Land and the 2030 Agenda: Navigating competing claims
(https://www.igs-north-south.ch/Pages/Current-Semester.aspx)

Time: 4 November 5, 6, 9, and 10 November 2020, 8:30-12:30 GMT +1
ECTS: 1.5
Institution: Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Bern
Lecturers: PD. Dr. Flurina Schneider, Dr. Albrecht Ehrensperger, others
Place: online
Registration: igsnorthsouth.cde@unibe.ch, Registration deadline: 16 October 2020

Content:

Land is a critical nexus for advancing the United Nation's 2030 Agenda, as its management is affecting the
delivery of most Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is because land lies at the intersection of diverse
and potentially conflicting claims concerning societies' sustainable development needs. These claims might be
bound to a specific context, but in today's interconnected world they are increasingly linked to complex multi-
scale, cross-scale, and tele-coupled processes. For example, a forested landscape in Madagascar might be under
protection because of its exceptional biodiversity, while supporting the livelihoods of local communities, and
providing vanilla and other commodities for the international market.

The purpose of this course is therefore to discuss novel concepts and approaches to address such complexity and
navigate competing claims on land in an equitable way. Beyond assessing the dynamics of society-nature
interactions, we will focus on gaining a better understanding of the values that various actors attribute to land
and to its functions for sustainability. In addition, we will address promising entry points and levers in social-
political systems to foster transformation, and learn about platforms and processes to engage relevant
stakeholders.

Learning outcomes:

• You understand the complex and dynamic society-nature interactions involved in land systems
transformations
• You learn about promising technologies, approaches and leverage points for land systems
transformations
• You reflect upon normative issues involved in actors' claims on land and different sustainability
conceptions.
• You enhance your methodological skills for tackling complex questions of sustainable land use
• You critically reflect upon how research can contribute to more sustainable land systems