CROSS-FACULTY RESEARCH SEMINAR

Workshop on Institutions and Socio-Economic Development (WISED) Newcastle Business School, Faculty of Business and Law

Centre for Social Research and Regional Futures (CSRRF), Faculty of Education and Art

Centre of Urban and Regional Studies (COURS), Faculty of Science and IT

TOPIC: Understanding local community’s resistance to CSG and extractive industries.

CSG or unconventional gas extraction projects introduced in recent years has been met with different policy and community responses internationally and across Australia. Around 6500 gas wells have been installed in Queensland, increasing at a rate of around 300 per year, while CSG extraction has been met with fierce resistance and has virtually halted in NSW since 2012. A cross-faculty seminar will be held on the occasion of a visit by Dr. Michiel Kohne from Wageningen University, Netherlands. The purpose of the seminar will be twofold; to present Michiel’s research on CSG community resistance in the Netherlands, and for researchers at University of Newcastle to present on-going related research in Australia and internationally.

DATE: Thursday 26 November 2015

TIME: 2.00 – 5.00 pm

VENUE: PVC meeting room, SR 04

Guest Speaker: Associate Professor Michiel Kohne, Wageningen University, Netherlands.

(Bio attached). Community protest against fracking: the case of the Noordoostpolder in the Netherlands. (30 minutes)

My research on community protest against unconventional gas exploration concerns how communities react to the announcement of unconventional gas exploration in their home area. In 2014 we started ethnographic fieldwork in the Noordoostpolder, a rural municipality in the Netherlands. Here, the opposition to the gas drilling is tightly organised and comprises a wide variety of societal groups, such as: farmers, local companies, environmentalists, etc. We follow this opposition through time and analyse how citizenship is enacted as part of their resistance. Among other things we are looking at: how the group is held together and how it related to their constituency and other partners, how rights are claimed, how knowledge is used politically and at how people’s citizenship is related to their belonging.
10-15 minute presentations from each researcher from University of Newcastle;

**Professor Daniel Nyberg,** Re-producing a neoliberal political regime: Competing justifications and dominance in disputing fracking, Faculty of Business and Law, Management

**Dr. Meg Sherval:** Oil Sands and the impact of unconventional energy sources. Centre of Urban and Regional Studies (CURS), Faculty of Science and IT.

**Dr. Po-Hsin Lai:** Coping with the impacts of coal seam gas mining: A case study of the Gloucester Local Government Area in NSW, Faculty of Business and Law, Tourism

**Dr. Michael Askew:** “Open cut coal mining, the NSW planning system and the future for Hunter communities” Project Director, Centre for Social Research and Regional Futures (CSRRF), Faculty of Education and Arts.

**Dr. Sidsel Grimstad:** Social representations of CSG in the Local Public Media. The case of Gloucester. Faculty of Business and Law, Management.

**Dr. Hedda Askland:** Displacement/Migration in relation to extractive industries.

Additional Participants: Tod Moore, Jessica O’Neill, Jo Hanley, Kevin Sobel Reed,

Enquiries: Sidsel Grimstad (Tel: 49216271)

Afternoon tea has kindly been provided by the Centre for Social Research and Regional Futures (CSRRF), Faculty of Education and Arts.
Bio for Dr Michiel Kohne

Assistant Professor Anthropology of Law

Sociology of Development and Change Group, University of Wageningen, Netherlands

LLM at the Vrije Universiteit (Amsterdam), PhD in law at Tilburg University.

Research areas: Anthropology of law and Development, Land conflict, Non-state governance, Oil palm plantations, Multi Stakeholder Initiatives, Certification, Shale gas.

Teaching: Law, policy and governance; Law and Public Power; Globalization and Governance.

I do ethnographic research on governance and rights with regard to natural resources, with a focus on how marginalized groups pursue access to these resources vis-a-vis dominant social actors, such as companies, governments etc.. At present, I work on land conflict around palm oil plantations in Indonesia with a focus on the RSPO and on community protest against unconventional gas exploration in the Netherlands.

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Publications:


