

***Enhancing Political Ecology Research:
A Political Natures Workshop***

With Dr Gregory Simon, University of Colorado



A pre-conference workshop
Institute of Australian Geographers Conference
University of Queensland, Brisbane
Tuesday July 11th 2017, 1pm – 6pm

Hosted by the IAG Rural Geographies, and Hazard, Risk and Disasters, study groups
No attendance fee. Afternoon tea provided.

This workshop will give participants an opportunity to explore how society's knowledge, modification and management of nature are oftentimes imbued with politics, controversy, inequity and deception, *and also* important opportunities for conciliation, alterity and the pursuit of just and progressive ideals. In this workshop, participants will (a) discover a novel framework of conceptual and analytic lenses to examine *Political Natures* and (b) apply this framework to their own areas of scholarship.

The first portion of the workshop will review three meta-themes – Constructing Nature, Degrading Nature and Governing Nature – before turning our attention to ten specific lenses that will introduce participants to a wide range of political ecology theories, concepts and frameworks. These ten lenses – which include themes such as Counting Nature, Consuming Nature, Producing Nature and Sustaining Nature – will utilize themes from critical development studies, postcolonial studies, critical physical geography, science and technology studies, among others.

The second portion of the workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to apply these lenses to their own research using a number of individual and interactive group exercises. This segment of the workshop will help participants determine how best to leverage the field of political ecology in their own work. As part of this exercise, workshop members will be asked to identify suitable concepts, methods and data types that will convert political ecology theory into applied research. The intimate and interactive forum is open to graduate students and early career scholars, as well others wishing to bring a stronger political ecology emphasis into their research.

To sign up for this workshop, please submit your name, and a paragraph about your research interests (primarily those you would like to explore in the second part of the workshop) to sonia.graham@unsw.edu.au.