

**NOVA – PhD Course series:**  
**Environmental collaboration and conflict resolution:**  
**Framework for analysis and intervention**

– with cases from Denmark and Kenya  
(5 ECTS)

**5-day intensive PhD Course at University of Copenhagen, Denmark**  
**28 August – 1 September 2017**

**This year's theme:**

**GREEN ENERGY**  
**GLOBAL POTENTIALS — LOCAL CHALLENGES**



**Sponsored by NOVA:** This course is **free of charge** for students enrolled at NOVA and BOVA institutions, while participants from other institutions will pay a course fee of 200 Euro. Participants will have to cover own transport and accommodation.

**Venue:** DanHostel at the seafront of Roskilde.

## **Theme of course: Green energy: Global potentials – local challenges**

The vast global potentials of green energy is currently challenged by resistance and conflicts at local level. Across the World large-scale green energy projects – such as wind-power, hydro-power, solar energy or geo-thermal plants – are met with local protest and severe conflicts. Such conflicts will be analyzed and discussed in a cross-cultural context by use of a holistic unifying framework. Green energy conflict cases from Denmark and Kenya – two world-leading nations of green energy – will be used to illustrate the challenge and create a red thread through the course.

The aim of this PhD-course is to give an introduction to analysis and understanding of environmental conflicts and the possibilities to resolve them through collaborative management, participatory interventions and mediation. The course provides student with theory and competencies for comprehensive analysis and understanding of environmental conflicts. Students will explore and discuss the potentials to resolve environmental conflicts through collaborative management, participatory interventions and mediation. The course is both academic and practice-oriented, with opportunity for students to connect theory and tools to own case and research.

## **Target PhD students**

The course is relevant for PhD students from various fields - including natural sciences, engineering, geography, social/political sciences and e.g. anthropology. If your research or case somehow touches on environmental conflict issues or green energy dilemmas – this course may be highly relevant for you? Even though, we particularly focus on green energy challenges the course is equally relevant for other kinds of environmental conflicts, e.g. related to nature conservation, land-use, forestry, recreation, extractive industries or climate change adaption. The course is cross-cultural and thus relevant for students working in a European, African or e.g. Asian or American context. A very mixed group of students in terms of research focus and backgrounds will only stimulate the learning, discussion and exchange of ideas about how to effectively deal with conflicts, public policy and democratic dilemmas.

## **Lecturers**

An international team of leading experts will give lectures and supervision: Prof. **Steven Daniels**, Utah State University and Prof. **Gregg Walker**, Oregon State University, Prof. **Njroge Karanja** from the STAKE Project at the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, Nairobi, **Kristian Borch**, Danish Technical University, **Christian Gamborg** and **Jens Emborg** from University of Copenhagen. Steve and Gregg have influenced the theory and practice of environmental conflict management in the USA – in the fields of forestry, water management, rural development and climate change. Prof. Karanja was the lead mediator in the recent conflict regarding resettlement four Masai villages in Rift Valley, Kenya – to give way for construction of the World's largest geo-thermal power plant. Kristian Borch works on technology transfer, change processes and is heading the Wind 2050 project about public acceptance of wind energy in Denmark. Christian Gamborg and Jens Emborg have grounded and developed the field of environmental conflict and ethics at the University of Copenhagen and they both have extensive teaching and PhD supervision experience within this particular research field. This course is developed in collaboration with University of Eastern Finland (Academy Research Fellow Irmeli Mustalahti and Professor Lasse Peltonen), SLU (Dr. Hans Peter Hansen) and NMBU/Agderforskning (Prof. John McNeish/Dr. Mikaela Vasström) who will be available to broaden the discussions and support the individual supervision.

## **Course theoretical topics and case examples**

The course presents theory and analytical frameworks that supports analysis and management of complex, multiparty environmental conflicts. Conflicts will be seen from different perspectives including government, public policy, planning, private sector, developer, community and stakeholders. The course covers themes

like *Policy discourse, Culture, Institutions, Power, Capacity, Incentives, Cognition, as well as Social Psychological Factors*, in relation to environmental conflict and as a basis for designing decision making and negotiation processes. The role of social learning is emphasized as a strategy to deal with complex conflict while exploring how to integrate expert and local knowledge.

Wind-power implementation in Denmark will showcase conflict issues and paradoxes in a European social-institutional context (NIMBY, value differences and democratic dilemmas). Geo-thermal energy development, wind-power and violent forest related conflicts (with ethnic undertones) in Kenya will showcase issues of particular relevance in an African / developing countries contexts (such as power differentials, ethnicity and political culture).

### **Learning format and outcome**

Lectures, group discussions and exercises will provide the basis for learning relevant theory and analytical frameworks. Individual work, supervision and tuition provide a basis for development of own PhD research as well as an opportunity for personal development and reflection on own skills, capabilities and potentials with regard to conflict analysis and management.

