

## Interdisciplinary Programmes

Academic year 2018-2019

### Development and the Tropics: Political Ecologies of Lost Edens, Green Hells, El Dorados

#### MINT088 - Autumn - 6 ECTS

#### Course Description

The tropics are one of the central areas to understand in development studies. They have had a complex role in colonial and Imperial history, in the politics of decolonization and in the development dynamics of present day globalization. Forms of development unfold also within the most complex environmental contexts, contexts which have planetary implications. Much of the future of the 21st century is being written in tropical development now.

#### > PROFESSOR

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## Syllabus

This class frames a set of debates about the tropics in light of global dynamics in of planetary change and the issues about development and environment as they are discussed today. We are in a world of economic and environmental globalization/ planetization with significant transformations and probably several irreversibilities, but the catastrophist position may not be entirely warranted. The tropics have had complex histories of We'll discuss why. And what might work. What is clear is significant paradigm shifts are in order, but how processes are operating, and the degrees of path dependencies are still open questions. We will be trying to assess pattern, process and scale and how these unfold under the conditions of globalization, new forms of governance (neo and post neoliberal), institution development and, especially climate change and environmental losses. This is a pretty tall order.

The broad scope of the course demands a great deal of reading of both primary and interpretative critical literatures in order to familiarize you with even the rudiments of the debates. We'll be using some central texts---but not actually always all of them, but you will want to have these as part of your library., and lots of readings from various journals. You can access the journal articles via the web of science and we'll explain how to use it. Its alot to read but the questions are complex and we surely won't figure them out in one class! But it is a foundational class for situating your future work.

There are many books that pertain to topic that are not on this list and , and we'll be indicating them through the syllabus and in class: they represent an expanded reading list, and also a means through which you can follow your further interests. Also we'll be sending you announcements of

campus events, and also web resources and stories etc. AS you 'll see, some of the literature is more enviro, the other more social sciences, so you will need to get used to reading both types of writings.

The books explore major global issues, and major development issues --- from bio, market, institutional and social movement optics to arrive at political ecological critiques and analytics. There are ways forward, but...they are complicated. Also these processes are moving along at large scales and are very dynamic and the points of intervention are often very difficult to see, and do not correspond to any hegemonic discourses.

Each class will begin with you guys noting the environmental week in the news. What happened in enviro news with global implications ( oil spills, drastic weather, extinctions etc etc: the usual--- but maybe some unusual too:).

We'll have me holding forth on the readings and then depending on student numbers, you'll do a case study which you will present in the last hour. You'll also develop an annotated biblio on the topic and an analytic book review. If you want, you can do a paper in lieu of a biblio. As you will see, political ecology provides a useful approach for grasping both the social and natural sciences, and its essential for doing any applied work.

The tropical development question in capitalism is generally posed as an issue of the latter half of the the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but the debates about it have deeper antecedents. And where and why are they contested. These are big themes we tackle further on in the course, but the over arching framing in international and domestic environmental issues increasingly revolves or will revolve revolves around the questions of climate change and governance and how these relate ideas and ideologies of tropical pasts and nature.

**It's highly recommended that you read Eric Wolf's *Europe and the People without history* before the class. This will give you a great deal of regional background and historical framing before we address the modern concerns.**

### **Required Texts**

**D.Acemoglu. *Why Nations Fail* (Comparative institutional analysis of states)**

**SB Hecht. *Fate of the Forest: Destroyers, Developers and Defenders of the Amazon***

**D. Arnold. *The Problem of Nature (Colonialism and nature)***

**SB Hecht, K Morrison, C. Padoch. *The Social Lives of Forests. (Socio nature in the past present and futures of the tropics)***

**T. Burgis. *The Looting Machine (What corruption means for nature and politics)***

**JR McNeill. *The Great Acceleration (how really aberrant our period of capitalism is)***

**This syllabus will be augmented with many more specific articles in the next weeks as your interests become clearer to me.**

### **Week 1: Basic overview of the class and its content.**

This is basically a quick intro of you to each other and to start you reading. Fill out your name, area of study, whether you have had overseas experience, where and which program you are in. Talk about what you are interested in. Logistics of class etc etc.. This also gives me a sense of your areas of interest.

***Part I. The Big Framing questions: History, Ecologies and Futures issues of narratives and models of environment. Tropicality and its uses***

## **Week Two: Science and Imaginations and the Questions of Development**

SB Hecht 2010. "The Realm of nature" *Fate of the forest*

Stepan, N. 2001 *Picturing Tropical Nature* pp11-24; 31-84: Representation to evolution;

Arnold, D. *The Problem of Nature: Environment Culture and European expansion*. "Reappraising nature" "Inventing Tropicality."

