Course Outline

Rural Sociology Group
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A Global Sense of Place:
Place-based approaches to
Development

Course code: RSO-55306
Credits: 6 ECTS
Contact person: Dr L.G. Horlings, lummina.horlings@wur.nl
0317-485969, room 3026, Leeuwenborch
Lecturers & Examiners: Dr L.G. Horlings, Dr J. Jongerden,
Dr Ir D. Roep

Secretariat: Rural Sociology, secretariaat.rso@wur.nl
0317-484507, room 3053, Leeuwenborch
Period: 2, starting Monday 29 October 2012
Lectures: Monday: 10.30 – 12.15, C71 Leeuwenborch
Tuesday 10.30-12.15, C406, Forum
Workshop: Thursday: 10.30 – 12.15, C71 Leeuwenborgh

Exam: Essay, deadline Friday December 21st 2012,
12.00 a.m.
Profile of the course
RSO-55306 A Global Sense of Place is an optional interdisciplinary course on sustainable place-based development for students from various master programmes (e.g. MDR, MES, MID, MLP, MUE, MOA, MFN). The course builds on the BSc course RSO-56806 Sociology and Anthropology of Place-shaping providing an introduction to place-based approaches in development. Knowledge of this introductory course is an advantage, but is not assumed.

The course aims to make students acquainted with an interdisciplinary and place-based approach to development. A relational place-based approach is seen as key to the understanding of interrelated rural and urban transformation processes and ergo sustainable development.

In a relational approach places are considered as contingent but in time and space differentiated outcomes of three interrelated interdependent and unbounded transformative processes: political-economic, ecological and social-cultural. Places are time and space specific constructs, like their boundaries and connections.

By means of this course students will achieve profound understanding in key-concepts and methods on place-based sustainable development. Work from key thinkers in sustainable place-making will be critically discussed and examined on the basis of various cases. Guest speakers from different disciplines from in- and outside Wageningen University are invited to reflect on place-based approaches to sustainable development and illustrate these through case studies. Ultimately students will acquire a place-based perspective on development.

Language of instruction and examination is English.

Main themes of the course
Central to a place-based approach is the conceptions of place as:
1) Arenas for negotiation, conflicting interests and power struggles;
2) Endowed with meaning and the constitution of identities, subjectivities and difference.

Different interdisciplinary themes will be addressed such as:
- a relational approach of place and space;
- key thinkers on place and space and politics of place;
- community development
- cultural approaches of place-based development
- ‘the human dimension’, encompassing collaboration and leadership
- ‘defence’ of places and conflicts

Learning outcomes
After successful completion of this course students will be able to:
- Explain key-concepts;
- Give an overview of contemporary sociological, anthropological, and geographical-planning approaches for place-based development;
- Compare these approaches and explain their differences;
- Analyse cases based on these theoretical approaches;
- Criticize these approaches and evaluate their value in social sciences research.
**Learning materials and resources**

Mandatory literature, the Powerpoints of the respective lectures and guest lectures, workshop discussions, film or documentary. All will be available at the Eduweb course site.

**Educational activities**

In this course different work forms will be used in order to maximize student learning. Lectures are combined with guest-lectures to introduce and explain place-based approaches as well as their application in cases and to contextualize these approaches within the wider field of rural development studies. Through self-study the students will further develop their understanding of the theoretical approaches discussed. In the individual assignments the students will be asked to compare approaches or to analyse a case on basis of a particular approach. At the workshop the literature for the week and the individual assignments are discussed. During the discussion workshop in the last week a film or documentary will be discussed in the context of the place-based approaches.

The average weekly workload is:

* Lectures: 2 hours, Monday, 10.30-12.15;
* Guest lectures: 2 hours, Tuesday 10.30-12.15, offered only when enough students attend the course;
* Self-study: 8 hours, mainly reading, around 40-60 pages
* Individual Assignment: 4 hours a week, has to be handed in latest Wednesday 17.00
* Workshop: 2 hours, Thursday, 10.30-12.15.

**Assessment strategy**

The students are expected to make six individual assignments (1 per week) and 1 final essay. Each week, the students are assigned to write an essay of about 900 words (roughly two pages A4). This assignment is based on that week’s literature, will be explained on Monday and has to be handed in on Wednesday at 17.00. In the assignment, the student has to show that:

- he or she mastered the literature
- that he or she is able to draw relations between subjects/themes discussed
- he or she is able to give a clear structure to the paper (introduction to the subject and argument, presentation of the argument, and conclusions)
- he or she is able to make a consistent argument
- he or she is able to make proper references/bibliography

Both the essay and the assignments will be assessed and graded. The final mark for the course is based on the mark for the essay (weights 60%) and the grading of the six individual assignments (weights 40%).

To pass the course at least a 5.5 grade for both for the written essay and the average grade of the individual assignments are needed.

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<tr>
<th>Learning outcomes</th>
<th>Interim assignments</th>
<th>Final essay</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. explain key-concepts</td>
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<td>2. give an overview of contemporary sociological, anthropological and</td>
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<td>geographical-planning approaches for place-based development</td>
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<td>3. compare these approaches and explain their differences</td>
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<td>4. analyse cases based on these theoretical approaches</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. criticize these approaches and evaluate their value in social sciences research.</td>
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Course schedule 2012-2013

The mandatory literature below is preliminary. Before the start of the course a final selection is made to update the course. Mandatory literature will be available at Eduweb latest the week before the course starts.

