



Dr Martin Weber

The Challenge of Political Ecology.

Since the manifestation of a global consciousness about the risks and problems of climate change at the latest, all political practices have, in some ways, had to be indexed or linked to the environment and to questions over ecological integrity. The very qualities of the challenges faced under conditions of potentially pervasive environmental change intuitively suggest a correspondingly comprehensive reworking and reconfiguration of social and political thought, as well as institutional constellations. The field of Political Ecology, broadly construed, comprises those works and projects in the Social Sciences and Humanities ostensibly directed at producing such desired ecologically oriented revisions of dominant contemporary institutional practices and imaginaries.

Over two days, we will survey, probe and interrogate prominent and topical approaches in the field of Political Ecology, consider the opportunities and problems implied in its trans-disciplinary foci, and assess potentials and limitations of the current state of the art in research, analysis and prescriptive thinking on environmental and ecological concerns. We'll do this over four modules:

- a) The Challenge of Political Ecology: Lifeworlds, Knowledges, Authority, Society.
- b) Problems and Potentials in Transdisciplinary Research: How does it all fit together?
- c) Political Ecology and Political Economy: Adaptation or Transformation?
- d) Ecological Consciousness and Political Alternatives.

Participants are welcome to bring their own questions, case examples, "problematic readings", or experiences along (including in different formats). This can, of course, be done spontaneously in the Seminar setting, but can also be integrated more centrally into the modules and discussions by allowing preparation time.

If you want to do something along the lines of the latter, in order to facilitate integration within the module structure, please contact me at m.weber@uq.edu.au at least 4 weeks before the class.

Requirements:

The Masterclass will take the format of an intensive Seminar, with short introductory talks setting up each of four modules. Participants will be required to prepare for the event by reading 3 articles/book-chapters for each of the modules in depth (ie. 12 in total), and have a list of questions, problems, or puzzles arising for them from the readings ready to share with the group. Although we will conduct most of the seminar work 'offline', participants should bring internet-ready devices (preferably laptops or tablets) along for periodically accessing multimedia content, and for short research tasks.

2 consecutive days 9:30am – 4:00pm

Tuesday 20th & Wednesday 21st September, 2016

GPN39A Room 402

Open to students in:

MIR/MPACS/MPP

Honours

RHD.



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