

Panel D: Changing conceptions of space in natural resource management (chair: Irmeli Mustalahti; coordinator: Julia Jänis)

Panel description:

This panel welcomes both theoretical and empirical papers on changing conceptions of space in natural resource management particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. The challenges in spatial dimensions regarding nature and natural resources intrinsically involve the interconnections of ecological, social, cultural, economic and political interests. This implies that research on natural resource management requires a thorough understanding of the differences and interlinkages of such interests in various local contexts.

The panel specifically welcomes papers that discuss understanding of natural resources management for the purposes of livelihood, conservation and tourism. Linked to this are arising conflicts from the clash of interests in different uses of and different values attached to natural resources, e.g. climate change mitigation and adaptation, human-wildlife conflicts and tourism development versus local livelihoods. In addition, the panel welcomes papers concentrating on current efforts to combat the decline and overharvesting of natural resources together with efforts in poverty reduction and climate change, such as decentralized and participatory natural resources management and REDD+ projects. Finally, broader and more theoretical analyses of the interlinkages of natural resources, climate change, conservation and tourism in the quest for sustainable development are welcome.

1) Irmeli Mustalahti (University of Helsinki)

2) Julia Jänis (University of Helsinki)

3) Maitseo M.M. Bolaane (University of Botswana): Boundaries, territoriality and sovereignty redefined and challenged: the Botswana Game Reserve landscape.

The aim of this paper is to examine the intersection between landscape, place, memory and identity within areas zoned as National Parks and Game Reserves in Botswana. The paper's contribution will explore the politics of landscape ideas, and their role not only in heated conflicts over land, conservation, tourism and mining, past and present, but also in relation to identity and memory. The paper will show the importance of constructions of landscape in the country's cultural heritage, ethnic and nationalist movements in colonial and post colonial contexts. By exploring historical and indigenous discourses, the study will highlight collaboration as well as opposition between different stakeholders: minority ethnic groups vis-a-vis dominant groups and state authorities. Issues of identity and cultural heritage are widely debated today in Botswana, more especially in relation to the landscape that were created in the 1940s and 1960s as Game Reserves. A widely publicised Court case in 2006 addressed the Botswana government's eviction of the San (Bushmen/ Basarwa) from Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR). In the Moremi Game Reserve, Botswana, in Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (Botswana and South Africa), and the Kruger National Park in South Africa resident communities were removed from the outset. In East Africa, the indigenous residents' removal from the Kenyan/Tanzanian parks are now debated. This paper will present some of the above case studies for comparison and analyse the process of relocation strategy demonstrating how boundaries, territoriality and sovereignty are redefined and challenged. The paper advocates a 'networked' understanding of place and identity transformation, such that local dynamics are considered in relation to the broader contacts and flow of ideas not only with metropolitan centres but also other places on the periphery.

4) Pekka Virtanen (University of Jyväskylä): Complex Systems and Fluid Borders: Ethnic Identity and Nomadic Pastoral Appropriation of Space in the Borderlands of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda

Natural environment - or 'space' - is often interpreted as the rough material human societies 'make' places with. According to Chiara Certomà, "this means that there is a clear distinction between human agent, as subject, and external environment, as object. Cultural boundaries are seen as enclosing coherent and homogeneous fractions of space: cultures and society are all imagined as having an integral relation to bounded place and this produces a particular hegemonic understanding of the relation between space and society". The idea of 'nation-states', or stable, socio-culturally homogeneous and territorially bounded political communities imported to Africa with European colonialism corresponds with the above static concept of 'place'. While the complex pre-colonial history of Africa provided a range of alternatives, the European model was adopted by the newly independent states of Africa despite obvious difference in conditions (e.g. socio-cultural heterogeneity, illiteracy). Formal endorsement in key conventions such as the Charter of the OAU notwithstanding, the nation-state project remains highly problematic in Africa. One key reason for the relative failure of the project is the incompatibility of the adopted model with African ways of spatial adaptation and socio-political organisation. Many African communities, e.g. nomadic pastoralists in the borderlands of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, have mixed ethno-linguistic origins while their livelihood depends on flexibility of territorial boundaries. In the paper the changing but invariably conflictual relationship between these groups and the respective states is analysed: the focus is on different ways the groups have sought to maintain their fluid group identity under the pressure of state policies, which have largely sought to undermine their livelihood basis - and thus cultural identity.

