

Immersion Lecture: Contemporary Applications of Anthropological Concepts

Time of Event:

Monday, February 29, 2016 - 15:30 to 16:15

Video:

In this lecture on contemporary applications of anthropological concepts, Dr. Monique Borgerhoff Mulder presents several examples of topics and research areas that are currently explored in environmental anthropology. She starts with biodiversity, and lays out the different lenses that different actors bring to the definition of biodiversity and its social benefits. She connects biodiversity to the idea of environmentally noble savages, that indigenous people are synonymous with conservation, and highlights the complex relationship between cultural and biological diversity. She then focuses on traditional ecological knowledge as a topic within which many assumptions are made, and argues that it is not static over time or necessarily aligned with the scale of environmental change. Finally, she uses examples of the tragedy of the commons and the converse idea, protected areas for conservation, and notes that anthropologists have critiques the assumptions in each of those approaches to understanding environmental challenges.

Reading List

Smith, E.A., and Wishnie, M. 2000. Conservation and subsistence in small-scale societies. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 29, 493-524.

Wilson, D.S., Ostrom, E., and Cox, M.E. 2013. Generalizing the core design principles for the efficacy of groups. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 90S, S21-S32.

Presentation Slides

[Click here to download the presentation slides.](#) [1]



[Monique Borgerhoff Mulder](#) [2] is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of California Davis. She uses the theory and methods of behavioural ecology to address

aspects of human behavioural variation, engaging in focused ethnographic research, quantitative demographic analysis, and systematic comparative studies. Her research focuses in three distinct areas: life history variation (including patterns of marriage and childrearing), the distribution of cultural traits across societies, and the links between conservation and economic development, and she is increasingly engaged in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of applied projects in East Africa. She co-directs a program on the intergenerational transmission of inequality with Sam Bowles at the Santa Fe Institute, and is co-founder of Savannas Forever Tanzania - Data for Development.

Event type:

Immersion Speaker

Event Attendance:

Private Working Group

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<https://www.sesync.org/events-announcements/thu-2016-02-11-1700/immersion-lecture-contemporary-applications-of>

Links

[1] https://www.sesync.org/sites/default/files/education/monique_applications.pdf

[2] <http://anthropology.ucdavis.edu/people/fzborger>