

**Interdisciplinary and Comparative Workshop**

***Nature, Object, Subject:  
Semantics and Politics of Human-Nature-Relationships  
(with focus on natural resources)***

October 3-4, 2016  
CSDS, Delhi

*Organising Committee:*

Antje Linkenbach (Erfurt, Germany), Vidhu Verma (Delhi, India), Andreas Pettenkofer (Darmstadt, Germany)

During the 20th century *nature* moved into the focus of attention in local, trans-local and global contexts. Nature, and in particular the relationship between humans and nature, became subject of conflicting normative discourses in philosophy, social and political sciences, and economics. Empirically the issue was approached by means of looking at diverse socio-economic and cultural life-worlds and practices that revealed themselves to be either oriented towards an objectifying and even managerial attitude and behaviour in relation to nature or prefer to follow a more integrative approach, where the interrelatedness and mutual dependency of nature and people is acknowledged.

One focal aspect of the conflicting debates and practices regarding human-nature interrelationship is the right of individuals and groups to access and use natural resources. In historical times as well as in the contemporary period of the modern nation-states, natural resources are heavily contested among different “stakeholders” regarding ownership / stewardship of land and commons, resource management and control, the right to allow commercial use of resources, the right of eminent domain. As a *comparative* venture the interdisciplinary workshop intends to explore theoretically and empirically *resource rights and resource use in its wider context and regarding its social and political consequences* by taking up examples from western and non-western world regions.

**Monday October 3, 2016**

**9.15 – 10.00 h**

Welcome (Organizing Committee)

Introduction to the workshop (Organizing Committee)

**10.00 – 11.00 h**

*Barbara Muraca*, Oregon State University, USA: 'Human-nature relations after the decolonization of nature: an Environmental Justice perspective' (**via skype**)

**11.00 – 11.30 h**

Coffee break

**11.30 – 13.30 h**

*Ravi S. Rajan*, University of California Santa Cruz, USA: 'The concept of environmental human rights'

*Antje Linkenbach*, Max Weber Kolleg, University of Erfurt, Germany: 'Re-territorialising humans in nature – political and practical consequences'

**13.30 – 14.30 h**

Lunch break

**14.30 – 16.30 h**

*Andreas Pettenkofer*, University of Darmstadt, Germany: 'Politicizing nature, depoliticizing inequality: the German version'

*Vidhu Verma*, JNU Delhi, India: 'Land, labour and resources: The politics of dispossession in contemporary India'

**16.30 – 17.00 h**

Coffee break

**17.00 – 18.00 h**

Amita Baviskar, IEG Delhi, India: Response to the Papers

Discussion

**19.00 h**          Dinner (IIC Annexe)

**Tuesday October 4, 2016**

**09.30 -10.30 h**

*Ajit Menon*, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai: 'Mobile Histories and Sedentary Conservation in Gudalur, Tamil Nadu' (paper co-authored by Manasi Karthik, MIDS, Chennai)

**10.30 – 11.00 h**

Coffee Break

**11.00 – 13.00 h**

*Amrita Mondal*, Max Weber Kolleg, University of Erfurt, Germany: 'Women's relation to land: a perspective from West Bengal'

*Elvira Graner*, ICAS-MP, Delhi, India: 'Governing Wetlands. The Politics of Environmental Management in Bangladesh'

**13.00 -14.00 h**

Lunch break

**14.00 -16 00 h**

*Bipul Kumar*, A N Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna, India: 'Adivasis, State and Natural Resources in Jharkhand'

*Siddarth Sareen*, ICAS-MP, Delhi, India: 'Discourses around logging: Framing extraction of wood from West Singhbhum's conflicted forests'

**16.00 -16.30 h**

Coffee break

**16.30 – 17.00 h**

*Juhi Tyagi*, ICAS-MP, Delhi, India: Response to the Papers

**17.00 -18.00 h**

*Kalpana Kannabiran*, Council for Social Development, Hyderabad, India: Final Comments  
Concluding Discussion

**19.30 h**          Dinner (IIC Annexe, )