5) Christian Vium (University of Copenhagen): Nomad-Sedentary Interpenetrations in the Urban Landscape. A case example from Nouakchott, Mauritania.

Since its ex-nihilo foundation in 1956, the capital city of Nouakchott in Mauritania has grown into an anarchic urban landscape of nearly one million people, of whom a large part are sedentarised nomads who have invaded the sedentary space when droughts decimated their livestock in the great Sahelian droughts. Within what has been termed 'the anthropology of landscape' (Hirsch & O'Hanlon 1995) considerable attention is given to the way in which human beings are emplaced in their environment, and particularly how they make sense of their surroundings. With reference to Deleuze and Guattari's notions of 'nomad space' (1980) – and what Pedersen, among others, calls 'the nomadic landscape' (2009) – this paper investigates the rhizomic and boundless nature of the space inhabited by the nomad and inserts it in the particular urban context of Nouakchott, the capital city of Mauritania in West Africa. By analysing how sedentarised nomads inhabit and topographically appropriate the urban landscape through adaptation strategies nested in their specific perception of space and place and ways of navigating it I wish to probe what happens when nomads, accustomed to high levels of mobility, become sedentary and find themselves immobilised due to poverty and political marginalisation and analyse how they creatively (circum)navigate the striated and disciplined space of the Nation-State. Here, mobility, of people and of the landscape, occupies a central position. My analysis is grounded in Heidegger's notion of Dwelling coupled with Ingold's 'wayfinding' (2000) and Le Roy's notion of 'odology' (the study of roads, paths or tracks) (1999). Essentially, the city of Nouakchott presents an anthropological paradox as it is fundamentally a socio-cultural and political juxtaposition of what is often considered two antithetical entities: the Nomad and the Nation-State. I intend to challenge this

dichotomy by arguing for a new concept: that of the **Nomad_Scape** which encompasses the precarious entanglement of disequilibrium environment, nomad-sedentary interpenetrations and politico-ideological confusion.

6) Erlend Eidsvik (University of Bergen): A discussion on appropriation of place from a case in Western Cape, South Africa

The spatial turn has triggered epistemological contributions to humanistic and social science where analytic entities such as place, space and time has proved to be highly applicable terms in order to understand social and historical settings.

In the tradition of critical geography, place is not only an immersion based on subjective experience, but an entity for studies of power and resistance, of being in place in contrast to out of place, of being in position of power or being oppressed by power. Construction of place can be seen as manifestation of power, and how power are manifested through spatial organisation.

In this paper discussions on place will be analysed through spatial perspectives of a historical case from Knysna, Western Cape, South Africa. Arrival of Nordic migrants in the 1870ies to Knysna, and the business enterprises established by the migrants, had an immense influence on construction of the place itself, and how the place became spatially organised.

Power, to a large extent, is expressed through monopolisation of space. This case also shows how power is expressed in monopolisation of place, and how appropriation and monopolisation of place has formed the conditions for social interactions.

In addition to a structural discussion on place and power, the paper will also discuss construction of place as a constant process – on how place has been negotiated and transgressed; on how issues of in place/out of place has been re-articulated and re-situated through time – thus altering the conditions for social interaction and performance of power.

7) Frode Sundnes (Norwegian University of Life Sciences): From wasteland to heritage: Exploring contemporary and historical discourses on ‘appropriate land use’ in and around the Dukuduku Forest, a protected area in KwaZulu-Natal

The Dukuduku Forest is a protected forest area adjacent to the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a World Heritage Site along the northern coast of KwaZulu-Natal. The forest has in the South African context come to epitomize the struggle between, on the one hand, environmental protection and nature conservation, and on the other, land demands and livelihood struggles. The tensions at Dukuduku have persisted for several decades, and have been described as “the biggest single environmental threat” to South Africa. With the present-day conflicts over the forest as a starting point this paper sets out to analyse the various uses of, claim to and plans for the Dukuduku forest from the late 1900s until present, by looking at how ‘nature’ in this locale has been formed and represented. The pattern that surface during the 20th century is one of a productive landscape, envisaged by emerging commercial enterprises of forestry and agriculture, in competition with a natural landscape sought protected. These separate claims to land and nature seem in more recent times to have merged into a discourse of ‘appropriate land use’ in an alliance of forestry and conservation interests. This analysis suggests that recent tensions at Dukuduku are strongly informed by the earlier history and colonial ideas. The losers throughout this period are a local population who has been subject to forced evictions, forced labour regimes, exclusion and marginalisation.