INSTITUTE FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Contested Global Landscapes:
Property, Governance, Economy and Livelihoods on the Ground

2012-2015

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Projects
Every faculty fellow’s research has advanced under the interdisciplinary gaze of the team. Although the projects traverse the globe from the Yukon to southern Africa, each researcher examines how different interest groups and cultures think about land, lay claim to it—sometimes coercively and other times more amicably—and finally use and preserve it for different ends.

Liquidities: Oceans, Islands, and New Enclosures in the Wake of Decolonization
Raymond Craib, History

Military Agency and Land Grabs: Rethinking “Military Occupation”
Charles Geisler, Development Sociology

Anti-Sovereignty and Indigenous Land Claims: Territoriality, Citizenship, and Time in the Yukon
Paul Nadasdy, Anthropology and American Indian Studies

Fluid Empires: Hydraulic Regimes across the “French” Mediterranean
Sara Pritchard, Science & Technology Studies

Critical Analysis of “Green Grabbing”
Steven Wolf, Natural Resources

Brasil Gigante: Bringing the Brazilian Miracle to African Soil
Wendy Wolford, Development Sociology

Funding
The ISS Land Project’s faculty fellows have been awarded $296,660 in external subsequent funding for a total of $306,660 since the start of their project’s term. Research sites include the United States, Mozambique, and India.


Publications
During their time at the ISS, project faculty have co-authored several new books together, secured a new Cornell University Press series for social science scholarship on land, titled Land: New Perspectives on Territory, Development and the Environment, and produced over 55 publications to date. Publications by project affiliates are also numerous and beyond the scope of this summary.

2015


2014


2013


2012


**Student Grants**

*The ISS Contested Landscapes Project annually awarded grants to Cornell graduate students undertaking field research related to land issues. Selected through a competitive process, the award winning students conducted research on land issues in many locations, including Detroit, Columbia, Ecuador, and Senegal.*


Ritwick Ghosh, Natural Resources. Situating Science: Role of Intermediaries in Market Based Environmental Governance (2014).


Darragh Hare, Natural Resources. Whose biodiversity? Ownership and Public Trust Thinking (2014).


Matthew Minarchek, History, Co-Producing Space: Territorialization Processes in the Highlands of Aceh (Sumatra), Indonesia during the Mid-Late Colonial Period (2014).


Courses Taught by ISS Faculty Fellows
The project’s faculty developed two new co-designed graduate seminars focusing specifically on Contested Global Landscapes. In sum, the faculty team members offered 25 theme-related courses 35 times during the course of their term. Areas of study included environmental history and governance; global conflict and terrorism; and international agriculture and development.

American Indian Lands and Sovereignties (ANTHR 4725/7725): Paul Nadasdy – Fall 2014

Comparative Environmental History (STS 4131): Sara Pritchard – Fall 2012

Confluence: Environmental History and Science & Technology Studies (STS/HIST 6181) Sara Pritchard – Spring 2014

Culture, Politics, and Environment in the Circumpolar North: (AIS/ANTHR 3422/6422) Paul Nadasdy – Spring 2015

Economics of Agricultural Development (AEM 4640): Steven Kyle – Fall 2013, Fall 2014

Environment, Society, and Land (DSOC 3240): Charles Geisler – Fall 2012

Environmental Governance (NTRES/DSOC/BIO&SOC/S&TS 3311): Steven Wolf – Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014

Environmental Governance Graduate Seminar (NTRES 6310/DSOC 6320): Steven Wolf – Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014

Ethics and the Environment (BSOC/STS 2061/PHIL 2460): Sara Pritchard – Fall 2012, Fall 2013

Global Conflict and Terrorism (DSOC 4810): Charles Geisler – Spring 2013, Spring 2014

History/Geography/Theory (HIST/LATA 6482): Raymond Craib – Spring 2013, Fall 2014

Introduction to American Indian Studies I (AIS 1100/AMST 1600): Paul Nadasdy – Fall 2013, Fall 2014

Modern Mexico: A Global History (HIST/LATA 3060): Raymond Craib – Fall 2013


Perspectives on International Agriculture and Rural Development (DSOC 2020): Wendy Wolford - Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014

Proseminar: Social Organization: (ANTHR 6010) Paul Nadasdy – Spring 2015

Qualitative Research Methods (DSOC 6150): Wendy Wolford – Spring 2013

Special Topics in Development Sociology: Contested Global Landscapes (DSOC 6950): Charles Geisler & Wendy Wolford – Fall 2013

Special Topics in Development Sociology: Contested Global Landscapes (DSOC 6950): Wendy Wolford – Spring 2014

Sustainability Science (ESS/SNES 3100): Steven Wolf & Timothy Fahey – Fall 2014

The Invention of the Americas (HIST 1950): Raymond Craib – Fall 2014

The Pacific Horizon (HIST 4515/6515): Raymond Craib – Spring 2014

**Summer Institutes**

*ISS*’ Land Project founded an annual Summer Institute that brings together early career scholars who are interested in land-related issues. The week-long Institutes have been coordinated by three faculty from the theme project and involve preparation of manuscripts for publication as well as keynote speakers.

