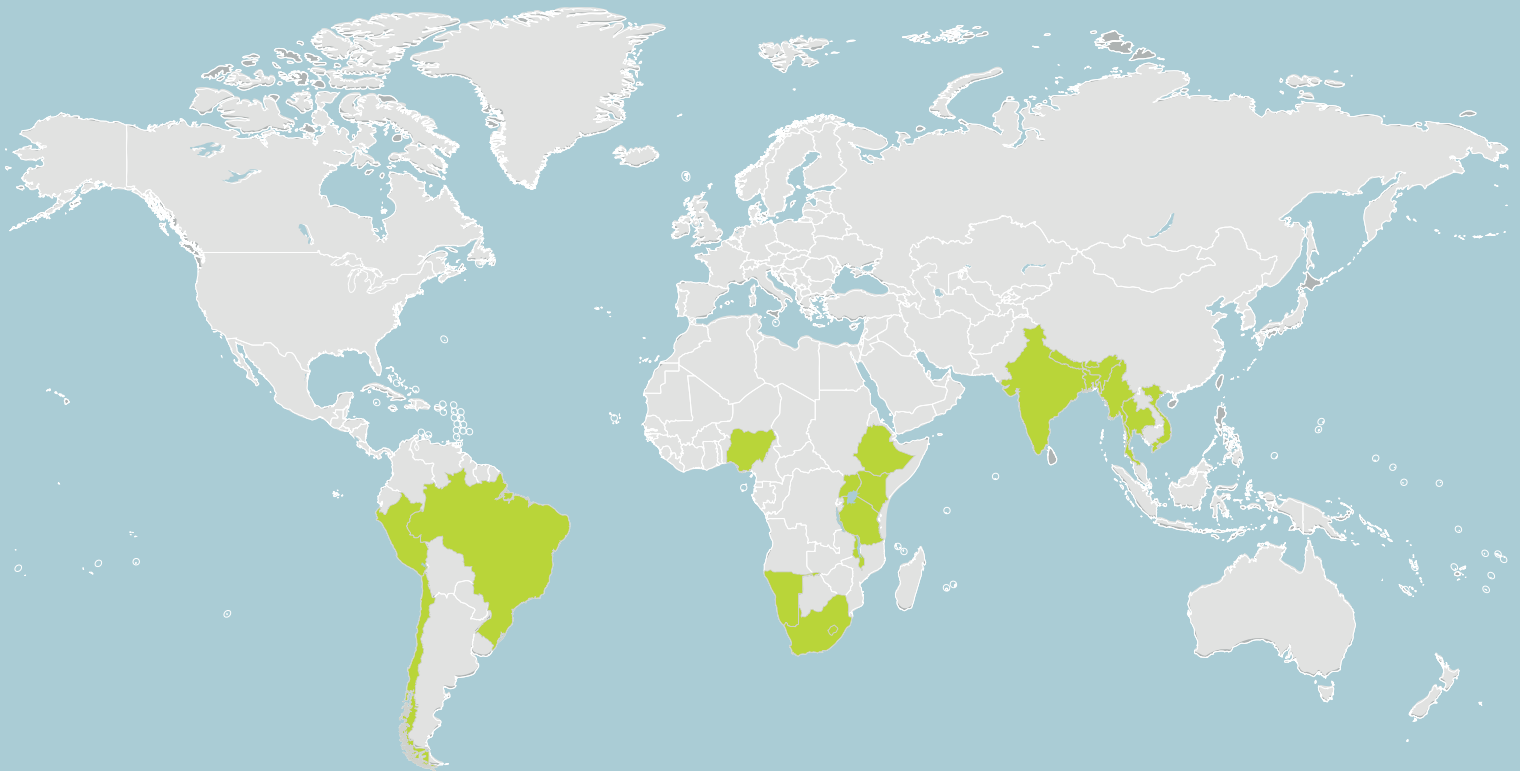




INTRODUCING THE

Rural Development in the Global South

RESEARCH GROUP



SLU, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Department of Urban and Rural Development
Division of Rural Development

SLU, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Department of Urban and Rural Development

Division of Rural Development

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Staff in the research group

The Rural Development in the Global South research group is located at the Division of Rural Development, Department of Urban and Rural Development, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, and consists of the following staff in 2025 (degrees indicated for easy reference):

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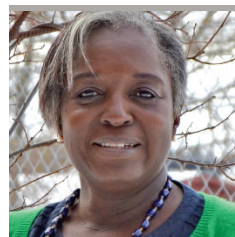
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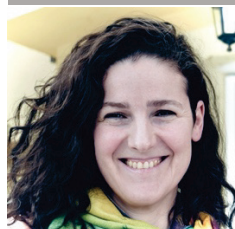
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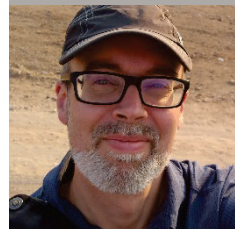
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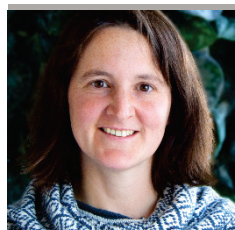
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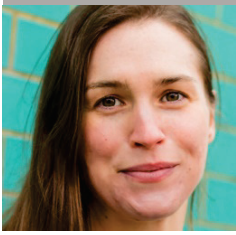


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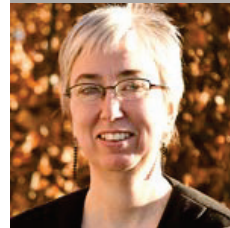
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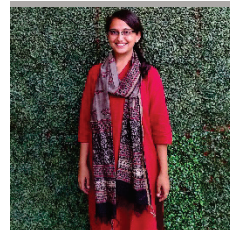
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Research Assistant



Therese Engvall

Research Assistant

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Research projects



Include2Restore: Inclusive knowledge sharing hubs for rangeland restoration and resilient pastoral livelihoods, East African drylands

2025–2028

Develops socially inclusive aspects of rangeland management and restoration practices through 'Livestock cafés' as co-creative spaces in the Karamoja border region between Uganda and Kenya.

Johanna Bergman Lodin, Flora Hajdu, Gwendolyn Varley, Karolina Wallin Fernqvist
<https://www.slu.se/include2restore>



JUSTPOWER: Democracy and Justice Challenges in Energy Transformations

2025–2028

JUSTPOWER engages with the two most pressing issues of our times: the rise of far-right authoritarianism and the imperative of decarbonization. It investigates the intersections between energy transition initiatives and undemocratic processes, with the aim to build a transformative theory of Democracy in Energy Transitions.

Noémi Gonda
<https://unrulinesss.com/projects/justpower>



ENGAGE II. Engendering Rural Entrepreneurship and Agribusiness for Sustainable Development

2024–2030

Research capacity building through postgraduate training with the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Enhances entrepreneurial capacity and innovation in rural areas, especially for women and youth, through different outreach programs.

Linley Chiwona Karlton, Stephanie Leder-Büttner, Katarina Pettersson, Johanna Bergman Lodin



Tracing the double negative: Marine ecologies and worker precarity in Southeast Asian trash fish supply chains

2024–2027

The project investigates how trash fish supply chains impact marine resource depletion and worker precarity in Southeast Asia.

Alin Kadfak
<https://www.slu.se/tracing-the-double-negative> and www.justseafood.org



The Future of Agrarian Mountain Livelihoods (FAML): Youth Aspirations and Irrigation Modernisation in Nepal

2024–2028

This study will provide valuable insights into the ways in which youth can participate in decision-making processes on water resource governance to ensure just agrarian futures in Nepal.

Stephanie Leder-Büttner, Marien Gonzalez-Hidalgo, Gitta Shrestha

<https://www.slu.se/faml>



Who caught my fish? Can traceability systems stop labour rights violations in fisheries?

2024–2027

The project's objective is to investigate the potential of the EU mHREDD directive - Mandatory Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence - for addressing labour rights in Vietnam's current fisheries reform. It will answer the question, 'who is really paying the price for cheap seafood?' entering the EU market.

Alin Kadfak

<https://www.slu.se/who-caught-my-fish> and www.justseafood.org

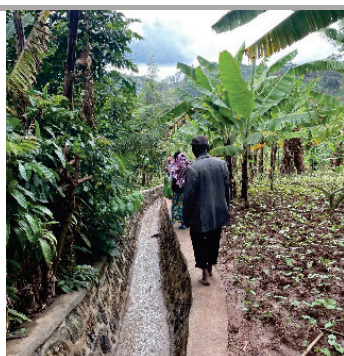


School Feeding Programme influences on smallholder farmers' production and wellbeing: Perspectives on Rwandan food system transformations

2024–2028

The research investigates how smallholder farmers respond to the National School Feeding local procurement programme, how it influences their consumption patterns, income and the gender roles in farming.

