

CALL FOR PAPERS

“Social-Ecological Dynamics in Contested Spaces: Conflicts, Institutions, Identities”

*Workshop of the Working Group “Nature, Resources, and Conflict”
of the German Association for Peace and Conflict Studies (AFK e.V.) at the
Section of International Agricultural Policy and Environmental Governance,
University of Kassel, Witzenhausen*

August 31, 2018, University of Kassel

Contested spaces are characterized by political antagonisms and ambiguous dynamics. Commodity frontiers, post-conflict locations, border regions, nature reserves, rapidly changing urban areas constitute such sites of intense contestation evolving around political and environmental issues. Different actors dwelling or operating within these contested spaces have radically diverging, often mutually exclusive concepts of their environment. Here, ethnic conflict, economic development and environmental change are intertwined processes eluding neat categorizations. For example, claims connected to ethnic identity will often appear in relation to conflicts over environmental transformation or resource extraction.

The workshop focuses on the social-ecological dynamics emerging from these situations of contestation. How are identities of local people shaped by the contested spaces they inhabit? What is the role of institutions governing contested territories? How do conflicts in social, ecological, political dimensions influence each other in the given environments? How are ecosystems impacted when state sovereignty is threatened by local or remote forces?

Scholars from disciplines including development studies, political geography, international relations, anthropology, sociology, area studies and agricultural sciences are invited to submit papers. Contributions from the humanities, especially (environmental) history and cultural studies, are also welcome. There is no regional focus, but cases covering regions previously under-researched in the context of environmental conflict research, such as the Asia-Pacific or the former Eastern Bloc, are in special demand.

Registration and contact

The day workshop will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on August 31, 2018 at the University of Kassel, Department of Organic Agriculture, Steinstraße 19 in the town of Witzenhausen in Northern Hessen.

There is no participation fee, but we cannot reimburse travel costs. Witzenhausen is easy to reach by train via Göttingen or Kassel-Wilhelmshöhe.

If you would like to present a paper, please send in an abstract (250 words) by June 22, 2018.

Full papers should be submitted no later than August 15. We forward the full program by mid-July. If you would like to participate without a presentation, please register before August 10, keeping in mind that space might be limited. For more information, and to hand in papers, please contact Sören Köpke, soeren.koepke@agrar.uni-kassel.de

Further Info

About the Working Group “Nature, Resources, and Conflicts” of the German Association for Peace and Conflict Studies (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Friedens- und Konfliktforschung, AFK): <http://www.afk-web.de/arbeitskreis-natur-ressour-cen-konflikte.html>