

**Contested Global Landscapes:  
Property, Governance, Economy and Livelihoods on the Ground**  
*An ISS Theme Project Proposal*

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## **I. Overview**

“If I lose my land, I lose my country.”

(Mirta, a Paraguayan smallholder, cited in Fernandes, 2009)

“Today’s leading analysts are convinced the farmland asset class is on course to become a prime asset class, perhaps even the best investment of our time, for institutional investors – especially since agriculture not only offers diversification from traditional asset classes, but is also demonstrably capable of delivering superior returns to listed equities. As ever, investment is all about the timing. And the signals indicate that those who get first mover advantage will see the lion’s share of the gains.”

(From a brochure announcing the World Agriculture Investment Conference, 2011)

Over the past decade, there has been a concerted rush to acquire land. In just one year, from March 2008 to April 2009, an estimated 40 million hectares of land changed hands (Deininger et al. 2011); the latest figures from the World Bank suggest that this was twenty times higher than the average annual level of land transfers for the preceding 40 years (Arezki, Deininger and Selod 2011: 1).<sup>1</sup> From the aborted 1.3 million hectare land deal that toppled the government of Madagascar in 2009 (Perrine et al. 2011; Fairbairn 2011) to the behind-doors land leases “purchased” throughout Sub-Saharan Africa (Deng 2011; Hall 2011), the rising interest in land is arguably the result of many factors. In particular, spikes in food and fuel prices in 2008 and again in 2011 (Barrett and Bellemare 2011; Brown 2011) moved many investors, from individuals to national governments, to flee the crisis-ridden housing and insurance markets and turn to agricultural and energy commodity markets; as the second quote above suggests, direct investments in land became attractive as stores of wealth in volatile circumstances.

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<sup>1</sup> Original estimates from the World Bank suggested that there was only a tenfold increase in land acquisitions (Deininger et al., 2011: vi) while estimates produced by the International Land Coalition (ILC) and Oxfam are significantly higher. The ILC has documented transfers of 80 million hectares from 2008 to 2011 (ILC forthcoming) while Oxfam suggests that more than 227 million hectares have been allocated in large-scale land deals since 2001, with the vast majority of those transfers occurring after 2008. See the ILC/CIRAD forthcoming synthesis report on the Commercial Pressures on Land Research Project cited in Oxfam Briefing Paper 151 on Land and Power: The growing scandal surrounding the new wave of investments in land, published online on September 22, 2011. Downloaded from: <http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications> on November 21, 2011. By 2030, according to the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Switzerland, the new global demand for land could amount to over 500 million hectares (the size of India) (De Koning 2009).

Popularly titled a “global land grab” (Borras et al. 2011) or a worldwide version of the historical “Scramble for Africa” (Moyo 2011), this rush to acquire land is both produced by, and productive of, broader transformations in the global political economy (see the March 2011 forum, *Journal of Peasant Studies*; Pearce 2012). Land is being acquired for a wide range of purposes: food and bio-fuel production, tropical forest harvesting and plantation forestry, ranching, production of illegal narcotics, water storage and hydropower, “green-zoning to secure nature” (protection of flora, fauna and global biodiversity), “green-zoning” for military security and peace-keeping missions, underground extraction and “sprawl” (mining for precious minerals and metals, oil, natural gas, and carbon injection sinks), above-ground carbon acres, urban expansion, vast webs of infrastructure in regional development programs, and new “ghost acre” zones sacrificed to war, land mines, urban waste and toxic sludge. The scale and velocity of these transfers makes “old” agrarian questions of imperialism and political power relevant again and invokes new concerns of scarcity and security in a world of spiraling physical, social and ecological crisis (McCarthy and Wolford 2011; Pearce 2012).

While many of the land deals conducted in the past decade have yet to go into production, there is widespread concern that the deals will privilege production for external markets while allowing or facilitating the neglect of local communities through the lack of transparency or community dialogue and displacement of residents with informal or traditional land rights.<sup>2</sup> Observers are polarized. The World Bank and others cast land deals as potential “win-win” scenarios wherein new investment in land provides much-needed capital and technology for third-world agricultural production, food security, and employment (c.f., Cotula et al. 2009; Deininger and Byerlee 2010; Robertson and Pinstrup-Anderson 2010); others argue

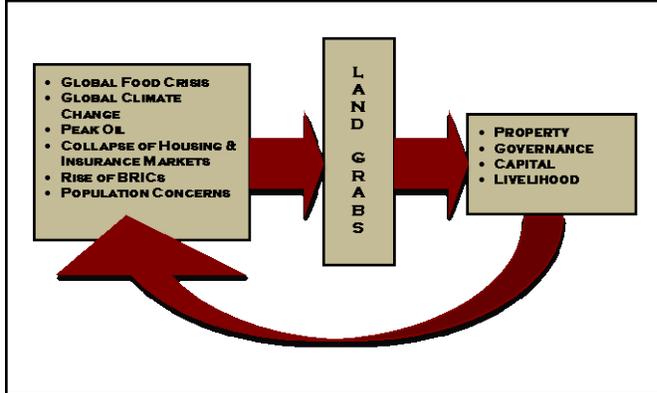
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<sup>2</sup> According to the World Bank publication of 2011, 78% of the land acquisitions included in their report were not under production.

that the rush to acquire land is an assault on the poor (de Schutter 2010) and a neo-colonial scramble for land and resources by predatory investors (Oxfam, 2011; Via Campesina, 2011).

Land grabs are clearly worthy of study as concrete social processes in and of themselves. But in this proposal we go beyond the Manichean debate and analyze the complexity of land deals on the ground. We propose to re-conceptualize the rush to acquire land as a window onto larger issues of *property, governance, economy and livelihood*. We argue that the scale of contemporary land acquisitions suggests fundamental transformations of the global landscape (Dalby 2009), and, given this magnitude, we wish to interrogate its theoretical, analytical and empirical dimensions. Already, considerable work has been done to describe land deals in particular places, and scholars from academic institutions (including ourselves, see Borras et al. 2011; Geisler and Feldman 2011; Hall, White and Wolford under review; Safransky and Wolford 2011; Araghi and Karides 2012) as well as social movements and non-governmental organizations have attempted to describe and define the process in broad brushstrokes. If given three years to work on this topic as an ISS theme project, we intend to develop a deeper understanding of the underlying conditions of land deals as well as the broader implications for newly contested global landscapes. Stripped to essentials, our goal is to answer this question: *Who wins and who loses in particular land deals and how can the rhetoric of “win-win” become a reality?* To that end, we focus our proposal and ideas around the four interrelated areas mentioned above: property, governance, economy and livelihood. Figure 1 illustrates our view of the primary ways in which land deals articulate with global crises and realign rights, rules, resources and social reproduction. These transformations, in turn, have roots in the dynamics of public and private sector accumulation that co-generated these crises in the first place.

**Figure 1. Land Grabs as a Window**



This figure depicts a social science lens on the human-land relationship – what we call the “social life of land.” Older formulations (e.g., human carrying capacity) are inadequate to grasp the complexity of land as, literally, the

ground we walk on but also national territory, a factor of production, cultural homelands, bio-diverse life-support system, place-based identity, and, not incidentally, a target of human possession. New analyses must follow land through historically complicated and contradictory social relationships that condition the current conjuncture.

As a tentative attempt to position ourselves vis-à-vis the contemporary moment, we have formulated a hypothesis regarding the political context now shaping the rise of land deals in different parts of the world. Based on our disciplinary training, individual research and reading of political history, we suggest that the rush to acquire land indicates a shift in global political economy that might be summarized as a move (partial and contested to be sure) from the market-based neo-liberalism of the past thirty years to an authority-based neo-conservatism, or “neo-plantationism.” Classical political economists and liberal theorists of the 18<sup>th</sup> century stressed the civilizing effect of free trade and manufacturing over protectionism and agriculture.

Conservatism, in turn, elevated Physiocrat philosophies, privileged large landowners, and sought to *protect* markets, particularly agricultural ones, whether at home or in overseas possessions (c.f., Polanyi 1945; also see Hirschman 1982). The unfolding battle between liberals and conservatives pitched merchants and free marketers against landowners and protectionists, and

echoed around the world in different ways. In semi-feudal Latin America Conservatives and Liberals struggled to control access to wage labor (immigration), plantations, and political hegemony. Liberal doctrines in Europe, supreme during the long *Pax Britannica*, eventually gave way towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as continental land scrambles ensued in Central Asia, Africa and China, accompanied by the rise of imperialism and the subsequent Great Wars (c.f., Hobson 1902).