Alice Nayabo, Linley Chiwona Karlun, Stephanie Leder-Büttner



Tapping into emerging technologies for optimising the integration of cooperatives into competitive value chains for resilient food systems in Rwanda

2024–2026

Explores existing mechanisms used by farmer cooperatives to manage climate shocks, re-align using emerging technologies in the realm of big data analytics and to test them.

Linley Chiwona Karlun



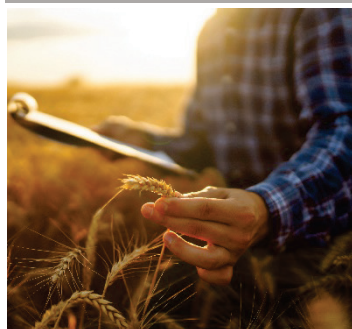
Living with uncertainty in South Asia Mountains

2023–2025

This 2 year network project aims to generate research and practice around local resilience, as well as promote a debate on policy strategies to deal with insecurity for the poorest in the mountain areas of Bhutan, India and Nepal.

Kristina Marquardt, Dil Bahadur Khatri

<https://www.slu.se/uncertainty>



FoodAct: Action Research for Sustainable Food Security in times of Crisis — Agroecology in Sweden, Italy and Chile

2023–2025

The project aims to describe, analyze and develop agroecological transformation processes, in order to propose measures for sustainable food supply in times of crisis based on these results. This takes place through change-oriented collaboration between researchers and farmers.

Cristián Alarcón Ferrari, Margarita Cuadra, Johanna Bergman Lodin

<https://www.slu.se/food-act>



Reimagining land futures for Sustainable Development in India

2023–2025

The aim of this project is to explore the possibilities of returning land currently occupied by coal to communities in central-eastern India in support of just and sustainable livelihoods.

Patrik Oskarsson, Sarthak Shukla

<https://www.slu.se/land-futures>



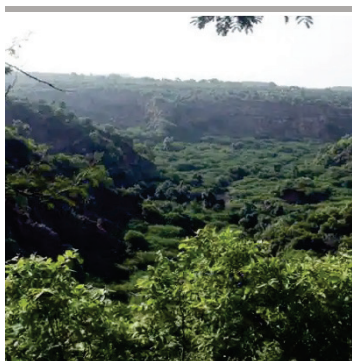
Secondary forests, commodity frontiers and the micro-politics of land claims: Struggling to build smallholder forest futures

2023–2025

How do specific commodity frontiers reshape smallholder secondary forestry and with what effects? How do different social actors understand what secondary forest areas should be used for? The project examines how the cultivation of cocoa and maize in Peru drives interconnected processes.

Kristina Marquardt, Adam Pain, Céline Marie Scülfort, Örjan Bartholdson

<https://www.slu.se/commodity-frontiers>



Building synergies between biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and rural prosperity through community forest governance

2023–2026

How, and under what conditions, can community forest governance lead to improvements in human well-being, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity from forest restoration?

Harry Fischer, Dil Bahadur Khatri, Anamika Menon

<https://www.slu.se/building-synergies>



Can community forest governance improve rural prosperity and well-being from forest restoration?

2023–2026

The project examines five decades of forestry efforts in northern India to better understand how state-run tree plantings implemented in collaboration with local institutions have affected rural land use, livelihoods and human well-being over time.

Harry Fischer, Dhvani Lalai



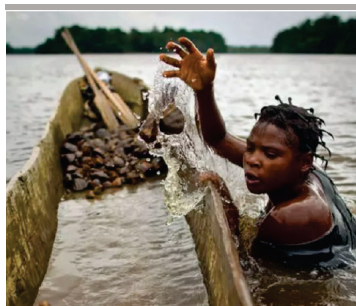
Bridging the metabolic rift: an epistemic justice perspective on land use conflicts in Kigoma, Tanzania

2023–2025

Taking a political economy and epistemic justice perspective, conflicts between farmers and agro-pastoralists in Kigoma, Tanzania are explored in collaboration with the local community by making a movie about the conflicts together.

