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Abstract Title:

The SETER project: socio-ecological theories and empirical research

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[Spanning Political Ecologies I: International and Multi-Paradigm Collaborations](#)

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Abstract:

This presentation will present the SETER project. For the last twenty years, different research units participating in this project have been developing research activities on socio-ecological systems aiming at understanding relationships between agriculture and biodiversity, policies and landscapes dynamics, watershed management, ecosystem management and health risk, etc. At the same time, diverse schools of thought have developed theories and frameworks to analyse the dynamics and management of socio-ecological systems (Resilience, Vulnerability, Political ecology).

The objective of this project is to assess the relevance and the complementarities of these theoretical frameworks by applying and testing them in the case of four empirical research case studies (Wetlands of the Rhone river delta, Locust control in Sahelian region, Multiple uses of Sahelian ecosystems, Management of Bemisia-phytovirus risk .) The lessons from this project will also provide the basis for new conceptualisations of socio-ecological systems dynamics and management.

During summer 2009 senior researchers (Lance Gunderson, Allyson Quinlan, Colin Polsky, Marco Janssen, Paul Robbins, Nancy Peluso, Tom Bassett, Tor Benjaminssen) were hosted in Montpellier (France) for a common stay during which they interacted among them and with the participating units in Montpellier. Each case study was analysed from a different angle leading to progress in the understanding of the dynamics and management of the socio-ecological system under study. The different view points were discussed. This paper will present the preliminary results of this scientific dialog.

Keywords:

[political ecology](#), [resilience](#), [vulnerability](#), [common-pool resources](#), [socio-ecological systems](#)