2013–Property
Organized by Chuck Geisler, Raymond Craib, Paul Nadasdy

2014–Knowledge and the Politics of Land
Organized by Steven Wolf, Sara Pritchard, Wendy Wolford

2015–Occupation: Violence and the Long-term Control of Land and People
Organized by Chuck Geisler, Raymond Craib, Paul Nadasdy

2016—Open for proposals and participants; funding available.
Events and Workshops
The ISS Land Project engaged more than 175 affiliates via a Land Symposium series of biweekly speakers and additional events. Of particular note are the international Global Land Grabbing II Conference held at Cornell in 2012, spearheaded by Wendy Wolford, and a 2013 workshop on Ecosystem Services as Simplification: Knowledge Production in Practice, organized by Sara Pritchard and Steven Wolf.

October 17-19, 2012
Global Land Grabbing II Conference
Organized by Wendy Wolford
ISS Co-Sponsored Event

November 29, 2012
Land Project Affiliates' Luncheon
Noon-1:30 p.m. 423 ILR Conference Center
Signature Theme Project Event

April 5-6, 2013
Agrarian Crisis in India?
Annual Conference of the Cornell/Syracuse Title VI South Asia Center
ISS Co-Sponsored Event

April 10, 2013
Kick-off Lecture: Contested Global Landscapes
4:30 p.m.-6:00p.m. 423 ILR Conference Center
Signature Theme Project Event

April 22, 2013
Overcoming Dogma and Prophecies of Doom to Save Nature
5:00 p.m.- 6:30p.m. David L. Call Auditorium, Kennedy Hall
ISS Co-Organized Event

April 23, 2013
Conservation Roundtable Discussion
3:30 p.m. - 5:00pm, 225 ILR Conference Center (King-Shaw Hall)
Peter Kareiva, Andy Zepp (FLLT), Aaron Sachs (HIST), Sara Pritchard (STS), and Sunny Power (EEB)
ISS Co-Organized Event

April 29, 2013
Changing Crops for a Changing Climate: What Can Biotechnology Contribute?
2:00 p.m.- 6:00p.m. Statler Auditorium
Lecturer: Mark Lynas, Oxford University’s School of Geography and the Environment
Followed by a panel discussion including Wendy Wolford, Dev. Soc.
ISS Co-Organized Event

May 14, 2013
What is Property and Does it Matter?
Stuart Banner, UCLA Law
4:00-5:30 PM: 423 ILR Conference Center
2013 Land Institute Event
May 16, 2013
Global and Local Commons: Emergent Institutions with Residual Property Forms
Kathryn Milun, Sociology & Anthropology, University of Minnesota - Duluth
4:30-6:00 p.m.; 423 ILR Conference Center
2013 Land Institute's Event

May 17, 2013
Messy Hectare: Questions about the Epistemology of Land Grabbing Data
Marc Edelman, Anthropology, Hunter College and Graduate Center, City University of New York
2:00-3:30 p.m. Guerlac Room, AD White House
2013 Land Institute's Event

September 6, 2013
What is Land? Public Panel and Reception
“Land” as an Indigenous Category: Pacific Insights, Aletta Biersack, Anthropology, University of Oregon
What is Whenua? Considering Maori Conceptions of Land-Human Relationships before the Waitangi Tribunal, Andie Diane Palmer, Anthropology, University of Alberta
Land Symposium Panel 3:00-5:00 p.m. & Reception 5:00-6:00 p.m.; 423 ILR Conference Center.

September 13, 2013
Imposing Territoriality: First Nation Land Claims and the Transformation of Human-Environment Relations in the Yukon
Paul Nadasdy, Anthropology, Cornell University
3:00-4:30 p.m.; 229 ILR Conference Center
Land Symposium Event

September 20, 2013
The Challenge of Representing Competing Demands for Land
John Reilly, Co-Director of the Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change, Center for Environmental Policy Research, MIT Sloan School of Management
3:00-4:30 p.m.; 225 ILR Conference Center
Land Symposium Event

September 24, 2013
Foodopoly: The Battle Over the Future of Food and Farming in America
Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director of Food and Water Watch
3:15-4:15 PM; Statler Auditorium
Land Symposium Event, cosponsored by the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future

September 27, 2013
Diminished Dominion: The Loss of the Global Land Endowments
Charles Geisler, Development Sociology, Cornell University
3:00-4:30 p.m.; 225 ILR Conference Center
Land Symposium Event

