

Call for Papers

NESS Workshop: Social science contributions to the biodiversity agenda

Workshop chairs:

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Nature and human culture are inextricably linked. As a consequence, meaningful assessments of the state of biodiversity, and potential policies, practices and technologies to conserve and sustainably use it must integrate knowledge on genes, species and ecosystems with knowledge on humans and societies. Moreover, an integrative approach is crucial to produce policy relevant knowledge for implementation of international targets such as the forthcoming program of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Recognition of the cultural dimensions of sustainability issues goes hand in hand with calls for interdisciplinary approaches. Cross-disciplinary collaboration is, however, often on terms defined by the natural sciences.

In this workshop we aim to articulate the particular and distinctive contributions of the qualitative social sciences in the field of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. We are specifically focusing on approaches, frameworks and concepts. We foresee papers addressing issues such as *What kind of definition of nature, and conceptualizations of the relationship between humans and the rest of nature, are sensible from the point of view of the social sciences and humanities and, at the same time, useable and operational?*

The NESS workshops follow a standing session format (similar to ECPR), which allows for substantive discussions on research in progress. The conference invites scholars from multiple disciplinary backgrounds in environmental social science. The overall **objective** of the **workshop** is to facilitate and encourage participation, equality and collaboration between younger and more established scholars. Each paper is expected to relate to the theme of the workshop, and the participant submits and presents a paper (or work in progress) for the discussion. Workshop participants will be asked to comment on at least one other paper in the respective workshop and participate in the general discussion of the other papers presented. Participants should only choose and attend one workshop for the duration of the conference. The ambition with this format is that the workshops allow for in-depth and coherent discussions of the respective themes and provide opportunity for potential joint publications or other continuing collaborations between the participants.