## **Week Three: Wild nature vs socio nature and human history**

Wolf, E. 1982. *Europe and the People without History* The World in 1400 pp24-72

Hecht, SB. 2017. Domestication, domesticated landscapes and tropical natures. *Routledge handbook on environmental humanities*. Pp21-31

Mike Heckenberger et al 2015. Amazonia 1492 Pristine forest or cultural parkland? *The Social lives of forests* (Hecht Morrison, Padoch eds) pp 315-322

Kathy Morrison and Mark Lycett (2015). Constructing nature: Socio natural histories of an Indian forest. *Social lives of forests* 148-161.

Judith Carney. "Food in the African Past", African Plants on the Move". *In the Shadow of Slavery*

## **Week 4. Tropics, ecological diaspora, and slavery: Globalization 1.0**

**(The topic of slavery is vast but its environmental literature is sparser than one might think, and most of its discussions are book length treatises: there are some classics though: Sidney Mintz: *Sweetness and Power*; Richard Grove *Green Imperialism* Alfred Crosby *Biological Imperialism*. Most tend to deal with a single commodity which is also quite interesting i.e Cotton and imperialism,**

SB Hecht "Forests of their Desires" (*FOF*)

D. Arnold "Crossing Ecological Boundaries" *The Problem of Nature*

J Carney "African Food Crops and the Guinea Trade", "African Food and the Atlantic Crossing" *In the Shadow of Slavery*

E. Wolf. "Slavery" *Europe and the people without history*.

CCMann. "Evil Air" 1493.

## **Week 5. The Green Imperial moments and the rise of colonial sciences**

Ray Bryant 2015. "The fate of the Branded Forest: Science. Violence and the Seduction in the World of Teak." *Social Lives of Forests* pp 220-230

D. Arnold 1996. "Colonizing nature" *The Problem of Nature* 169-188

Sluyter, A. and C. Duvall (2016). "AFRICAN FIRE CULTURES, CATTLE RANCHING, AND COLONIAL LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE NEOTROPICS." *Geographical Review* **106**(2): 294-311.

## **Week 6. The industrial revolution and tropical supply: Rubber, rubber everywhere even now!**

J. Conrad. *The Heart of Darkness*

SB Hecht. "In the Realm of Rubber"; "Argonauts of the Amazon" *The Scramble for the Amazon*

Taussig, M. (1984). "Culture of Terror - Space of Death - Casement, Roger Putumayo Report and the Explanation of Torture." Comparative Studies in Society and History **26**(3): 467-49

Osborn, E. L. (2004). "'Rubber fever', commerce and French colonial rule in Upper Guinea, 1890-1913." Journal of African History **45**(3): 445-465.

For the modern day, though, check out “ Production of forests” and “From Swidden to rubber” in *Social lives of forests*

## **Part II. Into the Modern: New states, new economies, new environments new environmentalisms**

### **Week 7. The questions of the state, institutions and enviro/development narratives**

T. Burgis 2014 *The Looting Machine*

D. Acemoglu and J. Robinson 2012 “Theories that don’t work” “Reversing Development” “Vicious Circle” “Why Nations Fail Today” *Why Nations fail*.

Leach, M and J. Fairhead, 2015. False Forest History. *Social Lives of forests*

R. Neuman 2015. Stories of nature’s hybridity in Europe. *Social Lives of Forests*

D Barry. The invisible map, *Social Lives of Forests*

### **Week 8 The Deforestation Crisis: Cold war tropical environments and globalized environmentalism. Authoritarian development and tropical environments; the neoliberal dynamic and post neoliberal initiatives**

(Authoritarian)

Myers, N, R Mittermeier, C Mittermeier, G de Fonseca, Kent, J. 2000. Biodiversity hotspots for conservation priorities. *Nature* Vol.403 853-858

SB Hecht. “The General’s blueprint” and “Furies unleashed” *Fate of the Forest*

Geist, H and E. Lambin 2002. Proximate causes and underlying driving forces of tropical deforestation. *Bioscience*: 52:143-151

Hecht, S. B. (1993). "The Logic of Livestock and Deforestation in Amazonia." Bioscience **43**(10): 687-695. (Hecht 1993)

Peluso, N. L. and P. Vandergeest (2011). "Political Ecologies of War and Forests: Counterinsurgencies and the Making of National Natures." Annals of the Association of American Geographers **101**(3): 587-608

#### Neoliberal Dynamics

Fearnside, P. M., A. M. R. Figueiredo and S. C. M. Bonjour (2013). "Amazonian forest loss and the long reach of China's influence." Environment Development and Sustainability **15**(2): 325-338.