Schedule
Week 9-14
Mondays: Lectures 10.30-12/15 C71 Leeuwenborgh
Tuesdays: Guest lectures 10.30-12.15 C406 Forum
Thursdays: Workshops 10.30-12.15, C71 Leeuwenborgh

Week 9: Introduction: a relational approach to place

Monday, October 29, 10.30-12.15: Lecture Dirk Roep
Tuesday, October 30, 10.30-12.15: Guest lecture Albert Aalvanger (WUR-LUP)
Thursday, November 1, 10.30-12.15: Workshop

In the first week a relational approach to place and the concept of place-based development is introduced and extensively discussed. The work of Doreen Massey is seminal to the relational approach of place and we will read one of her earlier writings. For space (2004) is a recent book. Another key thinker on a relational approach to space and place is David Harvey. We will read and discuss an earlier work of Harvey as well. Both Massey and Harvey are geographers. The article by Gieryn A space for place in sociology is the main article for this week that will be extensively discussed in the lectures. Finally a framework on (sustainable) place making, based on a relational approach to place, will be introduced. This framework will serve as point of reference throughout the course.

Mandatory literature:

Week 10: Thinking place and the politics of place

Monday, November 5, 10.30-12.15: Lecture Joost Jongerden
Tuesday, November 6, 10.30-12.15: Guest lecture: Paul Hebinck (WUR-RDS)
Thursday, November 8, 10.30-12.15: Workshop

In this week we will explore various understandings of place and space, of the local and the global, in social theory. We will discuss the political implication of particular understandings of place/space and local/global relations (discourses talk back!). For that reason, we will discuss two articles. The first one is an article written by the anthropologist Arturo Escobar (‘Culture sits in places’) and the second one an article written by the political geographer Doreen Massey (‘Geographies of responsibility). Through these articles, we will juxtapose two understandings: place defined in terms of territoriality and place defined in terms of connectivity, and make clear which politics are nested in these different understandings.
Mandatory literature:


Week 11: Cultural approaches of place-based development

Monday, November 12, 10.30-12.15: Lecture Ina Horlings
Tuesday, November 13, 10.30-12.15: Guest lecture: Prof. Joks Janssen (WUR-LUP).
Thursday, November 15, 10.30-12.15: Workshop

This week we first explore the variety of cultural approaches such as the role of cultural heritage in places, arts & creativity as motor for development, cultural identities, cultural values and diversity, and the marketing of cultural assets. Place-based endogenous development can be rooted in cultural identities. We will discuss how development of value-adding practices can be (re-) oriented on territorial cultural capital and how branding policies capitalise on the pulling power of their respective cultural attractions. The academic and political interest in incorporating arts, culture, creativity or the creative industries in the regeneration of places is growing. The European Capital of Culture programme is seen as ‘a significant catalyst for culture-led regeneration. We will discuss how cultural planning stimulates investments in iconic, culturally-driven flagships and open spaces, and how towns and cities have been developing cultural, or creative industries, quarters and clusters since the 1980s.

Mandatory literature:


Week 12: Place-based community development

Monday, November 19, 10.30-12.15: Lecture Dirk Roep
Tuesday, November 20, 10.30-12.15: Guest lecture Anke de Vrieze (Farming the city, Amsterdam)
Thursday, November 22, 10.30-12.15: Workshop

This week focusses on a place-based approach to community development. Key issue in development is who owns, controls and benefits from the transformation of resources. In a place-based approach to community development the community as a whole is the key beneficiary. In the first week place was framed as the evolving outcome from the interaction between ecological, socio-cultural and political-economic ordering processes. And how places are interconnected by networks and flows. A community develops its ‘own’ sense of place, including its boundaries, resulting from the time and space specific interaction between nearby ‘nature’ and ‘culture’, but in interaction with more distant ordering processes. The community development approach by Gibson and Graham will be discussed more in detail.

Mandatory literature:

Week 13: The ‘human dimension’: leadership in regional development

Monday, November 26, 10.30-12.15: Lecture Ina Horlings
Tuesday, November 27, 10.30-12.15: Guest lecture Tassone Valentina (WUR-ECS)
Thursday, November 29, 10.30-12.15: Workshop

Whilst many variables play through explanations of ‘functioning’ cities and regions, enquiry into the leadership dimension can provide useful insights into the relational features of sub-national territorial development – in other words the study of leadership allows us to uncover aspects of the motivations and contributions of individuals and groups that are a useful complement to those insights derived from other types of enquiry into governance arrangements, policy networks or systems at the sub-national scale. Revealing how leadership is enacted in ‘everyday’ practice may also allow us to explain, at least to some extent, why some places are able to adapt to the ever changing social and economic conditions of the modern world. The interplay between leadership, power and resources can shed light on the questions of why, and in whose interest, economy and society are organised, in different places and at different times.

Mandatory literature:

Week 14: Networked politics of place:

Monday, December 3, 10.30-12.15: Lecture Joost Jongerden
Tuesday, December 4, 10.30-12.15: Guest lecture: Raoul Beunen (WUR-LUP)
Thursday, December 6, 10.30-12.15: Film and Discussion

In this final week of the course we will continue to explore the idea of relational place making, and discuss the ways place making and ‘being in the world’ are related to each other. Through the lens of relational analyses, and issues discussed in this course (politics, connectivity, leadership, community, values etc.), we will look at a documentary called the Garden. It tells the story of urban farm located in Los Angeles, California. The Garden details the plight of the farmers who organized and worked on the farm, and the way the farm and their lives are intimately connected with each other, a neighborhood group called concerned citizens, the municipality and a real estate developer, who have different ideas about what to do with the land. The aim of looking at the documentary is to analyze a case through the concepts and approaches discussed in the previous weeks.

Mandatory literature: