



Programme on
Ecosystem Change and Society

Stockholm Resilience Centre
Sustainability Science for Biosphere Stewardship



ABSTRACTS

OPEN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PECS II

NOVEMBER 7-10 2017
OAXACA CITY
MEXICO

CEDUA

EL COLEGIO
DE MÉXICO



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Casa abierta al tiempo

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welcome!

PECS

The Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS) was launched in 2011. The principal approach of PECS research is an in-depth understanding of the social-ecological dynamics at landscape scale in a wide variety of situations. PECS uses a broadly set of conceptual frameworks and tools that eventually leads to comparisons of place-based, long-term social-ecological case studies, and reveals general principles for sustainable resource management. Since 2014, PECS is officially part of Future Earth, the newly created global research platform that aims to provide the knowledge and support to accelerate our transformations to a sustainable world.

PECS 2017

The first Open Science Conference of PECS was held in South Africa in November 2015. PECSII- 2017 will advance from the momentum and insights gained during the PECS 2015. Eighteen transdisciplinary projects and five cross-cutting working groups have been endorsed within PECS projects, which together cover a wide range of social-ecological case-studies around the world.

Research across these case studies is adaptive and transdisciplinary and combines different knowledge systems and perspective. These features will ultimately, and ideally, allow for the guiding research questions of PECS to be co-designed and co-evolved together by researchers and stakeholders.

PECSII- 2017 will host more than 300 participants from more than 30 countries, from academic, governmental and societal organizations.



WELCOME TO PECS-II

Dear Friends

Welcome to the Second Open Science Conference of the Programme for Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS), in Oaxaca, Mexico, November 7-10 2017 (PECSII). The emphasis this year is on “Transdisciplinary place-based research for global sustainability”. As a network of place-based research, PECS strives to foster interactions and gaining insights from comparisons across sites. Place-based research allows for a better understanding of global social-ecological dynamics, and how transformations towards sustainability are often triggered at the local scale through the co-construction of local solutions.

PECSII will build on previous PECS efforts to synthesize across sites and will highlight recent advances towards more successful transdisciplinary place-based research. Early PECS efforts were aimed at establishing a conceptual and methodological framework and at fostering the endorsement of projects as well as the establishment of working groups. Workshops held in Stockholm in 2013 and in Montpellier in 2014 led to a PECS special issue in Ecology and Society. The first PECS Opens Science Conference in 2015 in South Africa expanded the community and the range of projects and working groups, and was instrumental for quick starting new research approaches and fostering synthesis publications.

PECSII will welcome 350 participants from nearly 200 organizations, including research institutes, schools, universities, environmental NGOs, governments, consultants, as well as organizations of rural producer, of indigenous groups, of civil rights defenders and artists, from 35 countries spanning all continents.

We are looking forward to our very intense three-day program that is designed to foster debate, the discussion of new insights, the development of conceptual and methodological approaches, and the strengthening of a global community of practice. Plenary sessions, symposia, flash workshop, innovative and immersive sessions, speed talk sessions and posters sessions are all set up in ways to promote active exchanges among participants.

We have also set up additional activities to unravel interactions in a wide range of contexts. Pre- and post-meeting workshops and courses, field trips, and cherry picked cultural activities will further nourish our interconnections.

Enjoy this wonderful academic setup developed for you and by you and please make sure to take advantage of the wonders that the city of Oaxaca offers.

Albert Nörstrom

Executive Director of PECS

Patricia Balvanera

Chair of the Local Organizing Committee of PECSII

The politics of place meanings in a transformation: insights from farm workers in the conversion of farmland to "conservation" land in the Eastern Cape, South Africa (1023)

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Over the past decades, there has been an increase in South Africa in conversions of commercial (mainly white-owned) farms to wildlife-based production and conservation. These conversions have severe socio-economic but also socio-cultural impacts on farm workers and dwellers, i.e. those who call these farms home but are living on other people's land. Contrary to what farmers and land owners claim, these conversions do not result in more employment opportunities, and are often accompanied by evictions of farm workers and dwellers. Contestations occur between these groups - but also among game farmers and "conventional" farmers about the place meanings attached to the various parts of the Eastern Cape, and what the future of the landscape should be. Game farmers and land owners often claim that the conversions are a restoration of the area as it was before the first white settlers arrived, thereby erasing the memories of pre-colonial histories of pastoralism and agriculture. Farm workers who are evicted during the transformation process lose their homes - including sometimes ancestral graves and ritual places - as well as access to land for cultivation and livestock. Based on the findings of a 5-year research project, involving a number of students and which entailed multiple in-depth (ethnographic) case studies conducted on (game) farms and in rural townships, as well as interviews with members of government departments and civil society organizations, this presentation will focus on the contestations over the Eastern Cape landscapes affected by conversions to game farming, and the ambivalent responses by government institutions (at national and provincial level) to these contestations. It will demonstrate how this particular transformation of the landscape serves to actively exclude certain groups - which then stands in the way of the social transformation needed to address the legacies of apartheid.

Place, risk and resilience: adaptation in rapidly changing coasts (1051)

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Coastal communities around the world are crucibles of change: shifting patterns of settlement and migration, new developments and new land uses, and climate change impacts such as sea level rise and weather extremes are reshaping place based risks and peoples' resilience. We wanted to understand peoples' perceptions of these changes, the risks posed by them, and their own capacities to respond and transform in response, through the lens of place. This paper presents findings from the MAGIC (Multi-scale Adaptation to Global change in Coastlines) project, where primary research using a mixed methods approach was undertaken at sites in Cornwall UK, Languedoc France, and the Garden Route in South Africa. We investigate the interactions between place meanings, place attachment, and perceptions of risk and resilience to coastal change. Place attachment and place meanings are highly diverse and articulated in many different ways, shaping attitudes to chronic and acute social ecological change. Our findings demonstrate that mobility is a key demographic process shaping community configurations of place attachment and is significant in how people experience certain changes and risks, in the adaptations they are likely to undertake, and in determining the possibilities for transformation.