Laurance, W. F. (2007). "Forest destruction in tropical Asia." Current Science **93**(11): 1544-1550.

“Biodiversity and Climate Change” *The Great Acceleration*

Richards, P. D. (2011). "Soy, Cotton, and the Final Atlantic Forest Frontier." Professional Geographer **63**(3): 343-363.

Sampaio, G., C. Nobre, M. H. Costa, P. Satyamurty, B. S. Soares and M. Cardoso (2007). "Regional climate change over eastern Amazonia caused by pasture and soybean cropland expansion." Geophysical Research Letters **34**(17).

### **Post Neoliberal, social landscape dynamics**

Palacios, M. R., E. Huber-Sannwald, L. G. Barrios, F. P. de Paz, J. C. Hernandez and M. D. G. Mendoza (2013). "Landscape diversity in a rural territory: Emerging land use mosaics coupled to livelihood diversification." Land Use Policy **30**(1): 814-824.

Redo, D., A. C. Millington and D. Hindery (2011). "Deforestation dynamics and policy changes in Bolivia's post-neoliberal era." Land Use Policy **28**(1): 227-241.

Wilshusen, P. R. (2010). "The Receiving End of Reform: Everyday Responses to Neoliberalisation in Southeastern Mexico." Antipode **42**(3): 767-799.

Wilson, P. C. (2008). "Neoliberalism, indigeneity and social engineering in Ecuador's Amazon." Critique of Anthropology **28**(2): 127-144.

Redo, D., A. C. Millington and D. Hindery (2011). "Deforestation dynamics and policy

### **Week 9 New forms of environmentalism: Social Forests and social forestry, Institutional framings Environmental services, REDD+ and complex alliances**

SB Hecht "Defenders of the Amazon" *Fate...*

SBHecht 2014 Forests Lost and Found. *Journal of Peasant Studies*

Rudorff, B. F. T., M. Adami, D. A. Aguiar, M. A. Moreira, M. P. Mello, L. Fabiani, D. F. Amaral and B. M. Pires (2011). "The Soy Moratorium in the Amazon Biome Monitored by Remote Sensing Images." Remote Sensing **3**(1): 185-202.

Meijer, K. S. (2015). "A comparative analysis of the effectiveness of four supply chain initiatives to reduce deforestation." Tropical Conservation Science **8**(2): 583-598.

Nepstad, D. C., W. Boyd, C. M. Stickler, T. Bezerra and A. A. Azevedo (2013). "Responding to climate change and the global land crisis: REDD+, market transformation and low-emissions rural development." Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B-Biological Sciences **368**(1619).

Zimmerer, K. S. (2011). ""CONSERVATION BOOMS" WITH AGRICULTURAL GROWTH? Sustainability and Shifting Environmental Governance in Latin America, 1985-2008 (Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia)." Latin American Research Review **46**: 82-114.

Robertson, M. (2010). "Performing environmental governance." Geoforum **41**(1): 7-10.

**10. Complexities in Forest recovery: Green grabbing, land grabbing and the politics of tree monocrops.**

**11-12 The Tropical Energy Crisis: Mixing oil and water with the resource curse.**

JR McNeill and P Engelke 2016. "Energy and Population" *The Great Acceleration* (Nepstad, Boyd et al. 2013)

Stickler, C. M., M. T. Coe, M. H. Costa, D. C. Nepstad, D. G. McGrath, L. C. P. Dias, H. O. Rodrigues and B. S. Soares (2013). "Dependence of hydropower energy generation on forests in the Amazon Basin at local and regional scales." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America **110**(23): 9601-9606.

Valdivia, G. (2015). "Oil frictions and the subterranean geopolitics of energy regionalisms." Environment and Planning A **47**(7): 1422-1439.

Widener, P. (2009). "Global Links and Environmental Flows: Oil Disputes in Ecuador." Global Environmental Politics **9**(1): 31-+(Widener 2009)

Lees, A. C., C. A. Peres, P. M. Fearnside, M. Schneider and J. A. S. Zuanon (2016). "Hydropower and the future of Amazonian biodiversity. ." Biodiversity Conservation **25**: : 451-466.

Watts, M. (2008). "Imperial oil: The anatomy of a Nigerian oil insurgency." Erdkunde **62**(1): 27-39.

Bebbington, A. (2012). "Underground political ecologies: The second Annual Lecture of the Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers." Geoforum **43**(6): 1152-1162.  
(Bebbington 2012)