147-182, 271-273.
- Brodt, S. 2003. Beyond the Local/Global Divide: Knowledge for Tree Management in Madhya Pradesh. In: *Regional Modernities: The Cultural Politics of Development in India*. K. Sivaramakrishnan & A. Agrawal, Eds. Stanford University Press. Pp.338-358.
- Richards, P. 1992. Saving the Rain Forest? Contested Futures in Conservation. In: *Contemporary Futures*. S. Wallman, Ed. Routledge. Pp.138-153.

- Bloch, M. 1995. People into Places: Zafimaniry Concepts of Clarity. In: *The Anthropology of Landscape*. E. Hirsch & M. O’Hanlon, Eds. Clarendon Press. Pp.63-77.
- Frake, C.O. 1996. Pleasant Places, Past Times, and Sheltered Identity in Rural East Anglia. In: *Senses of Place*. S. Feld & K.H. Basso, Eds. School of American Research Press. Pp. 229-257.
- Van Beek, W.E.A. & P.M. Banga. 1992. The Dogon and their Trees. In: *Bush Base: Forest Farm*. E. Croll & D. Parkin, Eds. Routledge. Pp.57-75.
- Ferguson, J. 1992. The Country and the City on the Copperbelt. *Cultural Anthropology* 7(1): 80-92.
- Thomas, Philip. 2002. The River, the Road, and the Rural-Urban Divide: A Postcolonial Moral Geography from Southeast Madagascar. *American Ethnologist* 29(2): 366-391.
- Pigg, S.L. 1992. Inventing Social Categories Through Place: Social Representations and Development in Nepal. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 34(3): 491-513.
- Vandergeest, P. 1996. Real Villages: National Narratives of Rural Development. In: *Creating the Countryside: The Politics of Rural and Environmental Discourse*. E.M. Dupuis and P. Vandergeest, Eds. Temple Univ. Press. Pp. 279-302.
- Zerner, C. 1994. Through a Green Lens: The Construction of Customary Environmental Law and Community in Indonesia’s Maluku Islands. *Law and Society Review* 28(5): 1079-1122.

October 7: **Power in Development and Conservation**

Required

- Li, T.M. 2007. Rendering Technical? Chapter 4 of: *The Will to Improve: Governmentality, Development, and the Practice of Politics*. Duke University Press. Pp.123-155, 314-317.
- Goldman, M. 2005. Eco-Governmentality and the Making of an Environmental State. Chapter 5 of: *Imperial Nature: The World Bank and Struggles for Social Justice in the Age of Globalization*. Yale University Press. Pp.181-220, 308-310.
- Doolittle, A. A. 2007. Native Land Tenure, Conservation, and Development in a Pseudo-Democracy: Sabah, Malaysia. *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 34(3/4): 474-497.

Recommended

- Ferguson, J. 1997. Development and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho. Chapter 22 of: *The Post-Development Reader*. M. Rahnema, Ed. Zed Books. Pp. 223-233.
- Escobar, A. 1988. Power and Visibility: Development and the Invention and Management of the Third World. *Cultural Anthropology* 3(4): 428-443.
- Neumann, R.P. 2001. Disciplining Peasants in Tanzania: From State Violence to Self-Surveillance in Wildlife Conservation. In: *Violent Environments*. N.L. Peluso & M. Watts, Eds. Cornell University Press. Pp.305-327.
- Sundberg, Juanita. 1998. NGO Landscapes in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala. *Geographical Review* 88(3): 388-412.
- Bonneuil, C. 2000. Development as Experiment: Science and State Building in Late Colonial and Postcolonial Africa, 1930-1970. *Osiris* 15: 258-281.

- Van Ufford, P.Q. 1993. Knowledge and Ignorance in the Practices of Development Policy. Chapter 7 of: *An Anthropological Critique of Development: The Growth of Ignorance*. M. Hobart, Ed. Routledge. Pp.135-160.
- Robbins, P. 1998. Authority and Environment: Institutional Landscapes in Rajasthan, India. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 88(3): 410-435.

