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22.1

Local impact of global conservation governance in Chinese national parks

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Though the notion of conserving nature can be traced throughout history and across cultures, the institutionalization and internationalization of nature conservation has been shaped mostly by Western discourse (Jepson & Whittaker 2002). Today, conservation areas such as national parks are globally recognized as an integral element of nature conservation and a prime destination for nature-based tourism. This recognition is due, at least in part, to the propagation of conservation and tourism concepts through, for example, the UNESCO's designation of Natural Heritage sites and WWF initiatives encouraging sustainable nature tourism, contributing to the establishment of conservation areas worldwide (Backhaus 2005).

As more and more Chinese gain access to the benefits of economic development, the demand for travel opportunities is increasingly falling on China's relatively new national parks (Lew 2003). Consequentially, there is a potential for ecological concerns to give way to political and economic motivations as local governments and stakeholders clamor to attract the wealth and recognition associated with the growth of the tourism industry.

Research on national parks in China has thus far been limited mostly to the work of natural scientists, and mostly in Chinese language, so that there is a significant research gap when it comes to the social, political and economic implications of nature conservation and tourism in Chinese national parks.

Yet the designation of national parks is arguably an entanglement of competing political, economic and social interests, with potentially dire ecological consequences. National parks thereby become the battleground of diverging interests where actors and agencies struggle over power, influence, and entitlements (Peet & Watts 2004). Large intergovernmental organizations and NGOs have, in cooperation with the national government, contribute to conservation and tourism planning, such as WWF's ecotourism and panda conservation projects. Through such involvement, conservation organizations can have considerable influence concerning conservation policy, with significant social and economic consequences for rural areas, including, as in the case of Jiuzhai Valley National Park, the:

- impact of conservation regulations (such as controls on yak herding, harvesting of herbs for Chinese medicine or forest use),

- displacement of people or even entire villages in the name of conservation,

- way the economic benefits of national park activities (such as the revenues from tourism) are shared between people, and

- links between poverty and national parks.

Behind all of these is the issue of the power of ideas about nature to dictate the way conservation is thought about and practiced and the negotiation of power between stakeholders.

In the proposed talk at the Swiss Geoscience Meeting in Bern I would like to elaborate on the local impact of global conservation governance in Chinese national parks, largely based on insights gained through upcoming fieldwork in Jiuzhai Valley National Park in Sichuan Province, China.

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22.2

Index insurance, climate vulnerability, and risk-bearing subjects

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In the last decade, a growing number of efforts have been made to insure the weather-related production risks of rural agricultural and pastoral households in the global South via microinsurance contracts linked to weather indices. Such index insurance products are increasingly championed by development agencies, NGOs, and (re)insurance companies for their capacities to "crowd-in" credit and productive risk-taking, increase food security and climate change "resilience". This paper traces how and why the index insurance field has emerged as an *au courant* development intervention since 2005. It then argues that this constellation of index insurance pilot projects must be understood as set of experimental practices creating not only new objects of market exchange – weather indices – but also new, risk-bearing subjects to consume these objects.

Focusing on the process of market creation highlights not only how specifically bounded weather risks must be identified and framed as uniquely ameliorable via financial channels, but also how the economic institution of private insurance depends upon the iterative creation of individuated subjects. This financial consumer identifies "risks" as such, and imagines them as transferable – ergo alienable – by means of a market exchange. The marketing of such insurance-as-development schemes demonstrates a central irony of individuated risk transfer through market mechanisms: project designers often find themselves hoping for seasonal climate conditions to worsen, in order to trigger payouts to insured clients and encourage non-buyers to purchase coverage in the future. This paradox suggests that the structure of individual insurance is a fundamentally inadequate – and at times even counterproductive – technique for reducing the climate vulnerability of rural households.

22.3

Mangla dam raising project (Pakistan): general review and socio-spatial impact assessment

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Pakistan has recently successfully completed the raising of Mangla dam, a major water works system on river Jhelum. This project has restored and even enhanced the storage capacity of Mangla dam reservoir. (The dam is located 115 km southeast of Islamabad at Mangla. It is physically located both in the state of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the province of Punjab (district Jhelum). The dam can be reached by traveling towards north (about 16 km) from Dina town on the Islamabad-Lahore G. T. road, a section of N-5.)