Karolina Wallin Fernqvist

<https://www.slu.se/land-conflicts-movie>



Improving climate adaptation of sustainable livelihoods with capacities for biodiversity governance through Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, Democratic Republic of Congo

2023–2025

Capacity building project assisting the DRC to fulfill its Agenda 2030 ambitions to support sustainable livelihood activities that will preserve the integrity and functionality of ecosystems and biodiversity as the climate changes.

Linley Chiwona Karltun, Gwendolyn Varley



Planning for a just coal energy transition from the ground up: Engaging coalfield communities in India for a fossil-free future

2022–2024

This research project engages coalfield communities in India to develop a replicable framework for a just energy transition that is participatory, bottom-up and socially inclusive.

Patrik Oskarsson

<https://www.slu.se/just-transition>



Wild animals — biodiversity or pest? Creating local dialogues for dealing with farming-wildlife conflicts in rural Himalayan landscapes

2022–2026

Interdisciplinary project investigating the links between conflicts of interest and the socio-economic dynamics of agricultural decline and forest expansion in multicultural mountain communities in Nepal.

Dil Bahadur Khatri, Kristina Marquardt, Binod Adhikari

<https://www.slu.se/wild-animals>



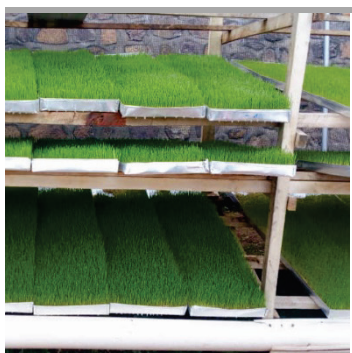
Dead deals? Exploring property making and land inequality in a post-investment setting

2022–2026

This project explores the aftermath of land grabs in Tanzania, with a particular focus on land use, access, and livelihoods for small farmers and pastoralists.

Linda Engström and Ronald Ndesanjo

<https://www.slu.se/towards-land-equality>



Gendered perspectives on Hydroponics fodder Technology in Rural Rwanda

2022–2026

This PhD study investigates the gendered perspectives on the adoption of hydroponics fodder technology and how the adoption of this technology shape the gendered relations within rural households in Eastern Rwanda.

Patrick Mugiraneza, Linley Chiwona Karlun, Linus Rosen

<https://www.slu.se/gendered-hydroponics>



Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture Water Productivity

2022–2025

The project provided technical support to the Food and Agriculture Organization on increasing water productivity for nutrition-sensitive agriculture and improved food security and nutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Linley Chiwona Karlton



The potential of smallholder poultry farming in transforming rural livelihoods in Rwanda

2022–2026

This PhD Research project investigates how smallholder poultry farming can enhance rural household food and nutrition security, and promote gender equality in Rwanda.

Marie Christine Dusingize, Linley Chiwona Karlton, Kristina Marquardt

<http://www.slu.se/smallholder-poultry-farming>



What is secondary about secondary forest? Building smallholder forest futures in Peru's Amazonian frontier

2021–2025

The project investigates what forest futures can be built, by whom and how, at the forest frontiers in the Peruvian Amazon, and what the role of forest conservation policies are in this.

Kristina Marquardt, Adam Pain, Céline Marie Scülfort, Örjan Bartholdson

<https://www.slu.se/secondary-forests>



Sweatshops at Sea: Labour reform in the Thai seafood supply chain via hybrid global governance

2020–2022

The project investigated the implementation of hybrid global governance in the Thai seafood supply chain focusing on labour standards.

Alin Kadfak

<https://www.slu.se/sweatshops-at-sea>



Towards a more Sustainable Consumption of Carbon Credits

2020–2023

The project aim was to develop a publicly available online tool for assessing social dimensions of tree planting for carbon sequestration in low-income countries. The online 'carbon guide' is now published on SLU's website.

Flora Hajdu, Linda Engström, Theresé Engvall

<https://www.slu.se/sustainable-consumption>



"We are planting trees in Africa": Swedish discourses and local effects of carbon forestry projects in Africa

2020–2025

The project explores how Swedish consumers and actors perceive carbon compensation-motivated tree planting projects in African localities, and how imagined local social impacts relate to the realities in host countries.