Liberal political economy rose again in the late 1900s, ushered in by the free-market and lean-state policies of Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan, and for the last 30 years, neo-liberal political and economic policies have been viewed as nearly universal (“there is no alternative” or TINA), with only banal debates over the shape and purview of its various elements (Peck and Tickell 1994). Our Theme Project locates itself in what may constitute a break in the hegemony of neo-liberalism: we argue that we are witnessing the return of the plantation and a wariness of market dominance. Nation-states, fearing for their food security, no longer trust the market to deliver critical commodities; governments in “land-poor countries” from India to Saudi Arabia and China are acquiring sites of future food production to ensure their access. Although the dominance of either neo-liberalism or neo-conservatism is never total or complete, we suggest that situating contemporary land deals within historical political economy transformations is vital for understanding their broader implications (Araghi and Karides 2012). In this sense, a 10,000 hectare land acquisition in Cambodia by the Chinese government, a 20,000 hectare purchase in Argentina by TIAA-CREF, and a lease in Ethiopia larger than the State of Rhode Island by India’s Karuturi Global Ltd. are not isolated incidents; they are arguably part and parcel of a more generalized set of political and economic imperatives.

In order to study the outlines of this perspective, we propose to organize the three years of an ISS Theme Project on Contested Global Landscapes around the empirical question: *who wins and who loses from the rise in large-scale land deals?* By posing this question, we signal our move away from easy answers with good guys and bad, superior and inferior land tenure systems, or a priori rights and wrongs. We intend to move beyond simplified interpretations of benevolent capital versus evil land grabbers, and focus on the issues that matter: the people, the land, and the lived experiences of both. In sum, our project is designed to:

- Survey a broad social and material terrain – *the contested global landscape*;
- Through a highly visible, policy-relevant lens – *contemporary land deals*;
- Captured by a basic orientation – prioritization of the *social life of land*;
- Guided by a hypothesis – rising *neo-conservatism* and its consequences on the land
- and a paramount research question – *who wins, who loses and why?*

The interaction between these pieces – from the broad view to increasingly focused questions – will allow us to conceptualize the constituent pieces of the overarching problematic without losing sight of what is happening on the ground. While we cannot research the effects of land deals across the entirety of the globe, asking our questions in this way will help us to orient our weekly seminars, workshops and conferences, classroom teaching, and cumulative research. This research will be co-designed in the project’s first year by the full project team, our initial expectation being that each scholar will define a research domain relevant to the theme project topic as well as their own research agenda. Simultaneously, each scholar will assume responsibility for a subset of questions in the four sub-themes appearing below and each team

member will share their research with all members of the Theme Project and the Cornell Community. In what follows, we outline the four areas on which we hope to focus and list key sub-questions therein. Core and At-Large Cornell faculty for theme project membership are proposed at the end of each section.

## **II. Capturing the Intellectual Core: Property, Governance, Economy, and Livelihood**

**1. Property: the web of relationships over access and control.** Massive land acquisitions and transfers have the potential to reshape the legal, economic, political, social and cultural ways in which land is claimed, transferred, and utilized. Lawmakers, corporations, politicians and local people call upon a range of mechanisms – from norms to independent contracts to statutory and constitutional law – to legitimate access. And though it has long been recognized that property is not a thing but a social relationship (Singer, 2000; Alexander and Peñalver 2010), a “bundle of rights” and recombinant ingredient of modern capitalism (Stark 1996), most conflict and contestation over “land” (including land grabs) arises over the definitions of those “rights” and related entitlements across cultures. Property is fundamentally a social process embedded in an unfolding web of relationships central to human survival (Geisler 2010; Hall et al. 2011), and as such has everything to do with broader perceptions and constructions of inclusion and exclusion.

Not surprisingly, shadowing global land transfers is a campaign to promote land titling – one approach to the “who is included” question. Organizations from the World Bank to Oxfam and the FAO have focused on improving the legal and bureaucratic mechanisms with which land deals are conducted and overseen: establishing better contracts, obtaining free, prior and informed consent, and delineating clear land rights. All of these elements have a history; securing transparent and effective land and natural resource rights have long been seen as crucial

to releasing the entrepreneurial spirit of the rural and urban poor in developing countries (de Soto 2000; Deininger 2003; Dwyer 2011; FAO 2009, 2011; Grandia, 2011; Landesa, 2011).<sup>3</sup> Thus, contemporary land deals are embedded in a diverse discourse of “land re-distributions” ranging from the dissolution of large estates, collectives and state farms in Eastern Europe, China, Mexico, Brazil, and Scotland (Bryden and Geisler 2010; De Janvry, Sadoulet and Wolford 2001; Hart 2002; Verdery 1996; Wolford and Gorman 2011; Wright and Wolford 2003) to the startling rise in the use of eminent domain in the United States over the past twenty years as notions of public use are replaced by monetized calculations of public benefit (Alexander 2005). At times they assume the mantle of “land reform” and entail titling programs designed to create wealth among the rural and urban poor in countries from Peru to Egypt (de Soto 2000) or adopt planning tropes (e.g., transfer of development rights, green zone, and gated communities) to conduct land appropriations in the name of public interest (Chau and Zhang 2011; Nemeth and Schmidt 2011).

Even as new property relationships are formed, historical norms surrounding access to land will shape the ways in which stakeholders negotiate the contemporary context. And as land deals create new forms of property and property relationships, the social life of land is being re-negotiated. Within this sub-theme field, we will explore a rich variety of topics, including (but not limited to): the evolution in property rights as a lived experience; the development and use of new legal and informal mechanisms to adjudicate and monitor ongoing land deals; the relationship between private and public rights and the political, social and economic implications

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<sup>3</sup> For at least 20 years, the international community has promoted land rights as a solution for lawlessness, political instability, environmental degradation, production inefficiencies and even political corruption (World Bank 2009). The emphasis on land titles and the flexibility of land markets has in some cases paved the way for land deals, providing a veneer of legitimacy through formalization. At the same time, the push for titling forms part of the radical strategy to protest land deals because social movement and civil society activists also argue that communities are being pushed aside precisely because they have customary or traditional forms of access that are not respected in the rush to parcel off areas (Daniel and Mittal 2010; Landesa 2011; Oxfam 2011).

of the distinction between the two; and, finally, the volatility between surface and sub-surface rights (“social fracking”). (Charles Geisler, Wendy Wolford, Paul Nadasdy, Mildred Warner, CRP; Greg Alexander, Law; Eduardo Penalver, Law; Muna Ndulo, Law and the African Institute for Development; Ray Craib, History.)

**2. Governance: “Rival Sovereignties.”** This theme builds on the previous one, suggesting that the rise in large-scale property transfers raises questions about the constitution, coherence and capacity of modern states. While the explosion of literature on land acquisitions written over the past few years is increasingly sophisticated, there is still the need for a better framework for understanding how land deals are shaping – and being shaped by – the modern nation state. Several macro-level analyses of land deals suggest that they are concentrated primarily in “weak” or “fragile” states where “governance of the land sector and tenure security are weak” (Arezki, Deininger and Selod 2011: 3; also see Bomuhangi, Doss and Meinzen-Dick 2011; Deininger et al. 2011). But weak states in the global south have no monopoly on land grabbing. Close inspection forces the question—is neoliberal deregulation giving way to aggressive state planning in the far-flung realms of Canada, and China, Brazil and Nigeria, Eastern Europe and Russia, and not incidentally the United States? Moreover, the literature on land deals sees sovereign states, weak or otherwise, as some-time accomplices or facilitators to land deals originating in the private sector. In fact, states themselves are aggressively competing for “land” in the global commons (valuable sea beds and evolving sites for carbon and waste storage) and continue to confiscate, annex, and assert sovereign dominion over aboriginal lands, mineral estates, and the “commonwealth” of water. Water grabbing, no-fly zones, and the “new underground” (Williams 2008) are principally state-driven domains where preemption of other

tenure claims is routine and often ruthless. These are “new plantations” begging for immediate attention.

In this sub-field, then, we address issues of the state under the broader frame of governance. Governance is not synonymous with the state; rather, governance is a process and a relationship; it is control over territory, authority, sovereignty and rule. Governance is the ability to exercise material, symbolic and social power over other people and resources as well as over oneself and one’s community. Many analyses suggest that improved governance is the key to addressing the most problematic aspects of land transfers, such as forced dispossession, speculative behavior, corruption and a general lack of transparency (see Li 2011 for a critique of too-facile arguments about “good governance” assumptions), but we need to know more about the motivations of particular actors – state and non-state – as well as the capacity of governments and the political cultures that shape the path “from policy to practice.” An analysis of governance must include a focus on formal legal mechanisms such as constitutions and bureaucratic jurisdiction but also on the formal and informal “bundle of powers” exercised by different actors (c.f., Ribot and Peluso 2003; Peluso and Lund 2010), as well as the process by which rule is enacted and negotiated on the ground. Not to be overlooked under “governance” is the evolving role of the nongovernmental sector, both as semi-formal service providers and as counterforces to states (e.g., drug cartels, crime syndicates, private military contractors, war lords, corporations, and trade associations), creating newly imagined communities (Anderson 1983) below the normal legal radar (Davis 2009). The rising backlash and counter movement of displaced and dispossessed communities (which we focus on in sub-theme 4) raises further questions around state authority, as demands for agrarian reform and food and land sovereignty

beg questions of accountability, security and local control (Herring 2003; Lipton 2009; Geisler 2006; Wolford and Gorman 2011).