The towns located on the periphery of the reservoir that are being directly affected as a result of the raising project are Mirpur, Islamgarh, Chaksawari, and Dudial. Mirpur is the largest one, well planned, and the most populated city of the state of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Other three towns are relatively small and their growth is rather unplanned with living standard inferior to that of Mirpur. The population in all towns including Mirpur is a mix of people from different parts of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir (now administered by Pakistan and India separately) and also those who have settled here after coming from adjoining areas of Punjab due to family, business or any other social/personal reasons. The present day city of Mirpur replaced the old Mirpur town that was inundated when Mangla dam was constructed during 1960s. The new Mirpur that was developed is far better in civic amenities as compared to the old one. Generally resettling in new Mirpur was a pleasant experience for most of the population as it brought with it an improved standard of living and better opportunities. In addition to this, as agreed in the resettlement plan, work permits to displaced people were to be provided for UK by the government of Pakistan. Many people availed this opportunity, they found

work, established themselves, and later not only called for their families but also helped their kinship to travel and settle in UK. These people invested in their home towns by starting businesses and contributed towards development of the whole region. As a result, the building of the dam has been a life changing experience for many displaced people especially those from Mirpur. The contribution of these immigrants has a lot to do with acceleration of urbanization process not only in Mirpur but in the entire state of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (WAPDA 2003a). For the people who were given land as compensation in the provinces of Punjab and Sindh, the experience has been mixed. Many of these people sold their land and returned to areas near their inundated home towns as they were unable to amalgamate with the native communities of remote places where they were relocated (Sheikh 2007).

While planning the resettlement of people for raising project, all lessons learnt from the previous relocation were taken into consideration. All issues were handled with great respect for human sentiment. An unprecedented compensation package has been offered to the affected population and the agencies involved with the project took every step possible to ensure fair play and transparency in their operations. The initial negative response of the affected people was addressed through confidence building measures adopted by Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and firm assurances from the government (WAPDA 2003b). WAPDA has acquired all affected land of the raising project (15,783 acres). On the side of the province Punjab, this land is mostly barren where as on the state of Azad Jammu and Kashmir side although no urban land was acquired yet large populated areas have been affected. The number of houses and other buildings (including shops, schools, basic health units/dispensaries, mosques, shrines etc.) affected by this project is around 8,000. For the land lost by people, WAPDA has paid compensation at market price value with additional 15% as acquisition charges. For cultivatable land, WAPDA has agreed to allow the owners to use what they owned during winter (when reservoir waters recede) for agriculture. For houses the replacement cost and an additional 10% was paid along with the provision for owners to take all salvageable material. In case of shanty houses, PKR 300,000 were paid as replacement charges to every resident family (WAPDA 2003a).

In light of previous resettlement experience and through scoping sessions carried out by WAPDA's socio-ecological consultants, the displaced people have been resettled in areas closer to their native towns. A new city has been planned/developed near Mirpur for a population of 30,000 (WAPDA 2003b). This city includes all amenities of a modern town. Four new towns have also been planned to accommodate affectees who would like to relocate to a site that lies in close vicinity of the village/town they used to live in. People willing to have a house in the new city have to pay for the piece of land they wish to acquire. The refugees (of the border conflicts between Pakistan and India) previously living on WAPDA acquired land will be given small residential plots without any charges. In order to address grievances of some old affectees of 1960s displacement, compensation amounts will be paid to about 10,000 families. Over all, the cost of compensation and relocation is about 55% of the total budget allocated for the project as estimated by WAPDA. The restored storage capacity of Mangla dam reservoir will help Pakistan's agriculture. It certainly contributes towards sustaining and improving the livelihoods of thousands of farmers in areas that are irrigated by this water. If the resettlement program as envisaged by the government is successfully carried out, the affected people will be rehabilitated in a short span of time. There is no price for natural feelings of affection of a person for his or her native land, but the suffering can be reduced if there is hope for future prosperity. Renewed economic activity, return to normalcy, and improved standard of living accompanied with opportunities for progress will help the relocated people to settle in their new lives.

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22.4

How natural disturbance triggers political conflict: bark beetles and the meaning of landscape in the Bavarian Forest

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The incidence of natural disturbance in forests is increasing globally as a consequence of global warming. The concomitant large-scale transformation of landscapes can have profound social impacts and trigger political conflict that interferes with resource management. This paper explores the link between landscape transformations and political conflict using the example of the bark beetle epidemic in Bavarian Forest National Park, Germany. For a significant part of the local population, the bark beetle represented a threat to their homeland and the post-disturbance landscape of dead wood reflected the dominance of outside interests in land management. This resentment sparked the formation of a local political movement, which was successful in pressing for changes in the current land management policy that were based on the ideal of a green forest landscape that needed to be protected by human intervention. An alternative interpretation of the post-disturbance landscape, however, welcomed it as a step towards authentic wilderness and opposed interventions to control the bark beetle. These contrasting understandings of the post-disturbance landscape underpin the protracted political conflict over the appropriate management of natural disturbance that has been smouldering for more than 20 years. The article concludes that it is vital to understand the cultural meaning of landscapes before adopting a disturbance management policy in order to avoid paralysing political conflict and social unrest.