October 14: Everyday Practices

Required

- Scott, J.C. 1998. Thin Simplifications and Practical Knowledge: Metis. Chapter 9 of: *Seeing Like a State*. Yale University Press. Pp.309-341.
- Waddell, E. 1975. How the Enga Cope with Frost: Responses to Climatic Perturbations in the Central Highlands of New Guinea. *Human Ecology* 3:249-73.
- Richards, Paul. 1993. Cultivation: Knowledge or Performance? In: *An Anthropological Critique of Development: The Growth of Ignorance*. M. Hobart, Ed. Routledge. Pp.61-78.

Recommended

- Fairhead, J. & M. Leach. 1996. Enriching the Landscape: Social History and the Management of Transition Ecology in the Forest-Savanna Mosaic of the Republic of Guinea. *Africa* 66(1): 14-36.
- Berkes, Fikret et al. 2000. Rediscovery of Traditional Ecological Knowledge as Adaptive Management. *Ecological Applications* 10(5): 1251-1262.
- De Certeau, M. 1984. Foucault and Bourdieu. Chapter 4 of: *The Practice of Everyday Life*. University of California Press. Pp.45-60, 213-215.

October 21: The Limits of Power

Required

- Li, T.M. 1999. Compromising Power: Development, Culture, and Rule in Indonesia. *Cultural Anthropology* 14(3): 295-322.
- Harrison, E. 2002. 'The Problem with the Locals': Partnership and Participation in Ethiopia. *Development and Change* 33(4): 587-610.
- Robbins, P. et al. 2005. Even Conservation Rules Are Made to Be Broken: Implications for Biodiversity. *Environmental Management* 20(10): 1-8.

Recommended

- Vasan, S. 2002. Ethnography of the Forest Guard: Contrasting Discourses, Conflicting Roles and Policy Implementation. *Economic and Political Weekly* 37(40): 4125-4134.
- Gupta, A. 1995. Blurred Boundaries: The Discourse of Corruption, the Culture of politics, and the Imagined State. *American Ethnologist* 22(2): 375-402.

October 28: Community Issues in Development and Conservation

Required

- Moore, D.S. 1998. Clear Waters and Muddied Histories: Environmental History and the Politics of Community in Zimbabwe's Eastern Highlands. *Journal of Southern African Studies* 24(2): 377-403.
- Li, T.M. 2007. Development in the Age of Neoliberalism. Chapter 7 of: *The Will*

to Improve: Governmentality, Development, and the Practice of Politics. Duke University Press. Pp. 230-269, 327-335.

- Li, T.M. 1996. Images of Community: Discourse and Strategy in Property Relations. *Development and Change* 27: 501-527.

Recommended

- Tsing, A.L. et al. 2005. Introduction: Raising Questions about Communities and Conservation. In: *Communities and Conservation: Histories and Politics of Community-based Natural Resource Management*. J.P. Brosius, et al., Eds. Rowman Altamira. Pp.1-36.
- Brosius, J.P. and D. Russell. 2003. Conservation from Above: An Anthropological Perspective on Transboundary Protected Areas and Ecoregional Planning. *Journal of Sustainable Forestry* 17(1/2): 39-65.
- Brosius, J.P. et al. 1998. Representing Communities: Histories and Politics of Community-based Natural Resource Management. *Society and Natural Resources* 11: 157-168.
- Leach, M. et al. 1999. Environmental Entitlements: Dynamics and Institutions in Community-Based Natural Resource Management. *World Development* 27(2): 225-247.
- Cornwall, A. 2006. Historical Perspectives on Participation in Development. *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics* 44(1): 62-83.
- Green, M. 2000. Participatory Development and the Appropriation of Agency in Southern Tanzania. *Critique of Anthropology* 20(1): 67-89.
- Campbell, L.M, & A. Vainio-Mattila. 2003. Participatory Development and Community-Based Conservation: Opportunities Missed for Lessons Learned? *Human Ecology* 31(3): 417-437.

November 4: **Collaborations**

Required

- Tsing, A.L. 2005. The Forest of Collaborations. Chapter 7 of: *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*. Princeton University Press.
- Bebbington, A. 2000. Reencountering Development: Livelihood Transitions and Place Transformations in the Andes. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 90(3): 495-520.
- Li, T.M. 2000. Articulating Indigenous Identity in Indonesia: Resource Politics and the Tribal Slot. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 42(1):149-179.

