

Discourse analysis and the environment

Summer School

Coördinators: Jelle Behagel, Leonardo van den Berg

March 2-3, 2017

Lecturers: Prof. dr. Esther Turnhout
Dr. Jelle Behagel
Prof. dr. Raoni Rajão

**Course organised by
Wageningen University & Federal University of Minas Gerais**

Introduction & objectives of the course

Environmental issues are more central to public policy and decision-making than ever before. Forest conservation and restoration is now a key strategy to combat climate change. Biodiversity conservation is considered key to any sustainable future of our planet. And increasing global development leads to ever more nature-human conflicts, as exemplified amongst others by the recent Mariana mining disaster in Brazil.

While we see the environment becoming more and more a mainstream issue, it is also still very often either absent from domestic political debates or is it is considered being in conflict with economic and human development. Moreover, when environmental issues *are* considered in public policy and decision-making, they are often presented in a very specific way. Forest are now carbon sinks under REDD+; or vaults of undiscovered medicine under schemes of payment for ecosystem services; wetlands can be part of financial investments; and national parks part of strategies to increase tourism and local development; the list goes on.

The above examples lead us to highlight a number of points.

- First (1), environmental issues are socially constructed and can be part of various discourses, including neoliberal, conservationist, developmental, and other discourses. These discourses will be explored during the course through reading sessions, examples during lectures, and work by the participants themselves.
- Second (2), environmental issues are usually complex as they involve multiple actor coalitions, policy fields, and regions. In the course, we will pay specific attention to discourse coalitions, the complexity of environmental problems, and the role of different scales and localities in environmental discourse.
- Third (3), environmental politics are often couched in scientific debates, knowledge conflicts, and/or contrasts between global and local, and Western and indigenous types of knowledge. We will explore these issues during the course by exploring processes of knowledge production and use in REDD+ and IPBES, amongst others.

This course will offer an advanced introduction to discourse analysis and its various applications in environmental issues. It will include the following three main themes: political discourse analysis (focusing on Foucauldian and post-Foucauldian interpretations of discourse, performativity and subjectivity), interpretive policy analysis (IPA) (with a focus on methodology) , and science and technology studies (STS) (focussing on the relations between knowledge, power and discourse).

Topics to be discussed are:

- The role of discourse analysis in environmental issues
- Different concepts and approaches within discourse analysis
- Environmental discourse – from the global to the local
- Co-production of knowledge
- Discourse and environmental governance

Target group and learning outcomes

We aim to bring in a maximum of 20 talented and highly motivated graduate students (MSc and PhD) and early career postdoc researchers from Brazil and other countries in Latin America as participants for this summer school. After participating in this summer school, the participants are expected to be:

- Acquainted with several related state-of-the-art theories and concepts of discourse analysis
- Able to understand environmental issues and/or conflict as socially constructed
- Able to understand the special role of knowledge in environmental issues

- Able to apply discourse analysis to social issues and the environment
- Able to engage in theoretical debates about different types of discourse analysis
- Able to critically reflect on societal discourses on the environment

Assumed prior knowledge

Participants are expected to have a basic level of knowledge and expertise of social science methods related to research around environmental issues/natural resource management; and are expected to bring with them a summary/a piece of writing of their own current field of research.

Language requirements (English)

Participant are expected to be able to follow classes taught in English as well as to be able to read academic articles in English. If you have difficulty expressing yourself in English, you may ask questions in Portuguese and the questions will be translated for you to English by other participants and/or teaching staff.

Course fees

The course fee is R\$ 50. Boarding, lunch, and dinner should be paid by participants themselves. Excursion to Inhotim is estimated at R\$ 125 (transport + admission + lunch) and will be paid individually.

Course Schedule

Course starts on Thursday morning, 2 March and ends on Friday evening, 3 March. There is an optional excursion to Inhotim Park & Museum for informal discussion with the teachers on Saturday 4 March.

Thursday, 2-03-2017	DAY 1: Social Constructivism and Co-production
9.00 – 10.00	<i>Opening</i> (dr. Jelle Behagel & Leonardo van den Berg)
10.00 – 11:00	Discourse analysis: introduction and concepts (dr. Jelle Behagel)
11:00 – 12:30	Article discussion in small groups (discourse article)
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.30	The co-production of the environment (prof. dr. Esther Turnhout)
15:30 – 17:00	Article discussion in small groups (STS article)
17:30 – 19:00	Introduction of research projects by participants
20:00	Dinner
Friday, 3-03-2017	DAY 2: Discourse, Policy & Politics
9.00 – 10:30	Discourse coalitions and environmental governance (dr. Jelle Behagel)
10.30 – 12:30	Article discussion in small groups (environmental governance article)
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	Global and Brazilian Discourses of REDD+ (prof. dr. Raoni Rajão)
15.30 – 17.00	Paper discussion in groups (global discourses article)
17:30 – 19:00	Presentation and discussion of 3 selected projects by participants
20:00	Dinner
Saturday, 4-03-2017	DAY 2: Optional excursion to Inhotim (www.inhotim.org.br) :
9.00:	Leave for excursion Inhotim
10:30 -15:00	Excursion Inhotim (including lunch)
15:00-15:30	Travel back to Belo Horizonte
17.00	Arrival Back in Belo Horizonte and goodbye

Course materials

Course materials will be made available online one month before the course at the latest. Course materials will consist of a selection of 8 academic articles that participants are expected to read before the start of the course

Location

Belo Horizonte, UFMG, Escola de Engenharia, Local: Seminário 1012

Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais
Av. Antônio Carlos, 6627 – Pampulha
Belo Horizonte – MG –

Registration

Registration is possible by sending an email to jelle.behagel@wur.nl, including the following details:

- Full name
- Email address and phone number
- Institutional affiliation (i.e. University, Organisation, Company)
- Career stage (i.e. MSc , PhD, Postdoc, other)
- Description of individual research project (max. 200 words)
- Motivation to join the course (max. 100 words)
- Whether you choose to join for excursion to Inhotim on Saturday (YES/NO)

The last date for registration is 31 January 2017.

Please make sure that you provide the most recent contact details so that in case of any changes you will be notified promptly. After your registration you will receive a first notification that your application has been registered. Your application will be carefully considered for acceptance to the summer school, and you will be notified accordingly through a second confirmation. We will also send an invoice to the address indicated in the registration requirements as soon as you have been accepted.

Cancellations

Cancellations may be made free of charge until 1 month before the start of the course. Cancellation fee of 100% applies if participants cancel the course less than 1 month prior to the course. The organisers have a right to cancel the course not later than 1 month before the course starts. The participants will be notified of any changes at their e-mail addresses.

Hotel/Accommodation

You will need to book accommodation yourself. A hotel close to the venue has a limited amount of double rooms available for 160R\$ per night, see <http://www.saintlouishotel.com.br/index.php/en/>.

Further information

On course content please contact the course coordinator, dr. Jelle Behagel (jelle.behagel@wur.nl) or Leonardo van den Berg (leonardo.vandenberg@wur.nl).

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