Keywords: natural disturbance, conflict, identity, forest, landscape, protected area
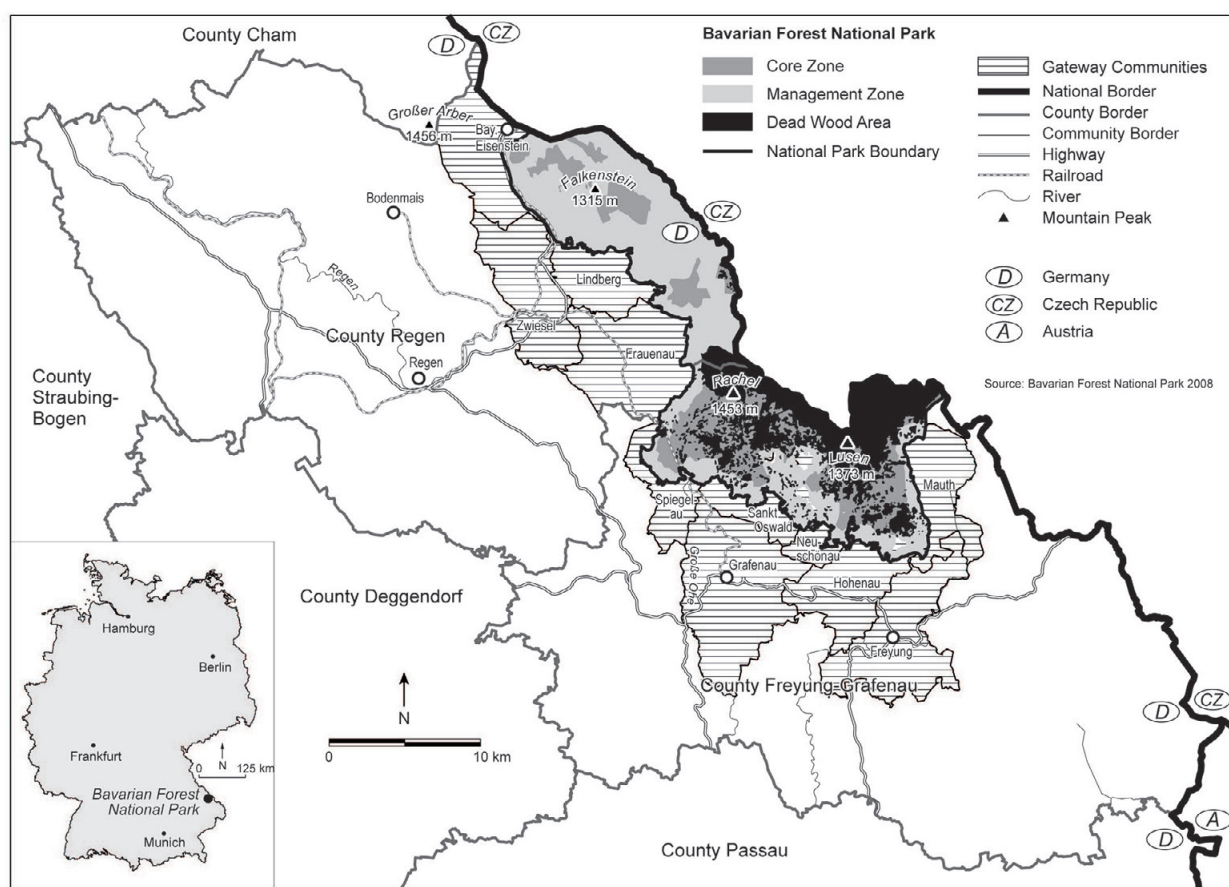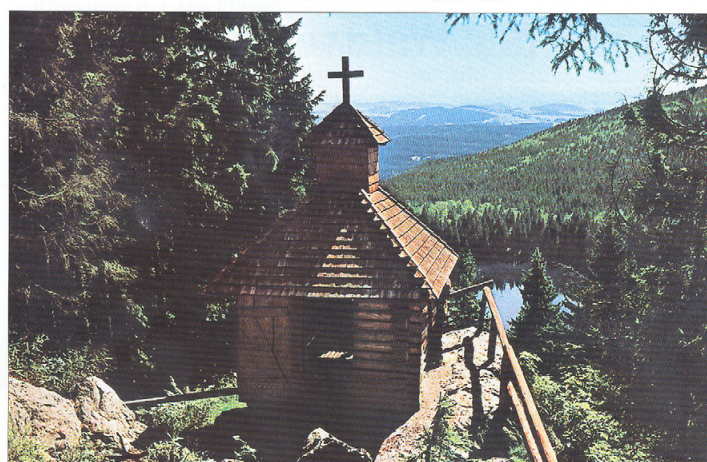
Fig. 1. Location, zonation and dead wood areas in Bavarian Forest National Park

Fig. 2. The area between the Lusen (foreground, right) and the Rachel (background, left) in Bavarian Forest National Park is most severely affected by the bark beetle.