The specific questions on which we will focus to develop this approach include (but are not limited to): what are the mechanisms by which states claim and govern public and private property in the name of development, growth, beneficial use and national security?; how is sovereignty being devolved and/or shared by an ever-broadening range of actors, including non-governmental organization, local elites, corporations, social movements, community groups and multinational agencies?; and how on the ground and in particular state settings are the global food crisis, climate insecurity, and spiraling consumer demands constructed as land governance “imperatives” that produce land winners and losers? Regarding this last, how are these imperatives articulated at the global level (increase production, implement REDD, protect biodiversity) and implemented at the local--a scalar mismatch that leads to accusations of imperialism, the loss of sovereignty, and the extinguishing of human rights? (Nancy Chau, Charles Geisler, Wendy Wolford; Susan Christopherson, CRP; Marcela Gonzalez-Rivas, CRP; Ron Herring, Government; Steven Wolf, NRES; Stephan Schmidt, CRP).

**3. Farming in a Three-Piece Suit: New Forms and Flows of Finance.** As we argued in the introduction to this proposal, the rise of contemporary land deals signals a transformation of the global economy. For the past (roughly) 30 years, policies and practices of production, consumption and distribution have been shaped neo-liberal philosophies and imperatives. Here we contend that the rapid rise of land deals suggests a new era: the return of conservatism, or neo-conservatism. Previous research has suggested that the majority of large-scale land deals conducted in the past five years have not moved into productive investment: fully two thirds of

the land that has changed hands (purchased or leased) sits idle, suggesting that capital flows are determined as much by speculative interests as by the pressures of supply and demand for food and fuel (Deininger and Byerlee 2010; Oakland Institute 2011). Speculators are a key component of the rush to acquire land, but so are governments; nation-states are locking down access to production because volatility, scarcity and insecurity have become larger concerns than development, trade and even growth. A key facilitating and even motivating factor for both public and private land deals has been the development of new financial tools and sites that have made land a key asset for risk diversification.

Interdisciplinary research must follow capital flows, decipher their logic, and trace them to real, everyday places and lived experiences (for example, to the Cornell campus, as TIAA-CREF is among the largest land investors in South America and a critical force in the markets of South Africa). The nature and implications of our (postulated) return to conservatism demands attention and there are various theoretical frameworks to apply to analyzing new configurations of capital, land and labor. Models of comparative advantage might suggest that contemporary land deals reflect the immobility of key factors of production viz. the perfect mobility of capital (Arezki, Deininger and Selod 2011); regulation theorists might argue that land deals could only rise to such prominence given a particular (competitive) mode of regulation and (monopolistic) mode of production (Aglietta 2001); political economists would highlight increasing levels of inequality, the world economic crisis with the attendant need to ground speculative capital and the ideal nature of land as an asset in times of inflation (Harvey 2003); and post-colonial theorists might draw our attention to the similarities between contemporary patterns of land acquisition and historical practices under colonialism wherein the 'long lease' was perfected (Makki and Geisler 2011). Whatever the theoretical frame, we argue that contemporary

understanding of land dealing must be situated in the broader political economy of production, distribution and exchange (Araghi and Karides 2012).

The questions we wish to pursue in this sub-field include (but are not limited to): How does the non-fungibility of land affect its investment qualities within and between countries? Do local conditions affect fungibility and can common ground/win-win solutions arise from technological innovation and capacity transfer to offset non-fungibility?; How do annual investor conferences in the Global North select targets in the Global South and what new South-South investment strategies and patterns are emerging (e.g., Brazil in Mozambique and India in Ethiopia)? Do the recent land-hedging experiences of Eastern Europe (Stark 1996) inform us about authoritarian “opportunity structures” arising on the landscapes of Asia, Africa, and Latin America? Is the approach of different investors, including governments, private investors (such as Warren Buffet or the Black Water, the investment arm of Cargill Inc.), and individual farmers (Indian, Brazilians, and Americans who are locating in other countries where farmland is cheaper and use less restricted) different in terms of on-the-ground beneficiaries? Has globalization homogenized overseas land investment (e.g., hedge-funds or joint equity groups) or is there important regional and institutional variation with respect to winners and losers? Finally, are there “resource curses” attaching to land due to land investment and speculation schemes once reserved to oil, gold and diamonds? Through the Theme Project we hope to mobilize interdisciplinary research following capital flows from global finance centers to real, everyday places and lived experiences. (Wendy Wolford, Nancy Chau, Sara Pritchard, STS; Steve Kyle, AEM; Marina Welker, Anthropology; Per Pinstrup-Andersen, DNS; Susan Christopherson, CRP)

#### **4. Just Land: Livelihoods, Environments and the Everyday Geographies of Production.**

The above research agendas lead to a final, key issue: how are large-scale land deals actually playing out on the ground in different places and for different people? As is already clear, land is much more than a physical resource or arena for state activity; land is life, stability, livelihood and social reproduction (Bebbington 1999; Scoones 2009). As such, identities and livelihoods are constituted through relationships on and with the land; from the nation state to localized land managers, land deals produce new kinds of subjects and subjectivities. From experiences of dispossession and marginalization to redefinitions of productivity and belonging, a focus on livelihood embeds land deals in bodies, households, communities and government offices and illuminates the possibilities and challenges of land transfers for local and national wellbeing (Bebbington and Batterbury 2001). Over the past twenty years, far-reaching mobilizations in pursuit of access to land have spread rapidly throughout the world (Borras, Edelman and Kay 2009). Across a variety of different contexts, land has remained a productive and political resource, a basis for social and cultural *location* and place-based *identity* in a globalizing world: antidotes to unfolding globalization crises are herein characterized as “back-to-the-land,” the “new land question,” and “new agrarianism” (Edelman 2009). These could be considered as nostalgia in the tradition of British historian Raymond Williams (1973), or seen as counter-globalizations led by dispossessed populations and communities (e.g., the Zapatista uprising of southern Mexico the Rural Landless Workers’ Movement of Brazil, squatter movements in India, South Africa, and urban America and rural Britain, native land claims in Canada and Australia, and the contentious resettlement of the West Bank by Jewish settler communities and of Chinese peri-urban zones by “communist developer elites”).

In this section, we ask how purchases, leases and re-distributions affect people's ability to live, feed themselves, and socially reproduce, whether in urban areas where cheap food is a priority or in rural areas where access to land is essential for economic survival and the continuation of cultural traditions. We will ask how the land is *used* – both before and after acquisition or expropriations occur, and we will explore the implications for welfare and health in both situations: we will consider: the “erasing” of certain land uses, peoples, and communities through exclusionary land rights; the varied consequences of asset-stripping (oil, minerals, natural gas, food, forest products, environmental services); and the context of the rise and maintenance of various land-based mobilizations around the world. These questions build on a project led by Wendy titled “Developing Meaningful Evaluations of Sustainability: Indicators for Agrarian Development,” funded by the Atkinson Center for Sustainable Futures (2011-2013). Discussion around these questions would also draw upon work being done in many other departments across campus, including Per Pinstrup-Andersen's pioneering work with global educators on poverty, hunger and land. (Wendy Wolford, Paul Nadasdy, Charles Geisler, Christopher Barrett, AEM; Jeremy Foster, Landscape Architecture; Marcela Gonzalez Rivas, CRP; Stephan Schmidt, CRP)

### **III. Expected Activities and Final Products**

If awarded an ISS Theme Project, we will reach out to a number of faculty members across campus who are doing related work (many of these faculty participated in the topical lunch on this subject organized by Wendy Wolford through the Atkinson Center for Sustainable Futures [ACSF] in November of 2010). Our first year will be spent primarily in planning, with an inaugural seminar to be delivered at the end of the year. This first year fortuitously coincides

with the Second International Conference on Global Land Grabs organized by the Land Deals Politics Initiative (LDPI - Wendy is one of the five founding members), to be held at Cornell in the third week of October 2012 (over 100 papers will be presented; José Graziano da Silva, the new Director-General of the FAO will be one of the keynote speakers).<sup>4</sup> This conference will give us a chance to engage with international scholars, activists and policy-makers who have been working on issues of land governance for several years now. We will also avail ourselves of the opportunity to access information about land deals around the world; we propose to ask every participant to provide basic statistics and resources on land deals in their country or region of interest. This information will be compiled in a new interactive map (see below). If we are awarded an ISS Theme Project, we will provide \$10,000 to support the local logistics of organizing the conference and we will ask the four other members of the LDPI (all senior researchers and academics on land policy issues in their own right) to stay in Ithaca for a day after the conference (project funds will be used to cover the costs of their hotel and meals) to spend focused time with our project team to help us think through the implications of the conference and establish a set of priorities for the following two years.