October 1, 2013
Social Movements & Sustainability: Contributions, Debates & Outreach
Wendy Wolford and Shorna Allred
12:00-1:00 p.m.; 300 Rice Hall
Sponsored by the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future
October 4, 2013
Property for Human Flourishing
Greg Alexander, Cornell Law School
3:00-4:30 p.m.; 225 ILR Conference Center
Land Symposium Event

Friday, October 18, 2013
How Do We Market Land? (Presentation and Reception)
Cultivating Profit: Finance Discovers Global Land Markets, Madeleine Fairbairn, Soc., Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison
Financialization, Distance and Global Food Politics, Jennifer Clapp, Envir. and Resource Studies, University of Waterloo
Land Symposium Event cosponsored by the Department of Development Sociology and the Polson Institute for Global Development.

Friday, October 25, 2013
Property Rights in Transition: Land and Power in Postwar South Sudan
David Deng, South Sudan Law Society
3:00-4:30 p.m.; 225 ILR Conference Center
Land Symposium Event cosponsored by the Institute for African Development, Development Sociology and the Polson Institute for Global Development.

Friday, November 1, 2013
Anti-Biotech Movements in the European Union
Franz Seifert, University of Vienna, Austria
3:00-4:30 p.m. 225 ILR Conference Center
Land Symposium Event cosponsored by the Department of European Studies, Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, Development Sociology, and the Polson Institute for Global Development.

Thursday, November 7, 2013
Food Security and Sociopolitical Stability
Chris Barrett, Wendy Wolford, Joanna Upton, and Samuel Crowell
4:00 p.m. Stern Seminar Room, 160 Mann Library
ISS Co-sponsored Event

Friday, November 8, 2013
Violence and the Land Panel:
Agrarian Violence within Brazil Since the Redemocratization, Artur Zimerman, Visiting Scholar at Cornell University from Federal University of ABC Region, São Paulo, Brazil (UFABC)
Rediscovering Africa? The Role of Brazilian Experts and Expertise in Mozambican Agriculture, Wendy Wolford, Development Sociology, Cornell University
3:00-5:00 p.m. 225 ILR Conference Center
Land Symposium Event

Tuesday, November 12, 2013
Cayuga Land Claims
Peter Whitely, Curator, American Museum of Natural History
1:25-2:40 PM; 100 Caldwell Hall
ISS Co-sponsored Event
Friday & Saturday, November 22-23, 2013
Ecosystem Services as Simplification: Knowledge Production in Practice (Workshop)
Steven Wolf, Natural Resources, Cornell University
Sara Pritchard, Science and Technology Studies, Cornell University
Land Workshop

Friday, December 6, 2013
Property, Power and Freedom
Eduardo Peñalver, University of Chicago Law School
3:00-4:30 PM; 225 ILR Conference Center
Land Symposium Event

Friday, January 31, 2014
Owning/Controlling the Underground
David Kay, CARDI, Department of Development Sociology, Cornell University
423 ILR Conference Center
Land Symposium Event

Friday, February 7, 2014
Water and Land Panel:
Hydroimperialism and Hydrocapitalism: Irrigation Technologies in Algeria and Beyond, Sara Pritchard, Science and Technology Studies, Cornell University
Any Distant Archipelago: Oceans, Islands, Havens, Raymond Craib, History, Cornell University
3-5 PM; 225 ILR Conference Center
Land Symposium Event

Monday, February 10, 2014
Historicizing the Land Grab: The Unfolding, and Unraveling, of the Global Food Regime
Philip McMichael, International Professor and Chair, Department of Development Sociology, Cornell University
4:45 PM; 165 McGraw Hall
Land Symposium Event

Wednesday, February 12, 2014
Payment for Ecosystem Services in Agricultural Landscapes; Navigating Neoliberalism and Mythology to Advance Outcome-Based Conservation Policy
Steven Wolf, Natural Resources
12:20 – 1:10 PM, 135 Emerson Hall
Land Symposium Event

Thursday, February 13, 2014
Young Social Scientists’ Sustainability Research Conference
8 AM- 1 PM; 423 ILR Conference Center
ISS/ACSF Co-sponsored Event

Tuesday, February 25, 2014
Planetary Boundaries and Poverty Alleviation – Do We Have to Choose? (Topical Lunch)
Mathis Wackernagel, Executive Director of Global Ecological Footprint Network
Hosted by Laurie Drinkwater and Wendy Wolford
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM; 300 Rice Hall
Sponsored by the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future
Friday, February 28, 2014
Mobilizing Culture: Landless Peasant Politics in Santa Cruz Bolivia
Nicole Fabricant, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice, Towson University
3:45 PM; 423 ILR Conference Center
Land Symposium Event