In short, this course provides theory, analytical tools and skills for students interested in environmental conflict – with opportunity and support to apply theory and frameworks on own case and to develop personal conflict resolution skills.

### **Pre-course writing task**

Each PhD student will during/after the course write a short paper (max 3000 words). Your paper will be flexibly tailored to bring the course theory, analytical frameworks and tools in play, to support your individual research and writing (we don't want to waste your time ☺). Select course literature and guidelines will be available to support your writing. A broad, well-structured selection of relevant literature will be available in pdf-format to ease the student's access to the overwhelming literature of this trans-disciplinary field. Pre-course, you will be asked to send a 1-page presentation of your own research describing how it relates to environmental conflict – to be used when we tailor the course content to your interests.

### **Evaluation criteria**

Pass/Fail - based on the pre/post-course writing tasks and active participation during the course.

### **Signing up for the course:**

Sign-up – max 25 participants: <https://phdcourses.ku.dk/DetailKursus.aspx?id=103005&sitepath=NAT>

For more information - contact Jens Emborg: [jee@ifro.ku.dk](mailto:jee@ifro.ku.dk)

### **Costs:**

NOVA students\*: Course fee: none. Meals free of charge. Accommodation: 50-100 Euro/night\*\*\*.

BOVA students\*\*: Course fee: None. Meals: approx. 150 Euro. Accommodation: 50-100 Euro/night\*\*\*

Other students: Course fee: 200 EUR. Meals: approx. 150 Euro. Accommodation: 50-100 Euro/night\*\*\*

\*Students studying at NOVA member institutions: University of Copenhagen, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Aarhus University, Science and Technology, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, Agricultural University of Iceland, University of Eastern Finland, School of Forest Sciences.

\*\* Students studying at Aleksandras Stulginskis University, Estonian University of Life Sciences and Latvia University of Agriculture

\*\*\*DanHostel – pre-booked single room: approximately 80-100 Euro/night; shared rooms (2,3 or 4): approximately 50-80 Euro/night

## **Supplementary information about the course – tentative course plan**

### **Course synopsis**

Environmental change, driven by both global and local policies and practices, affects livelihoods and produces various kinds of tensions which may lead to manifest conflict situations. The landscape of environmental conflict encompasses a whole spectrum of issues in fields such as land use, forest and water management, energy policy, extractive industries etc. Across different thematic areas, however, commonalities can be identified in conflict processes, dynamics of escalation, sources of discontent and mechanisms of conflict resolution.

The summer school PhD-course seeks to further our understanding of environmental conflicts and the possibilities of resolving them through collaborative management and participatory interventions. It is both academic and practice-driven; i.e. the course contents provide theoretical underpinnings and conflict analysis perspectives, but also include practice-oriented skills in assessments and interventions in conflict situations.

The course will address environmental conflicts that are familiar and topical for the course participants and will as far as possible be tailored around the specific cases/research of the students. Their cases provide a real-world context for the course contents and development of practical skills and students will get opportunity to work with their own cases/research and get substantial supervision on conflict-related research as part of the course program.

The learning aim of the course is to develop the student's personal conflict management and facilitation skills, with a specific emphasis on environmental conflict as found in various cultural and socio-political contexts around the World. Students will be exposed to a specific framework (the Unifying Negotiation Framework) designed to assess and analyze such environmental conflict situations. Based on the assessment and analysis students will discuss and reflect on how to make strategies and design culturally sensitive processes for negotiation, decision making and public involvement. Such knowledge and skills are valuable not only for design purposes but also as general back-ground for better understanding and more effective participation in public policy decision making, planning and project implementation.

### **Modes of Study**

All teaching will be in English and students are expected to participate actively in sessions, reading and writing pre- throughout and post course. Note that first week starts on Monday 28/8 at 9:00, and closing of the course will be Friday 1 September at 16:00. Lectures, exercises, excursion, group discussions, literature study and individual supervision will take place during this intensive week. As preparation to the course the student reads relevant literature and writes a short note to establish a connection between the course content and the student's own case and research. During the course the student will be supervised to develop the linking of own research to the course theory, framework and content. Post-course each student writes a short paper as a basis for evaluation and diploma. Dead-line for submission of revised paper will be 15 September 2017.