Recommended

- West, Paige. 2006. Making Crater Mountain. Chapter 2 of: *Conservation Is Our Government Now: The Politics of Ecology in Papua New Guinea*. Duke University Press. Pp.27-51, 256-258.
- Tsing, A.L. 1999. Becoming a Tribal Elder, and other Green Development Fantasies. In: *Transforming the Indonesian Uplands*. T.M. Li, Ed. Harwood Academic Publishers. Pp.159-202.
- Brosius, J.P. 1999. Green Dots, Pink Hearts: Displacing Politics from the Malaysian Rain Forest. *American Anthropologist* 101(1): 36-57.
- Conklin, B.A. & L.R. Graham. 1995. The Shifting Middle Ground: Amazonian Indians and Eco-Politics. *American Anthropologist* 97(4): 695-710.

November 11: **Subsistence and Development & Conservation**

Required

- Scott, J.C. 1976. The Economics and Sociology of the Subsistence Ethic. Chapter 1 of: *The Moral Economy of the Peasant: Rebellion and Subsistence in Southeast Asia*. Yale University Press. Pp.13-34.
- Gudeman, S. & A. Rivera. 1990. The House and the Market. Chapter 8 of: *Conversations in Colombia: The Domestic Economy in Life and Text*. Cambridge University Press. Pp.139-159.
- Hecht, S.B., A.B. Anderson, & P. May. 1988. The Subsidy from Nature: Shifting Cultivation, Successional Palm Forests, and Rural Development. *Human Organization* 47(1): 25-35.

Recommended

- Bernal, V. 1994. Peasants, Capitalism, and (Ir)rationality. *American Ethnologist*. 21(4): 792-810.
- Mayer, E. 2002. Aquito Para Ganar (“A Little Something to Earn”): Profits and Losses in Peasant Economies. Chapter 7 of: *The Articulated Peasant: Household Economies in the Andes*. Westview Press. Pp. 205-237.
- Davis, M. 2002. The Origins of the Third World: Markets, States, and Climate. *The Corner House*, Briefing 27.
- Browne, K.E. 1996. The Informal Economy in Martinique: Insights from the Field, Implications for Development Policy. *Human Organization* 55(2):225-234.
- McSweeney, K. 2004. Forest Product Sale as Natural Insurance: The Effects of Household Characteristics and the Nature of Shock in Eastern Honduras. *Society and Natural Resources* 17: 39-56.

November 18: **Capitalist Frontiers in Development & Conservation**

Required

- Tsing, A.L. 2005. *Frontiers of Capitalism*. Chapter 1 of: *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*. Princeton University Press. Pp.27-54,277-278.
- Ferguson, J. 2006. *Governing Extraction: New Spatializations of Order and Disorder in Neoliberal Africa*. Chapter 8 of: *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Duke University Press. Pp.194-210,225-227.
- Hecht, S.B. et al. 2006. Globalization, Forest Resurgence, and Environmental Politics in El Salvador. *World Development* 34(2): 308-323.

Recommended

- West, Paige. 2006. The Practices of Conservation-as-Development. Chapter 6 of: *Conservation Is Our Government Now: The Politics of Ecology in Papua New Guinea*. Duke University Press. Pp.183-214, 273-276.
- Carpenter, C. 2001. The Role of Economic Invisibility in Development: Veiling Women’s Work in Rural Pakistan. *Natural Resources Forum* 25(1): 11-20.
- Wood, A. et al. 2000. An Emerging Consensus on Biodiversity Loss. Chapter 1 of: *The Root Causes of Biodiversity Loss*. Earthscan. Pp.1-10.
- Li, T.M. 1997. Producing Agrarian Transformation at the Indonesian Periphery. In: *Economic Analysis Beyond the Local System*. R.E. Blanton et al, Eds. University Press of America. Pp. 125-146.

- Mayer, E. 2002. Household Economies Under Neo-Liberalism. Chapter 10 of: The Articulated Peasant: Household Economies in the Andes. Westview Press. Pp. 313-332.
- Nygren, A. 2000. Development Discourses and Peasant-Forest Relations: Natural Resource Utilization as Social Process. Development and Change 31: 11-34.
- Rahman, A. 1999. Micro-credit Initiatives for Equitable and Sustainable Development: Who Pays? World Development 27(1): 67-82.
- Hanlon, J. 2004. It is Possible to Just Give Money to the Poor. Development and Change 35(2): 375-383.

November 25: Fall Recess

December 2: TF **Lecture**

December 9: **Papers due**