Friday, March 7, 2014
Food, Farm and Fuel — Panel Discussion led by Philip McMichael, Development Sociology, Cornell University
What We Talk About When We Talk About Hunger: An Etymology of Food Policy, Nick Cullather, History, Indiana University-Bloomington
Footprint Technopolitics and the Greening of Big Food, Susanne Freidberg, Geography, Dartmouth College
3-5 PM; 423 ILR Conference Center
Land Symposium Panel

Friday, March 14, 2014
Land and Land Use Rights in China
Calum Turvey, Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University
3-4:30 PM; 225 ILR Conference Center
Land Symposium Event

Friday, March 21, 2014
The Plantation and the Mine: Nouveau-Colonization of Land in Indonesia
Nancy Peluso, Environmental Science, Policy and Management, UC Berkeley
3-4:30 PM; 225 ILR Conference Center
Land Symposium Event cosponsored by the Southeast Asia Program, Development Sociology and the Polson Institute for Global Development.

Friday, April 11, 2014
Deepening Histories of Private Conservation, Science, and Patrimony in Patagonia
Emily Wakild, History, Boise State University
3-4:30 PM; 225 ILR Conference Center

Friday, April 18, 2014
What Are the Implications of Mozambique’s Natural Gas Boom for the Rural Economy?
Steven Kyle, Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University
3-4:30 PM; 225 ILR Conference Center
Land Symposium Event

Wednesday, April 23, 2014
Deal of the Century! Political Economic Construction of Multifunctional Landscapes in the Adirondacks
Steven Wolf, Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University
12:00-1:00 PM; 461 Kennedy Hall
Sponsored by the Department of Landscape Architecture

Friday, May 2, 2014
Challenging Social Inequality: The Movement for Agrarian Reform in Brazil
Miguel Carter, Political Science, American University, and Isis Campos, Casa Brasileira de Pesquisa e Cooperacao
3-5 PM:225 ILR Conference Center
Land Symposium Event
Friday, May 9, 2014
Frontiers: Contested Global Landscapes
Michael Watts, Class of ’63 Professor of Geography, Co-Chair, Department of Development Studies, UC Berkeley
3:30-4:30 PM, 423 ILR Conference Center
Land Symposium Event

Friday, May 9, 2014
Contested Global Landscapes Graduate Student Paper Workshop
9:00 AM-5:00 PM, 423 ILR Conference Center
Land Symposium Event

Thursday-Friday, May 14-16, 2014 Public Trust Workshop
Dan Decker, Bernd Blossy, Darragh Hare, Chuck Geisler, Peter Woodbury, David Kay and visiting guests.
Dept. of Natural Resources: Keynote by Mary Wood, University of Oregon Law School

Monday, May 19, 2014
The Land Question and Knowledge Politics
Philip McMichael, Chair, Department of Development Sociology, Cornell University
4-5:30 PM; 401 Physical Sciences Building
2014 Land Institute Event

Tuesday, May 20, 2014
Beyond the Subterranean Energy Regime?: Fuel, Land-Use, and the Production of Space
Matthew Huber, Geography, Syracuse University
4-5:30 PM; 401 Physical Sciences Building
2014 Land Institute Event

Thursday, May 22, 2014
Killing Life to Make Life: The Biopolitics of Soil Fumigant Regulation in California’s Strawberry Industry
Julie Guthman, Food, Politics and Economy, University of California Santa Cruz
4:30-6 PM, 401 Physical Sciences Building
2014 Land Institute Event

Thursday, October 23, 2014
The Neoliberal Regime in the Agri-Food Sector
4-5 PM, Room 160, Mann Library
Steven Wolf, Natural Resources
ISS Co-Sponsored Event

Thursday, November 13, 2014
Wild Blue: The Undersea World as Frontier in the 1950s and 1960s
4:45-6:15 PM, Guerlac Room, A.D. White House
Helen Rozwadowski, History and Maritime Studies, University of Connecticut
ISS Land Event

Friday, March 27, 2015
Situated Mobilities: Space, Place, and Mobility
Cornell Theory, Method, Research Workshop featuring Tim Cresswell, History, Northeastern University
ISS Land Affiliates’ Event
Thursday, April 9, 2015
ISS’ Contested Global Landscapes Project’s Affiliates’ Conference and Capstone Lecture
8:30 AM-5:30 PM; 401 Warren Hall
ISS Theme Project Signature Event

Monday, April 20, 2015
From Pangaea to Partnership: The Many Fields of Rural Development
Wendy Wolford, Development Sociology

Thursday, May 7, 2015
Lay of the Land: Property, Territory, and Governance
Dissertation Proposal Workshop Featuring Professor James McCarthy, Dept. of Geography, Clark University
ISS Land Affiliates’ Event