Participation in this conference will also help team members elaborate their proposals and plans for research over the three-year period and to identify non-Cornellians with shared interests

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<sup>4</sup> See: [www.iss.nl/ldpi](http://www.iss.nl/ldpi). In late 2009, five researchers – Ian Scoones (Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, UK), Ruth Hall (Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies, University of the Western Cape, South Africa), Wendy Wolford (Cornell, USA), Ben White and Saturnino M. Borrás Jr. (Initiatives in Critical Agrarian Studies, ICAS; International Institute of Social Studies, ISS, The Hague) – formed the LDPI to help set a research agenda and push for more rigorous theoretical-empirical engaged research on the global land grab phenomenon. In 2009-2010, the ‘LDPI 5’, in collaboration with the *Journal of Peasant Studies*, sponsored a ‘small grants competition’, providing grants to 40 applicants. Research from these grants was presented at the International Conference on Global Land Grabbing held in April 2011 at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex where a total of 120 academic papers were discussed (selected from close to 400 abstracts submitted in response to our call for papers). Several special issues in journals are forthcoming or under review as a result of the conference, including two special issues in the *Journal of Peasant Studies*, “Green Grabbing: A New Appropriation of Nature?” (edited by James Fairhead, Melissa Leach and Ian Scoones), and “The New Enclosures: Critical Perspectives on Corporate Land Deals” (edited by Ruth Hall, Ben White and Wendy Wolford) and “Governing Global Land Deals,” submitted to *Development and Change* in December 2011. Olivier de Schutter is a faculty member at Columbia Law School and also the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food.

As part of the Theme Project, we aim to conduct sustained, interdisciplinary research on the four sub-theme dimensions of large-scale land transfers in six target sites (China, Canada, Brazil, Ghana, Nigeria and the United States). To move team conceptualization and collaboration aggressively forward following the LPDI-II catalyst, we will meet bi-weekly throughout the first year and support a graduate research assistant. This student will assist in the design, development, and execution of a state-of-the-art project website that will serve as a virtual hub for our on campus/off campus initiatives. Modeled after Cornell VIVO and linking to its technologies where possible, this website will be an interactive research portal both gathering and distributing “baseline-to-finishline” resources on land deals from multiple sources. It will build on VIVO’s administrative capacities for faculty networks and work clustering and offer bi-annual “genius bar” tutorials on emerging map-based use, research, and data storage. When completed, faculty, staff, and students will be able to access countries featured at the LDPI-II conference (participants will provide information on land deal, potential winners and losers, and selected questions from our four sub-themes above). We will create a global reference map, where users can click on a country (we will begin with the 6 focus countries in which our core team has research experience) and retrieve links to all of the sources we can find detailing land deals in that country, including media reports, academic papers, legislation, background reports, investor actions, and available GIS layers from the public domain.

As we continue through the Theme Project, we will expand and update the interactive map, making it a hub and visual repository for our unfolding research. We will use the term “working landscape” in a new way, scaling up from sovereign state terrains to the “contested global landscapes” in our theme project title. The goal is a powerful, multi-functional website that becomes a virtual Center for Agrarian Futures. At the end of year one, an inaugural Project

Lecture by team co-leaders Wolford and Geisler will outline this understanding of a working landscape, its mapping components, and its open-access research opportunities for Project team members and other interested participants. Over the summer following year one, we propose to provide funding for 6 graduate students working on issues relevant to our four sub-themes. These students will be selected through an open competition and encouraged to participate fully in team events and publication projects during years two and three.

During our second year, we will coordinate several further activities: we will teach a two-semester graduate seminar, hold regular working group meetings, organize four workshops (one on each sub-field: property, governance, capital and livelihood) examining how each addressed the central question of who wins, who loses, and why with respect to global land deals. We will review and reinforce collaborations among individual research projects (Core Team members) and joint research agendas for the theme project as a whole. This year will be organized by sub-themes led by different team members, with approximately half a semester dedicated to each. Because of the importance of year two in the larger theme project, we will briefly describe these activities in greater detail.

First, Wolford and Geisler have received permission from their chair to co-teach a two-semester graduate seminar around the themes of this proposal (“The Social Life of Land I & II”). These seminars will recruit participants from across multiple colleges and will be fundamental in allowing us to foster an intellectual community that will explore relevant theoretical, empirical and methodological issues together. In the fall, the graduate seminar will focus on Property and Governance, and in the spring will focus on Capital and Livelihood. The seminar will combine class meetings with working group meetings, mixing the two in regular succession. Class meetings will allow students to work through scholarly material that lays the historical and

theoretical background for analyzing land deals while working group meetings will revolve around papers in progress on land-deal related topics. These working group meetings will feature a local team member or an invited guest, and they will be organized according to what we call the “Yale Agrarian Studies format” wherein authors provide the class with a working paper two weeks prior to the meeting (Wolford experienced this as a Agrarian Studies Fellow at Yale and Geisler was a presenter in the series). The meetings will begin with discussant comments, after which general questions and comments are directed to authors for discussion. This is an excellent way to engage and encourage students and faculty from different disciplines to focus attention on globally contested land deals and related issues. Two conferences (one in December 2013 and one in April 2014) will bring selected invited guests and seminar participants together to synthesize findings and “build out” the global mapping project with new information and insights. Throughout the year, we will also use our ongoing weekly team meetings to push the team towards realizing its collective and individual research goals. We will critically revisit the broad research questions posed in year one, and invite new collaborations between group members and the greater Cornell community. (In the fall of 2012, Wendy will assume a new position as Associate Director of Economic Development with the ACSF, providing bold opportunities for the team to engage with ACSF fellows and leverage common interests.)

In year three, we will turn to deliverables: publications and expanding the virtual, Inter-disciplinary Cornell Center for Agrarian Futures. We will again hire a graduate research assistant to support researching and compiling the various publications as well as consolidating the webpage for broader dissemination or its mapping and organizational assets. We envision special issues of at least two of the following Journals: *World Development*, the *Journal of Peasant Studies*, the *Journal of Agrarian Change*, and the *Journal of Rural Studies*. (Wendy is on the

editorial board of JPS and Chuck on that of JRS; and the Senior Editor of the JPS is one of our external participants.)

Our longer-term vision, stemming from what we propose here, is a multi-disciplinary virtual Center for Agrarian Futures that would collect and direct land-related research generated in this global land grant university as well as outside. Although many people at Cornell work on land-related topics, few think of themselves as doing so – this center will provide a provocative platform for integrating diverse approaches and creating a holistic framework tied materially, theoretically and methodologically to common ground. The center will be visible to a wide range of users, including academics, independent scholars, activists, policy-makers, and the general public. It will feature and foster land-related research on this campus (we will explore the possibility of outside funding) as well as linking to a small set of external partners, including non-governmental organizations such as Oxfam (with its new GROW campaign focused on the land and rural livelihoods). The Theme Project is the bridge between the first round of land grab investigations and a sustained university response by Cornell and partnering universities.

At the end of year, three we will hold a critical capstone lecture with presentations by all team members and a celebratory inauguration of the completed website and center. This capstone event will be held in the Johnson Art Museum with key invited attendees and an invitation to the public to participate.

#### **IV. Core Team Members**

**Nancy Chau** is a Professor at the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, and an International Professor at CALS. Her current research in the area of land economics juxtaposes the need for agricultural land preservation and the public finance implications of urban land use

in the Chinese context. She is working on two specific topics of interest to this project: 1.

**Harnessing the Forces of Urban Expansion to Strengthen Agricultural Land Preservation Efforts-**

**-the Chinese experience.** For decades, rapid urban expansion has led to concerns over the loss of cultivated land in rural China. This concern contrasts sharply with another salient feature of the land policy reform experience in China that has gone on largely unnoticed -- the addition of newly cultivated land in China through land development (reclamation, consolidation, and rehabilitation) in fact consistently exceeded land conversion from agriculture to construction use from 1999- 2006. Her research deals with the design of innovative policy reforms, which harness the forces of urban expansion to encourage agricultural land development, accounting specifically for the revenue incentives facing local government officials. An important example in this context is the so-called “land development allowance” policy, instituted since 1998, which legislates tie-ins between permissible urban expansions with agricultural land development efforts.