### **Responsible and organizing team:**

Steven Daniels, Gregg Walker, Christian Gamborg and Jens Emborg

### Course teachers:

- ✓ Prof. Steven Daniels, Environmental Conflict resolution, rural development, public involvement
- ✓ Prof. Gregg Walker, Oregon State University, Climate change conflict, water management
- ✓ Prof. Njroge Karanja, the STAKE Project, Wangaari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, Large-scale environmental mediation, ethnic conflict, political culture and governance
- ✓ Dr. Christian Gamborg, University of Copenhagen, Environmental ethics, value differences, qualitative research methods
- ✓ Dr. Jens Emborg, University of Copenhagen, Environmental conflict, negotiation, sustainability
- ✓ Dr. Kristian Borch, DTU, Technology transfer, change processes, green energy implementation, wind-power and public acceptance
- ✓ Dr. Irmeli Mustalahti, University of Eastern Finland, forestry related conflicts
- ✓ Dr. Mikaela Vasstrøm, Agderforsk, public policy and planning, action research
- ✓ Dr. Hans-Peter Hansen, SLU, Uppsala, governance, public involvement and democracy
- ✓ Prof. John McNeish, NMBU, Ås Norway, international development and environmental studies

**Further information**, please contact: **Jens Emborg**, jee@ifro.ku.dk or Tel. +45-2163 9114

## Course structure – preliminary program

The course will be adjusted and adapted as far as possible to accommodate the specific interest and research fields of the specific group of PhD students. This is to ensure that the course will be as intense and relevant as possible for all participants. The details of the course program will be tailored by the core-group of teachers when we know more about the participants and their research. As a preliminary frame we suggest the following program outline as a start – just to indicate what to expect:

### Monday: Introduction to the course – setting the stage

- Introductions, expectations, objectives
- Introduction to environmental conflict – northern context (Nordic, European, USA) as well as southern context (Africa, Cambodia)
- Presentation of the Danish Wind-power case
- Democratic perspectives and the importance of public policy discourse

#### Lunch

- Presentation of students own cases
- Group sessions and discussions
- Presentation of green energy cases from Kenya (geo-thermal energy, and wind-power)
- Democratic perspectives and the importance of power, rights and justice

#### Walk at the marina – Dinner

- Social evening with informal presentation of students own cases
- Teachers present and available for discussion, beer etc.

## **Tuesday: Context Factors *Culture and Institutions* – in relation to env. conflict**

- Culture – a nuanced understanding of the concept in relation to conflict
- Connections between culture and identity
- Institutions – formal and informal institutions
- The institutional context of environmental conflicts
- Relevant theories on culture and institutions

### **Lunch**

- Group sessions and discussions
- Work and supervision on own case and research
- The importance of Culture and Institutions in relation to own case and research.

Optional Viking boat sailing\* – all together 😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊 - with **dinner/picnic** on board!

## **Wednesday: *Cognitive and Social-Psychological* dimensions of env. conflict**

- Cognition – a nuanced understanding of the concept
- Cognitive biases in conflict and negotiation
- The role of cognition in conflict – and implications for process design
- The importance of the actors orientation and experience
- The role of trust and distrust – theory and practice
- How to manage cognitive and social-psychological dimensions of environmental conflict

### **Lunch**

- Group sessions and discussions
- Work and supervision on own case and research
- The importance of Cognitive and social-psychological factors in relation to own case and research.

### **Dinner**

## **Thursday: Excursion to experience and discuss the implementation of large-scale wind-power in Denmark**

### **Key Questions of the day:**

- Important policy and sustainability goals at national level?
- Importance of sustainable energy at local level?
- Importance of sustainable energy at individual level?

### **How to design, plan and implement small and large-scale wind-power projects?**

- On-shore, near-shore, off-shore?
- The bigger the better?
- Distribution of benefits and burdens?
- Who should own and implement projects?
- How should the general public and local citizens be involved?
- Democratic concerns?
- The role and value of local versus expert knowledge?

### **Dinner**

## Friday: *Power, Capacity* and the role of *Incentives* - in env. conflict situations

- Power and capacity – a nuanced understanding of the concepts
- The role of power, capacity and incentives in conflict
- How to manage power and create productive incentives in conflict situations

### Lunch

- How to use the theory and knowledge acquired to assess environmental conflict situations
- How to organize and structure a comprehensive conflict assessment – the Unifying Negotiation Framework
- Identification of critical features (hot spots) of the situation at hand.
- Strategies of intervention and design of negotiation processes
- Wrap up, evaluation and closure.

Optional NOVA meeting - and safe travels home ☺

### Social/Individual Program – Exploring Roskilde and Copenhagen

You may enjoy the Danish nature around Roskilde or the whole island of Zealand or Møn for that sake while you are here? Or you may want to get a taste of the lively and vibrant Copenhagen city-life on your leisure time. Copenhagen is actually only 30 minutes away by train...Why not see the famous Viking Ship Museum right next door to the conference venue, or hire a bike to explore Copenhagen – the bike city ☺

**See you at the course!**

**Best regards – the organizing team:**

*Steven Daniels, Gregg Walker,  
Christian Gamborg and Jens Emborg*

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