Fig. 3. ''This is how national park management is destroying our Heimat. From monument to stigma'': part of the campaign in favour of controlling the bark beetle. (source: Handlos, 2007, p. 47)

22.5

Urban Water in French Switzerland: a Neoliberal Ecological History

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Since 1980s, the triumph of neoliberalism has heterogeneously (Brenner & Theodore, 2002) modified the perceptions and the political practices. Water is not an exception: it is an "uncooperative commodity" (Bakker, 2005: 546), and the different ways of managing it are inserted in specific governance styles and contribute to construct them forming what Swyngedouw (2009) has called the "hydro-social cycle".

Swiss example illustrates the fact that water distribution infrastructures are parts of specific socio-political constructions, as public utilities and as "power devices" in a Foucaldian sense. In fact here the water distribution infrastructures can be conceptualized as tools for bodies disciplination (cf. Foucault, 1993, 1997) but also as instruments for the construction of neoliberal governmentalities (cf. Foucault, 1979, 1988, 1991).

In the French part of Switzerland, the management of water and the diffusion of a set of values linked with sustainability proceeded without big upsets since the 1980s and until the 2010s (cf. Luis-Manso, 2005; Pflieger, 2009).

This research aims understanding how and why in French Switzerland big and sudden changes were absent from the landscape of water utilities management, even though neoliberalizations were taking place in other sectors (cf. for instance Burkhalter et al., 1999; Mach, 1999, 2002) and the quantity of consumed water diminished (Pflieger, 2009).

Research was conducted through a historical and sociological approach focused on discourse analysis. Discourse linked to water distribution in French Switzerland has been reconstructed from the archives of the newspaper "La Gazette de Lausanne – Le Temps" for the period 1980-2010. Discourse analysis has been used to identify users' perceptions of water utilities and of the main explicit and implicit political issues linked to water during this period.

Neoliberal governmentality postulates a fundamental role for rationality: this research shows that taking into account this rationality is essential for the success of neoliberal policies. In addition, this research indicates a growing influence of international arenas' discourses on local ones.

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22.6

The hunter and the wolf: Environmental ethics in Switzerland

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In many western industrial societies, recreational hunting (also known as sports hunting) is a contested and controversial issue. This controversy stems from tensions over contrasting moral views of how humans relate or rather should relate with the natural world. Moral questions that concern the natural environment are often dealt with within the broad body of work known as contemporary environmental ethics.

The purpose of this study was to attempt to understand and describe the relationships hunters have with the natural world through the lens of contemporary environmental ethics. To achieve this, the practice of hunting, concepts of nature, and the relationships that Swiss hunters have with the natural environment, with the animals they hunt, the returning wolf, and the morality embedded in these topics were analysed. Results showed that hunters describe hunting as a complex activity, the kill (which hunting is often reduced to outside of hunting circles) being just one of many aspects.

The results further indicated that 'nature' carries a high level of importance for these hunters, so much so that they often refer to themselves as 'nature lovers'. This, paired with the type of action hunting is, reveals a complex and somewhat paradoxical human-nature relationship. Hunters seem to simultaneously love nature as well as kill it. Comparing the hunters' descriptions of hunting and the description of their relationship with the natural environment to the different perspectives of environmental ethics, it transpires that their ethic fit most closely with a weak anthropocentric environmental ethics perspective.

Following on from this, the continued existence of hunting in Switzerland, despite numerous criticisms, seems primarily based on the role that hunter's play in the protection and management of the natural environment. The acceptance of hunting on these terms reveals certain features of human-nature relationships. Generally in society there is a perception that we as people should be seen as stewards and, that we are in charge of protecting and managing the natural environment. This is an asymmetric relationship that seemingly separates society from nature and contains aspects of domination, submission and arrogance over nature. In this context, the hunters of Switzerland reside in a very interesting place. They are both, in a physical and in a symbolic sense, a key feature within important societal discussions that surround our moral and physical relationships to the complex and often difficult to tie down thing that we call *nature.*

22.7

Wastewater governance – practices and contestations in Delhi's informal settlements