2. **Transferable Development Rights and Fiscal Decentralization in China.** Transferable development rights have been coined a “smart growth” tool in the management of land development, balancing the need for land preservation and the forces driving urban expansion. In the Chinese context, such transfers of development rights take on two distinctive characteristics: (i) the decision making agents are local governments as opposed to private individuals, producers / enterprises, and (ii) due to a series of fiscal decentralization reforms since 1994, local government can fully internalize the revenue consequences of the cross-provincial transfer of land development rights. Specific research questions Nancy is investigating in this area include: What determines the direction and the size of the trade in land development rights across provincial lines? What are the land use, economic growth and income distributional consequences of such inter-provincial trade?

**Charles Geisler** (team co-leader) is a Professor of Development Sociology at Cornell University and an International Faculty member within CALS. His past and present research bears strongly on land/property/livelihood issues through inquiries into: local control of land resources by government and nongovernmental actors; exclusionary land use planning (red-lining & green-lining) and contestations by in-holders in protected areas and Wise-Use groups beyond; common property and enclosures disputes; land reforms in the global north (England, Scotland, the United States) and south (South Africa, Dominican Republic); the social impacts and livelihood challenges for land-dependent communities of rapid resource development (roads, dams, hydro-fracking); and minority property rights. His research engages the theme project in multiple ways: the evolution and resilience of property institutions, especially in times of insecurity and crisis (#1); multi-scale governance of land resources across public/private sectors; this open space for land grabs “from below” and above as well as by nonstate organizations, some of whom use violence to make/break existing social relations of property (#2); and the nullification of regional livelihoods through new discourses of *terra nullius*, producing “new enclosures.” This is an important “why?” facet of who wins and who loses. He has experience with social/land displacement in Bangladesh, the United States, Ethiopia, the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, and Japan and co-leads the Polson Institute’s “New Enclosures Working Group” at Cornell. His most recent co-edited book, *Accumulating Insecurity, Securing Accumulation: Violence and Dispossession in the Making of Everyday Life*, contains research findings about the forfeiture of property rights by illegal immigrants felonized in the U.S. war on terrorism.

**Paul Nadasdy** has a joint appointment in Anthropology and American Indian Studies. Among his principal research interests is the negotiation and implementation of indigenous land

claim and self-government agreements in the Yukon, Canada, where he has been carrying out ethnographic research for 17 years. These land claim agreements, essentially modern Indian Treaties, may be seen as public sector land deals altering land rights and relations of governance throughout Canada in fundamental ways. As an anthropologist, Nadasdy is interested not only in the political implications of these treaties, but in the cultural processes and understandings involved in their negotiation and implementation—of immediate relevance to the Livelihood sub-theme (#4). Government and aboriginal negotiators have very different conceptions of what “land” even is and how humans should relate to it (the Governance core of #2). Thus, the negotiation and implementation of such agreements, while they can seem to be self-evidently about rights to land and resources, in practice entail struggles that are as much over cultural meanings, symbols, and processes as they are over land and resources. Attention to these meaning are essential for any proper understanding of land rights. Another strand of Nadasdy’s research relevant to the ISS project deals with the politics of indigenous knowledge about and possession of land and animals (#1). The biosphere itself can be a “loser” in land deals. Euro-American experts increasingly seek to appropriate this newly recognized form of knowledge and integrate it with science for purposes of wildlife management, environmental impact assessment, aboriginal land claim negotiations, and other vital processes of contemporary state formation. As a result, questions of “knowledge” (what counts as knowledge? How is it produced and legitimized?) are central to an understanding of these processes. In his research, Nadasdy examines how state power manifests itself – and, in a very real sense, is created – through the day-to-day bureaucratic practices associated with attempts to harness traditional environmental knowledge for use in contemporary processes of land management and governance.

**Wendy Wolford:** (team co-leader) Wendy is an Associate Professor in Development Sociology and an International Professor as well as a field member in Latin American Studies and International Agriculture and Rural Development. Wendy's research interests include the political economy and geography of development, social movements and resistance, agrarian societies, political ecology, land use, land reform, and critical ethnography, all with a regional concentration in Latin America, particularly Brazil. Her research and teaching specifically focuses on four projects: the changing nature of the state and land reform in Brazil; the moral economies of social mobilization, particularly focused on the Landless Rural Workers' Movement in Brazil; political ecologies of conservation and agriculture in the Galápagos Islands, Ecuador; and the politics and practices of new land deals (the so-called "global land grab"). Wendy has published widely and is a founding member of the Land Deals Politics Initiative (LDPI), as well as incoming Associate Director of Economic Development for the Atkinson Center for Sustainable Futures at Cornell. Wendy is also the PI of the ACSF Academic Venture Fund (AVF) project tasked with creating an indicator for assessing rural vulnerability. Wendy's next research project articulates well with the interests of this proposal. She plans to deepen a study of "Brazil in Africa," studying the ways in which the Brazilian agricultural research and extension agency (EMBRAPA) has extended its reach into key sub-Saharan countries to provide technology, training and tools for transferring the so-called Brazilian miracle (Economist 2010) to the semi-arid tropics of Africa.

**Proposal Summary:** Our Theme Project connects perennial concerns of the past with potent concerns of the immediate future. Along with many others, we wish to return land to its central location in the human economy and society. We build on the literature around the contemporary

“global land grab” and aim to take the research into a second phase. We have broken this new research into four research domains well suited to the Cornell community and our ultimate goal is to create a living institutional host for on-going research and analysis.

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**Appendix:  
Four 3-page CVs for core team members**

**Nancy H. Chau**

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**Academic Positions Held:**

Professor, Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University, 2010 - Present  
Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow. 2007 - 2008.  
Fellow, Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future. 2010 - .  
Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA-Bonn). 2007 - .  
Senior Research Fellow, Center for Development Research (ZEF), Universitat Bonn. 2005 - .  
Director of Graduate Studies, Cornell Institute of Public Affairs, Cornell University. 2004 -2006.  
Associate Professor, Department of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University. 2003 - 2010.  
International Professor of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University. 2002 - .  
Visiting Fellow, Department of Economics and Finance, City University of Hong Kong. 2003.  
Department of Economics, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg VA. 2003. Center for Development Research, Universitat Bonn. 1999 - 2005.  
Core Faculty, Cornell Institute of Public Affairs. 2001 - .  
Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University. 1999 - 2002.  
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Southern Illinois University. 1995 - 1999.

**Education:**

Ph.D (Economics) July 1996. The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, U.S.A.  
M.A. (Economics) May 1993. The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, U.S.A.  
B.A. (Economics) May 1991. International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan.  
Reciprocity Student. 1990 - 1991. University of California at Berkeley.

**Research Interests:**

International Trade, Economic Development, Regional Economics and Economics of Uncertainty and Information.

**Selected Publications (2001-):**

“Trade Restrictiveness and Pollution -- A Directional Distance Function Approach,” (with Rolf Fare and Shawna Grosskopf). Forthcoming in *Journal of Public Economic Theory*.

“Shadow Pricing Market Access: A Trade Benefit Function Approach.” (with Rolf Fare). *Journal of Economic Theory* 146 (4): 1631-1663. 2011.

“Harnessing the Forces of Urban Expansion: The Public Economics of Land Development Allowance” (with Weiwen Zhang). *Land Economics* 87: 488-507. 2011.

“Turning a Blind Eye: Costly Enforcement, Credible Commitment and Minimum Wage Laws.” (with Arnab K. Basu and Ravi Kanbur). *Economic Journal* 120: 244 - 269. 2010.

“A Theory of Employment Guarantees: Contestability, Credibility and Distributional Concerns” (with Arnab Basu and Ravi Kanbur). *Journal of Public Economics* 93 (3-4): 482 - 497. 2009.

“Nonprofits and Public Good Provision: A Contest based on Compromises” (with Marieke Huysentruyt). *European Economic Review* 50(8): 1909-1935. 2006.

“Exploitation of Child Labor and the Dynamics of Debt Bondage” (with Arnab Basu). *Journal of Economic Growth* 9: 209-238. 2004.

“Trade Restrictiveness and Efficiency” (with Rolf Fare and Shawna Grosskopf). *International Economic Review* 44 (3): 1079-1095. 2003.

“Concessional Amnesty and the Politics of Immigration Reforms” *Economics and Politics* 15(2): 193-224. 2003.

“Targeting Child Labor in Debt Bondage: Evidence, Theory and Policy” (with Arnab Basu). *World Bank Economic Review* 17: 255-281. 2003.

“The Adoption of International Labor Standard Conventions: Who, When and Why?” (with Ravi Kanbur). *Brookings Trade Forum*, 2001: 113-156. 2002.

“Strategic Amnesty and Credible Immigration Reforms”. *Journal of Labor Economics* 19 (3): 604-634. 2001.

“Optimal Urban Employment Policies: Notes on Calvo and Quibria” (with M. Ali Khan). *International Economic Review* 42(2): 557-568. 2001.

### **Other Publications:**

#### **Books:**

New Frontiers in Environmental and Social Labeling. Arnab Basu, Nancy Chau and Ulrike Grote (eds.). Physica Verlag. 2007.

### **Editorial Board and Professional Affiliations:**

Guest Editor: Review of International Economics 2010-2011.

Member of Expert Panel: Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Associate Editor: IZA Journal of Labor and Development (2011 - ).

Associate Editor: American Journal of Agricultural Economics (2008 - ).

Member of Editorial Board: Agricultural and Resource Economics Review (2008 - ).

Member of Editorial Board: Agricultural Economics (2004 - 2007).

Member of Child Labor Network: IZA, Bonn, Germany (2007 - ).

Member of Scientific Committee: IZA-World Bank Conference 2007.

**Selected Research Grants, Conference Funding, Prizes and Awards:**

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Transcoop Research Grant Programme (with Arnab Basu and Hilmar Schneider).

Humboldt Research Fellowship. Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Germany. 2007-2008.

CSREES. Cornell Agricultural Experiment Station, USDA. Hatch Project. "New Challenges in Assessing Multilateral Trade Liberalization". NYC-121418. 1999 - 2005.

T. W. Schultz Award: Best Contributed Paper at the 25th International Association of Agricultural Economists Meeting. (with Arnab K. Basu and Ulrike Grote). 2003.

**Invited Presentations (2007-):**

World Bank - IZA Conference: Institutions and Informal Employment, Final Conference of the Transnationality of Migrants -- Marie Curie Research Training Network, CEPR, IFPRI,

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis,

University of Manitoba (Canada),

University of International Business and Economics (China), Zhejiang University (China),

Binghamton University,

CEPR Paris (France),

University of Bergen (Norway),

Chr. Michelson Institute (Norway),

Institute for Social Studies (Netherlands),

Center for Studies in Social Sciences (India),

University of Goettingen (Germany),

University of Nottingham (Great Britain),

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Hong Kong),

City University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong),

Central European University (Hungary),

Institute for the Study of Labor (Germany),

Oregon State University, Cornell University (Econ., Labor Econ., CRP, CIPA).

**Courses Taught:**

Introduction to Microeconomics (Undergraduate), Microeconomic Theory III (Graduate),

Foreign Trade (Graduate), Economic Development (Graduate), Advanced Microeconomics

(Graduate), International Trade Policy (Undergraduate), Seminar on International Trade Policy

(Graduate), Strategic Thinking (Undergraduate), Open Economy Analysis (Graduate).

**Charles C. Geisler**  
**Curriculum Vita, 2011**

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Development Sociology  
Cornell University  
237 Warren Hall  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
Ph: 607-255-1691  
E: [cgc2@cornell.edu](mailto:cgc2@cornell.edu)

**EDUCATION**

1979            Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison  
1975            M.S. University of Wisconsin-Madison  
1967            B.S. Dartmouth College

**CURRENT POSITION**

Professor, Cornell University, 1994-2011  
Associate Professor, Cornell University, 1986-1994  
Assistant Professor, Cornell University, 1979-1986

**PRIMARY RESEARCH AREAS**

Environmental and Natural Resource Sociology, Land Reform, Property and Community,  
Refugees and Displacement, Indigenous Land and Water Rights,  
Legal Sociology, Social Protection and Sovereignty, Social Impact Assessment

**RELEVANT SABBATICALS AND STUDY LEAVES**

University of Oxford, England, Center for Refugee Studies (2005) (Displacement, governance,  
property rights in stateless places, environmental refugees]  
Wageningen University, The Netherlands, Department of Agrarian Law (1997) [Adat Property  
Law; *Property and Values* Book Research]

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books:**

*The Sociology of Property: Pre- and Post-Property in Everyday Development*. In work. Expected completion 2013.

*Accumulating Insecurity, Securing Accumulation: Violence and Dispossession in the Making of Everyday Life*, Shelley Feldman, Charles Geisler and Gayatri Menon, eds., Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press. 2011.

*Biological Diversity: Balancing Interests through Adaptive Collaborative Management*. L. Buck, C. Geisler, J. Schelhas, and E. Wollenberg (eds.) Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, 2001.

*Property and Values*, C. Geisler, G. Daneker, eds., Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2000.

*Setting Priorities for Land Conservation*. W. Rodgers, M. Bean, H. Burgess, S. Fairfax, C. Geisler, P. Hagenstein, L. Harris, R. Healy, T. Lovejoy, D. Salazar, W. Shaw, N. Stanton, M. Turner, C. Vandemoer. Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 1993.

*Labor and the Environment: An Analysis of and Annotated Bibliography on Workplace Environment Quality in the U.S.* F. Buttel, C. Geisler, and I. Wiswall. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1983.

### **Selected Journal Publications:**

“New *Terra Nullius* Narratives and the Gentrification of Africa’s ‘Empty Lands,’” *Journal of World-System Research*: Winter: 15-29, 2012.

“Land Expropriation and Displacement in Bangladesh,” *Development and Change*, Special Issue. Shelley Feldman and Charles [forthcoming in 2012]

“Land and Poverty in the United States.” Reprinted from *Land Economics* (1995) in an anthology to go with a film from the Schalkenbach Foundation (“End of Poverty? Think Again,” challenging Jeffrey Sachs’ book of that similar title. See <http://www.theendofpoverty.com/>, and <http://povertythinkagain.com/>. Book title: *Crumbling Foundations: How Faulty Institutions Create World Poverty*. 2011.

“Must Biodiversity Hot-Spots Be Social Not-Spots? Win-Win Ecology as Sustainable Social Policy,” *Consilience: The Journal of Sustainable Development*, 4 (September), 2010. [On-line at: <http://consiliencejournal.readux.org/>]

“Terrorism and Residential Preferences: Evidence from New York State,” D.L. Kay, C. C. Geisler, and N.L. Bills. *Rural Sociology* 75(3): 426-454, 2010.

“Competing for Coffee Space: Development-Induced Displacement In the Highlands of Vietnam,” S. Doutriaux, C. Geisler and G. Shively, *Rural Sociology*, 73(4): 528-554, 2008.

“Community-Based Land Reform: Lessons from Scotland,” J. Bryden and C. Geisler. *Land Use Policy*, 24: 24-34, 2007.

“Naturalising Transgenics: Official Seeds, Loose Seeds and Risk in the Decision Matrix of Gujarati Cotton Farmers,” with Devparna Roy and Ronald Herring. *Journal of Development Studies* 43:158-176, 2007.

“Negotiating Locality: Decentralization and Communal Forest Management in the Guatemalan Highlands,” H. Wittman and C. Geisler, *Human Organization* 64, 1: 62-74, 2005.

“A New Kind of Trouble: Evictions in Eden,” *International Social Science Journal*, 175 (March): 30-42, 2003.

“Moving Targets: Displacement, Impoverishment, and Development,” with Shelley Feldman and Louise Silberling, *International Social Science Journal*, 175 (March): 7-13, 2003.

“Murphree’s Law,” *Common Property Resource Digest*, 60(March): 4-9, 2002.

“Endangered Humans,” *Foreign Policy* (May/June): 80-81. Reprinted in Spanish-Language Edition of *FP* (Junio): 14-15) and *Primicia*, (May 27): 28-29, 2002.

### **Book Chapters:**

“Green Zones from Above and Below: A Retrospective and Cautionary Tale.” Ch. 16 in Keith Tidball and Marianne Krasny (eds.), *Greening in the Red Zone: Disaster, Resilience, and Community Greening*. London: Springer Publications (preview at <http://greeningintheredzone.blogspot.com/>) 2012.

“Land and Poverty in the United States.” Reprinted from *Land Economics* (1995) in *Crumbling Foundations: How Faulty Institutions Create World Poverty*. New York: The Schalkenbach Foundation. 2011.

- “Introduction: A New Politics of Containment,” with S. Feldman and G. Menon. In *Accumulating Insecurity: Violence and Dispossession in the Making of Everyday Life*. Feldman, Shelley, Gayatri Menon, and Charles Geisler (eds). Athens, University of Georgia Press. 2011.
- “Green Zones from Above and Below: A Cautionary Tale,” in *Greening the Red Zone: Vulnerability, Resilience, and Urgent Biophilia*. K. Tidball and M. Krasney, eds., Springer. 2011.
- “Nature Conservation and Environmental Management: Contested Natures in the US and UK,” with R. Stedman and J. Vergunst, in *Rural Transformations and Rural Policies in the UK and US*, Mark Shucksmith, David L. Brown, Sally Shortall, Jo Vergunst and Mildred Warner, eds., CUCAN. 2011
- “Community-Based Land Reform: Lessons from Scotland and Reflections on Stewardship” with J. Bryden, in *Common Ground: The Community Land Trust Reader*, J.E. Davis, ed., Cambridge, MA: Lincoln Institute of Land. 2010.
- “Land Reform,” Pp. 538-541 in *Encyclopedia of Rural America: The Land and People Volume 1*, Gary Goreham, ed., Millerton, NY: Grey House Publishing, 2008
- “Official Seeds, Loose Seeds, and Risk: Transgenic Cotton in the Decision Matrix of Gujarati Farmers,” in *Transgenics and the Poor*, R. Herring, ed., London: Routledge, 2007
- “Ownership in Stateless Places,” Pp. 40-57 in *The Properties of Property*, Franz von Benda-Beckmann, Keebet von Benda-Beckmann, and Melanie Wiber, eds., NY: Berghahn, 2006.
- “Homeless in the Heartland: American Dreams and Nightmares in Indian Country,” with Lance George, in *International Perspectives on Rural Homelessness*, Paul Cloke and Paul Milbourne, eds., London: Routledge, 2006.

### **Relevant Courses Taught:**

- Land Reform, Old and New (1980 – 1999, alternating years)
- Property and Community (1979-2008, alternating years)
- The Social Impact of Rapid Resource Development (1979-1997)
- Environment and Society, undergraduate level (1997-2011, alternating years)
- Environment and Society, graduate level (2007; 2009; 2012)
- Technology and Society, undergraduate level (1985-1998, alternating years)
- Sociology of Development, undergraduate level (1999, 2001)
- Global Conflict and Terrorism (2002, 2003, 2004, 2007- present)

**Paul Nadasdy**

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**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

- 2001 Ph.D. in Anthropology, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.  
1994 M.A. in Anthropology, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.  
1988 A.B. in Anthropology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

- 2009- Associate Professor of Anthropology and American Indian Studies, Cornell University  
2005-09 Associate Professor of Anthropology and American Indian Studies, University of Wisconsin – Madison  
2007-08 Director of American Indian Studies, University of Wisconsin - Madison  
2000-05 Assistant Professor of Anthropology and American Indian Studies, University of Wisconsin – Madison

**SELECTED HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2008 American Philosophical Society Sabbatical Fellowship  
2006 Junior Scholar Award (co-winner). Awarded by the Anthropology & Environment Section of the American Anthropological Association to “Transcending the Debate over the Ecologically Noble Indian” for being the best article in ecological/environmental anthropology of 2005-6.  
2004 Julian Steward Prize. Awarded by the Anthropology & Environment Section of the American Anthropological Association to *Hunters and Bureaucrats* for being the best book on ecological/ environmental anthropology of 2003.  
2002 Aid to Scholarly Publications Program Grant, Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada (subvention to aid in the publication of *Hunters and Bureaucrats*)  
1999 Weatherhead Resident Scholar Fellowship. School of American Research, Santa Fe, NM

**BOOKS**

- 2011 (co-edited with M. Goldman and M. Turner) *Knowing Nature: Conversations at the Intersection of Political Ecology and Science Studies*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.  
2003 *Hunters and Bureaucrats: Power, Knowledge, and Aboriginal-State Relations in the Southwest Yukon*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press (winner of the Julian Steward Prize).

**ARTICLES IN REFEREED JOURNALS**

- In press. Boundaries among Kin: Sovereignty, the Modern Treaty Process, and the Rise of Ethno-Territorial Nationalism among Yukon First Nations. *Comparative Studies in*

- Society and History* 54(3).
- 2007 The Gift in the Animal: The Ontology of Hunting and Human-Animal Sociality. *American Ethnologist* 34(1): 25-43.
- 2005 The Anti-Politics of TEK: The Institutionalization of Co-management Discourse and Practice. *Anthropologica* 47(2): 215-232 (Republished in *Natural Resources and Aboriginal People in Canada: Readings, Cases and Commentary*. R. Bone and R. Anderson, eds. 2<sup>nd</sup> (revised) edition. York, Ontario: Captus Press, 2009).
- 2005 Transcending the Debate over the Ecologically Noble Indian: Indigenous Peoples and Environmentalism. *Ethnohistory* 52(2): 291-331 (winner of the A&E Junior Scholar Award; republished in *Religion and the Environment*, vol. 2. R. Gottlieb, ed. London: Routledge, 2010).
- 2003 Reevaluating the Co-Management Success Story. *Arctic*. 56(4): 367-380.
- 2002 'Property' and Aboriginal Land Claims in the Canadian Subarctic: Some Theoretical Considerations. *American Anthropologist* 104(1): 247-261.
- 1999 The Politics of TEK: Power and the 'Integration' of Knowledge." *Arctic Anthropology* 36(1-2): 1-18 (Republished in *Natural Resources and Aboriginal People in Canada: Readings, Cases and Commentary*. R. Bone and R. Anderson, eds. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> (revised) editions. York, Ontario: Captus Press, 2003 and 2009).

#### CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

- 2011 "We Don't Harvest Animals; We Kill Them:" Agricultural Metaphors and the Politics of Wildlife Management in the Yukon. In *Knowing Nature: Conversations at the Intersection of Political Ecology and Science Studies*. M. Goldman, P. Nadasdy, M. Turner, eds. Pp. 135-151. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- 2011 Application of Environmental Knowledge: The Politics of Constructing Society/Nature. In *Knowing Nature: Conversations at the Intersection of Political Ecology and Science Studies*. M. Goldman, P. Nadasdy, M. Turner, eds. Pp. 129-133. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- 2008 Wildlife as Renewable Resource: Competing Conceptions of Wildlife, Time, and Management in the Yukon. In *Timely Assets: The Politics of Resources and their Temporalities*. E. Ferry and M. Limbert, eds. Pp. 75-106. Santa Fe, NM: School of Advanced Research Press.
- 2008 The Antithesis of Restitution? A Note on the Dynamics of Land Negotiations in the Yukon, Canada. In *The Rights and Wrongs of Land Restitution: Restoring What was Ours*. D. Fay and D. James, eds. Pp. 85-97. London: Routledge.
- 2007 Adaptive Co-Management and the Gospel of Resilience. In *Adaptive Co-Management: Collaboration, Learning, and Multilevel Governance*. D. Armitage, F. Berkes, N. Doubleday, eds. Pp. 208-227. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press.
- 2006 The Case of the Missing Sheep: Time, Space, and the Politics of "Trust" in Co-Management Practice. In *Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Natural Resource Management*. C. Menzies, ed. Pp. 127-151. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press.

#### RELEVANT WORKS IN PROGRESS

- in prep "I'm not a *Citizen*; I'm an *Indian*:" First Nation Citizenship, Identity, and Sovereignty in the Yukon (to be submitted to *Cultural Anthropology* or similar journal)
- in prep *Boundaries Among Kin: First Nation Sovereignty, Ethno-territoriality, and Citizenship in*

*the Yukon.*

in prep *Spirits and Intents: Sovereignty, Bureaucracy, and First Nation Land Claims in the Yukon.*

### **SELECTED RESEARCH FUNDING**

- 2005 National Science Foundation Supplemental Research Grant. Arctic Social Science
- 2004 Graduate School Research Grant, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- 2003 National Science Foundation Research Grant. Arctic Social Science
- 2003 Wenner-Gren Foundation Post Doctoral Research Grant
- 2002 Graduate School Research Grant, University of Wisconsin, Madison (declined)
- 2001 Graduate School Research Grant, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- 1997 National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant. Arctic Social Science
- 1997 Northern Research Endowment Fellowship, Northern Research Institute, Yukon College
- 1996 Northern Research Endowment Fellowship, Northern Research Institute, Yukon College
- 1995 Wenner-Gren Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Grant
- 1994 Canadian Studies Graduate Fellowship, Canadian Embassy in the United States

### **RELEVANT CONFERENCES ORGANIZED**

- 2009 *Sovereign Bodies, Subject Bodies.* German-American Frontiers of Humanities Conference. Co-sponsored by the American Philosophical Society and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Held in Potsdam, German, Oct. 15-18, 2009.
- 2006 *An Interdisciplinary Workshop on Political Ecology and Science Studies: Reframing Nature-Society Relations in the Twenty-first Century.* Held at UW – Madison, March 6-7 (co-organized with Matt Turner in the Geography Dept at UW – Madison).

