



Call for papers

1st Nordic Conference on Forest Policy Science

From 13th to 15th of October 2010 in Uppsala

Background

Social theory has become increasingly relevant in the area of forest science. In a world of changing governing systems the importance of the social scientific perspectives is essential. In most of the Nordic countries forest is of high importance as an economic but as well as an ecological phenomenon, both with implication to the social world. For this reason, social scientific studies on forest policy issues have increasingly evolved within the past decade at several scientific organizations. Until now scientists dealing with these issues have only been loosely coupled in diverse small groups. For this reason the newly established '*Nordic Network on Forest Policy Science*'¹ aims to bring together scientists dealing with forest policy issues from a social scientific perspective. Besides scientists focusing on classical political science areas like for example forest policy studies, forest governance or forest development, scientists dealing with related issues like for example forest sociology and forest communication are part of the network. It is the pleasure of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and the University of Eastern Finland to invite researchers to the 1st Nordic Conference on Forest Policy Science to be held in October 2010 in Uppsala, Sweden. Besides traditional sessions with presentations from invited keynote speakers and research presentations in parallel sessions, the conference gives space for workshops to support the networking of forest policy researchers in the Nordic countries.

Conference

Forests are the subject of struggle between various interest groups. The conflicts persisting around forests emerge on all political levels, from the local to the global. In the Nordic countries contradictory interests of forestry practice, nature conservation, non-timber forest uses and recreation have been a source of conflicts for a long time. However, the values and interests on forests are not stable. Environmental challenges like climate change, as well as economic reorientations of the forest industry encounter forests and demand new responses.

¹ www.sprod.slu.se/ShowPage.cfm?OrgenhetSida_ID=11676

Forest policy can be understood as a process to regulate these societal conflicts. But forest policy processes themselves change over time. In the last decades two shifts in forest policy making have been detected: one towards institutionalized forest policy making beyond the nation, the other from governmental regulation towards new governance mechanisms.

Forest policy research investigates in the policy arrangements to conceptualize forest conflicts and change in forest policy. Explanatory factors of the arrangements consist of discourses, actors, rules and power. Questions related to the drivers of policy change are part of forest policy research. Furthermore, critical research investigates in democracy and legitimacy of forest policy processes. Theoretically forest policy research bases on political, sociological and communication theories such as discourse and frame analysis, new institutionalism, network approaches or rational choice. Methods for empirical studies range from quantitative to qualitative and include case studies as well as comparative studies or representative investigations.

This conference aims to provide a forum for forest policy research outlined by Nordic researchers or on Nordic forest policy subjects (studies on transnational or international topics are welcome). The researchers are invited to share their experiences and discuss novel approaches in forest policy research. Parallel sessions will cover contributions from researchers on the different topics outlined below. The final session groups will be built after receiving the abstracts. The conference welcomes theoretically sound and/or empirically grounded research on the outlined topics below.

- Public participation in forest policy processes
- Legitimacy of forest governance
- Discourses, knowledge systems and values in forest policy
- Forest conflicts
- Forest law, forest acts and property right regimes
- Comparative studies on forest policy in the Nordic countries
- Consequences of changing global trends for Nordic forest policy
- Political relationship between climate change and forest policy
- Historical dependencies of the present and future forest policies

Abstracts

We invite proposals for oral presentation until **1st June 2010**. The abstract should not exceed 350 words. The presentations will be selected on the basis of scientific quality, connection to the conference themes, information content and clarity of the submitted abstracts. Those interested in organizing a workshop are invited to send a proposal with the topic and the purpose of the workshop. The time available for each workshop is 1.5 to 2 hours. The authors of accepted presentations and workshop organizers will be notified after 18 June 2010.

Please send your abstracts to both of the following **Contact Addresses:**

Daniela Kleinschmit: daniela.kleinschmit@sprod.slu.se

and Kaisa Raitio: kaisa.raitio@sol.slu.se

Structure of the Conference

The conference starts with lunch on October 13th and ends with lunch on October 15th. The conference is divided in keynote session with invited speakers, parallel sessions with research presentations, and workshops. Workshops can be organized for example on collaborative projects in forest policy research in the Nordic countries, on the value of forest policy research for practice, on the Nordic role in ongoing discussion on European forest policy, for general networking etc.

Publication

It is planned that paper based on the oral presentations and accepted in the evaluation process of the manuscripts will be published in the special edition of the Scandinavian Journal of Forestry

Keynote speakers (to be confirmed) : Bas Arts (Wageningen University)
Katarina Eckerberg (Stockholm Resilience Centre)
Arild Vatn (Norwegian University of Life Science

A registration fee of 160 Euros will be charged.

The registration fee will offer participants:

- Admission to all sessions;
- Three conference lunches;
- Coffee breaks throughout the conference and
- Two conference dinners

Participants will cover travel expenses and accommodation costs.

Further time schedule:

Conference announcement and call for paper : 15th of April

Deadline for abstracts: 1st of June

Acceptance of abstracts: 18th of June

Registration deadline: 15th of August

Conference organizer:

Daniela Kleinschmit

Dep. of Forest Products /SLU

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In cooperation with the conference committee:

Cristian-Alarcon Ferrari (Dep. of Urban and Rural Development / SLU), (Hans Peter Hansen (Dep. of Urban and Rural Development / SLU), Sara Holmgren (Dep. of Forest Products/SLU), Kaisa Raitio (Dep. of Urban and Rural Development/SLU), Harri Siiskonen (University of Eastern Finland)