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Waste water governance presents a major challenge in India's cities and megacities. High rainfall variability, partial sewer networks, and waste water discharge through often dilapidated and silted storm water drains lead to impracticalities of daily life, health hazards, and environmental pollution, among other problems. Mostly located in the blanks of the sewer map, exposure to waste water is especially high in informal settlements. As everyday lives get affected, governing the waste waterscape becomes a perpetual negotiation process between local bureaucrats, politicians and residents. Against this background, the presentation, drawing on my PhD thesis, investigates how governance processes produce the waste waterscape, understood as a social, constructed and material space. To better grasp the effect of power in governance, Foucault's governmentality approach is introduced. With its help, practices of waste water governance are placed at the centre of analysis. The empirical analysis focuses on two types of informal settlements of Delhi: a squatter settlement and a semi-legal area built in contradiction to the Master Plan (Unauthorised Colony). Results show that waste water is governed through power-laden processes that are predicated on 'Othering' certain groups, labelled as less clean, less ritually pure, or less hygienic. In Delhi, residents of informal settlements are part of these groups, as their waste water-related practices are characterised as highly problematic and in need of change. Yet, while squatters are not invited to participate in governance processes, inhabitants of the Unauthorised Colony are seen as potential partners in governance by the government. Both groups, however, have very limited opportunities to participate in framing problems of urban governance.

22.8

City and Literature

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The purpose of our presentation is to expose our SNF interdisciplinary research joining geography and literature. The first part of the talk will state the epistemological issue of considering the city as a literary expression. The term of city implies for us geographers and literary critics spatial relations replacing human beings at the center of the topic. Theoretically, this corresponds to the humanistic turn in human geography implying notions such as lived space (Lebenswelt), the experience of space, topophilia, topophobia…

There are several ways to deal with this theoretical question in a geographical perspective as well as in a literary one: semiotical and linguistic, i.e. formalistic, structural methods, or thematic content analysis. These two dimensions, form and substance, are complementary and to be analysed alternatively.

Our project focuses on few cities depicted by writers, as Balzac's Paris or Dostoevsky's St-Petersburg. There have already been numerous works on this subject, like the recent analysis of the radical geographer David Harvey (*Paris, Capitale de la modernité* 2012). Our approach focuses on a different perspective: it is to work on the literary representation of the city as a weaving of different caracter's points of vue. The text is considerated as a construction that helps the critic to catch the different meanings that the city can produce at the same time. It enables the geographer to capture the thickness of the urban space translated in literature by the writer.

Another part of the research is to consider one city, Geneva (XIXth-XXIth century) as depicted by several authors, several kinds of texts (from travel writing to imaginative literature), i.e. historical and cultural cross-representations. In this letter perspective arise different cultural representations depending on the national-linguistic code of each writer (for instance Hispanic, Italian, French,…), as well as on different historical periods.

In conclusion, our presentation will emphasize on the difficulties of interdisciplinary research (geography/literature) considering that these two fields use the same concepts with different meanings.

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Figure 1. Dostoevksy, Balzac, Paris, Geneva, Prague

22.9

Performative Geographies

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Theories of performance and performativity have garnered considerable attention within critical human geography since the mid-1990s. The concept of performativity has turned into an important source of inspiration for geographers working on issues as diverse as bodily practices (Longhurst 2000), questions of (gendered, sexualised and racialised) identity (Hubbard 2000; Mahtani 2002; Thomas 2008), homelessness in the city (Cloke et al. 2008), identity performances in workplaces (McDowell 2008, 2009), the performativity of markets (Berndt and Boeckler 2011a,2011b, 2012) and the performativity of research itself (Gregson and Rose 2000; Pratt 2000).

By now, 'Butler›s model of performativity has provided food for thought for many geographers' (Mahtani 2002: 427) and can look back at a 'long and deservedly successful journey' (Thrift and Dewsbury 2000: 413) in human geography. Yet it is only within the past few years that performative theory has made significant inroads within the German-speaking geography community (Boeckler/Strüver 2011, Dirksmeier 2009).

Recent scholarship exploring the performativity of identity formation, and spatial inscription is beginning to rethink the ways in which states, institutions, the market and communities are constructing and contesting political, economic and social spaces, discourses, and practices.

This session will bring together scholars working on the interrelations of performativity and space by offering a space for discussion of key texts in performative geographies. The discussion will turn around the following questions:

- Theoretical implications of performativity for critical geographic research
- Historical or contemporary case studies that address questions of performativity and space
- The interrelations between theories of performativity and other geographic theories
- Critical reactions to the use of performative theories in critical geographic scholarship

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