### **RELEVANT PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSULTING**

- 2006 Served as expert consultant to the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group, British Columbia. Assisted in the preparation of a Draft Shared Decision Making Model to be used in the negotiation of land claim and self-government agreements with the federal and provincial governments
- 2003-4 Served as Kluane First Nation's official representative on the Yukon Implementation Review Group (IRG), a body charged with reviewing, evaluating, and renegotiating existing Yukon land claim and self-government agreements
- 2003-4 Served as Kluane First Nation's official representative on the Yukon Senior Financial Arrangements Committee (SFAC), charged with reviewing and renegotiating the Yukon First Nation Financial Transfer Agreements, the fiscal mechanisms through which Canada funds First Nation self-government in the Yukon
- 2003-4 Served as Kluane First Nation's negotiator at the Programs and Services Transfer Agreement (PSTA) Negotiating Table, charged with negotiating the transfer of federal and territorial programs and services to self-governing Yukon First Nations
- 2001-2 Served as expert consultant to Kluane First Nation, Yukon. Aided KFN in ongoing land claim negotiations with the federal and territorial governments. Assisted in preparing KFN's claim before the Indian Claims Commission for compensation due to loss of lands resulting from the creation of Kluane National Park.

**Wendy Wolford**

Robert A. and Ruth E. Polson Professor  
Development Sociology  
CALS - Cornell University  
331 Warren Hall  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
(607) 255-2146

***Education***

- 2001 PhD. University of California, Berkeley, Geography  
1997 M.S. University of California, Berkeley, Geography  
1994 B.A. cum laude, McGill University, Economics and International Development

***Professional Appointments***

- 2010 Robert A. and Ruth E. Polson Professor of Development Sociology, Cornell University  
2008-9 Director of Graduate Studies, Geography, UNC Chapel Hill  
2007-8 Associate Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Geography, UNC Chapel Hill  
2004-5 Postdoctoral Fellow, Program in Agrarian Studies, Yale University  
2001-7 Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, UNC, Chapel Hill

***Honors 2001-present***

- 2008 Fellow, Institute for Arts and Humanities, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
2004-05 Fellow, Program in Agrarian Studies, Yale University  
2004 Award for Outstanding Academic Book in Economics by Choice: Reviews for Academic Libraries, for *To Inherit the Earth: The Landless Movement and the Struggle for a New Brazil*.  
2002 J. Warren Nystrom Award for Best Dissertation in Geography - awarded by the American Association of Geographers.

***Selected Grants and Research Awards 2001-present***

- 2011 Ford Foundation grant for the Land Deals Politics Initiative (with Saturnino “Jun” Borras, Ruth Hall, Ian Scoones and Ben White) (2011-2013 \$120,000)  
2011 Academic Venture Fund grant for developing “Sustainable Metrics of Agrarian Development,” Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, PI (2011-2013, (\$111,527)  
2009 Social Science Research Council, Research Director for ‘Critical Agrarian Studies’ (with Marc Edelman) in the Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship Program.  
2007-8 Andrew Mellon Foundation, Sawyer Seminar Award for “The Changing Nature(s) of Land: Property, Peasants, and Production in a Global World,” PI (2007-8, \$120,000)  
2005-10 National Science Foundation, Regular Grant for “Grounding the State: An Institutional Ethnography of Agrarian Reform in Brazil,” PI (2005-08, \$140,000)

***Selected Publications, post 2005***

In preparation. A special issue on “Ethnographies of Agrarian Reform: A Focus on State Institutions,” editor and author with Saturnino (Jun) Borras.

- Under review. Special issue in *Development and Change: Governing the Global Landgrab: Territory, Sovereignty, Authority and Subjects*. Submitted for review December 2011. Editor and author of introduction with Jun Borrás, Ruth Hall, Ian Scoones and Ben White.
- Forthcoming. "Rethinking the Revolution: Latin American Social Movements and the State in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," in *Enduring Reforms: Progressive Activism and Visions of Change in Latin America's Democracies* (tentative title), edited by Vivienne Bennett and Jeffrey Rubin. College Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press.
2011. "Making a Difference: Sebastião Salgado and the Social Life of Mobilization," *Sociological Forum* 26(2): 444 – 450.
2011. "Development II," in the *Companion to Human Geography*, edited by John Agnew and Jim S. Duncan. Oxford: Blackwell Press, pp. 575 – 588.
2011. **Wolford, W.** and T. Gorman. "Land Reform and Landless Movements," for the International Studies Association Compendium. Blackwell-Wiley press.
2010. *This Land is Ours Now: Social Mobilization and the Meanings of Land in Brazil*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
2010. "Participatory Democracy by Default: Land Reform, Social Movements and the State in Northeastern Brazil," *Journal of Peasant Studies* 37(1): 91-109
2009. Guest Editor (and author of introduction) for special issue of Grassroots Voices titled, "Everyday Forms of Political Expression," in the *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 36(2): 411-458.
2008. "Global Shadows," comments for a symposium on *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order* by James Ferguson, in the *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* 29(3): 266-269.
2008. "Environmental Justice and the Construction of Scale in Brazilian Agriculture," *Society and Natural Resources*, 21(7): 641-655
2008. Baletti, Brenda, Tamara Johnson and **Wendy Wolford**. "Late Mobilization: Transnational Peasant Networks and Grassroots Organizing in Brazil and South Africa," in *Journal of Agrarian Change*, (April/June) 8/2-3: 290-314
2007. "Land Reform in the Time of Neo-Liberalism: A Many Splendored Thing," *Antipode* 39(3): 550-572
2006. "The Difference Ethnography Can Make: Understanding Social Mobilization and Development in the Brazilian Northeast," *Qualitative Sociology* 29: 335-352.
2005. "Agrarian Moral Economies and Neo-liberalism in Brazil: Competing World-Views and the State in the Struggle for Land" *Environment and Planning, A*, 37: 241-261

### **Presentations 2010-2011**

#### **Invited Academic Presentations, including focused conferences and workshops:**

- 2011, May 30 – June 3, teaching at the Antipode Institute for Radical Geographies, hosted at the University of Georgia at Athens
- 2011, April 26, "From Marx to Mosquitoes: The Changing Dynamics of Agrarian Reform in Brazil," invited presentation at the Fernand Braudel Center at SUNY Binghamton.
- 2011, April 22, "From Marx to Mosquitoes: The Changing Dynamics of Agrarian Reform in Brazil," invited presentation for Coffee Hour at the Department of Geography at Penn State.
- 2011, April 12, two paper sessions at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, in Seattle, WA.

- 2011, April 6, “Contemporary Land Deals and Resistance in Latin America,” paper presented at the Land Deals Politics Initiative Conference at the University of Sussex
- 2011, January 31, invited seminar with the Latin American Studies Program, Cornell University
- 2011, January 22, “From Marx to Mosquitoes: The Changing Dynamics of Agrarian Reform in Brazil,” invited presentation at the Institute for Critical Agrarian Studies, ISS the Hague.
- 2010, November 17, hosted a topical lunch of land tenure at the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future
- 2010, November 11, Invited presentation of the Young Social Scientists, organized on the Cornell campus by the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future and the Institute for Social Studies.
- 2010, November 6, “From Marx to Mosquitoes: The Changing Dynamics of Agrarian Reform in Brazil,” invited presentation at the Monk Centre for Development Studies at the University of Toronto.
- 2010, October, Annual Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, paper presentation.
- 2010, August, American Sociological Association meetings, invited talk on the relevance of Sebastião Salgado for public sociology.
- 2010, June 7, “From Marx to Mosquitoes: The Changing Dynamics of Agrarian Reform in Brazil,” prepared for the Luce Conference on Green Governance held at UC Berkeley and organized by Michael Watts and Nancy Peluso.
- 2010, April, Federal University of Campina Grande, Paraiba

### **Outreach**

Co-designed and co-taught a two week curriculum to 100 Sixth grade students on the topic of “Social Movements, Citizenship and Inequality: Brazil and Beyond,”  
<http://author.cals.cornell.edu/cals/devsoc/research/research-projects/sixth-grade-main-page.cfm>

### **Professional Service**

#### **External**

Editorial Board, member, *Antipode* (2010 - )

Editorial Collective, member, *Journal of Peasant Studies* (2008 - )

Editorial Board, member, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* (2012 - )

Article reviewer for: *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Professional Geographer*, *Antipode*, *Geoforum*, *Human Organization*, *Environment and Planning A and D*, *Journal of Politics and Society in Latin America*, and *Latin American Perspectives*.

Funding proposal reviewer for: the American Council of Learned Societies, National Science Foundation, National Geographic, and the Social Science Research Council.

Invited regular reviewer for: The National Science Foundation (the Graduate Research Fellowship); the Social Science Research Council (IDRF and faculty selection of DPDF), and the ACLS dissertation competition.

### **Research Affiliations**

Founding member of the Land Deals Politics Initiative

Member, American Association of Geographers

Member, Latin American Studies Association

Member, American Sociological Association