Flora Hajdu, Linda Engström, Theresé Engvall

<https://www.slu.se/trees-in-africa>



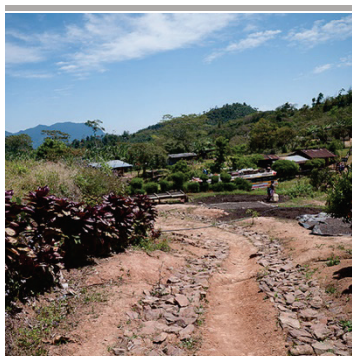
The Practice of Resilience in Mountain Landscapes: Exploring risk and landscape investments in rural Nepal

2019–2025

This project investigates long-term landscape investments in order to understand how people's landscape use and economic and social structures are mutually constituted with very different outcomes for different social groups in a hierarchical society such as Nepal.

Kristina Marquardt, Dil Bahadur Khatri, Adam Pain, Örjan Bartholdson,

<https://www.slu.se/practice-of-resilience>



Exploring Governance Regimes through Agricultural Land Grabbing Dynamics

2019–2024

This project investigates to what extent agricultural land grabbing processes are inserted in broader governance struggles over power relations and identities. It explores the linkages between the development of authoritarian regimes and environmental governance based on field study in Nicaragua and Hungary.

Noémi Gonda

<https://www.slu.se/land-grabbing>



Revitalizing community-managed irrigation systems in the context of out-migration in Nepal

2019–2027

This project studies how gender and social relations revitalize collective natural resource management and improve food security in rural households of the Global South.

Stephanie Leder-Büttner

<https://www.slu.se/revitalizing>



ENTRUST. Engendering rural transformation for sustainable development in Rwanda

2019–2026

Post-graduate research training and capacity development programme in: (1) gender and rural entrepreneurship; (2) rural transformation, institutions, gender, Information Communication Technology (ICT); and (3) farming, food consumption and well-being.

Linley Chiwona Karlun, Kristina Marquardt, Stephanie Leder-Büttner, Linus Rosén



Coal Conflicts: Participatory resource governance for improved sustainability and conflict resolution in India and Mozambique

2018–2020

The project explored the possibilities for a sustainable use of carbon through local resource management in two poverty-stricken regions with major carbon assets, in the state of Jharkhand in East India and the Tete Province in northwestern Mozambique.

Patrik Oskarsson

<https://www.slu.se/coal-conflicts>



Gender relations in Rwanda's agriculture - continuity or change?

2018–2025

This project studies how gender relations are reproduced, challenged and changed through agricultural practices in Rwanda. By taking a feminist political ecology perspective, the overarching objective of the research is to understand how agriculture - practiced and governed - can lead to emancipation for marginalized people engaged in agriculture.

Katarina Pettersson, Karolin Andersson, Johanna Bergman Lodin



Insects for Food in Africa: uncovering the potential, practice and science

2016–2025

Curates and promotes value creation through consolidation of diversity, integration of culture, heritage, sustainability and nurturing translation of knowledge into goods and services of edible insects. A cookbook is among the outputs, see link below.

Linley Chiwona Karlun

<https://www.slu.se/en/ew-news/2022/6/cook-book-award/>

Education at the division

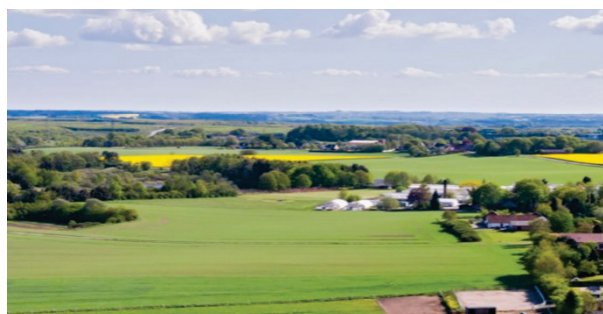


BSc Political Science: Major in Economics/Sustainable Development

3-year BSc program (pol.kand.), in Swedish

This programme started 2021 provides students with a broad-based understanding of governance and the economy required for developing and implementing policy responses to environmental challenges. A final year specialization offers either a sustainability focus via agrarian or environmental economics, or sustainable development. Graduates work as sustainability analysts across sectors.

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<https://www.slu.se/utbildning/program-kurser/program-pa-grundniva/politices-kandidat/>



Agronomy Programme in Rural Development

5-year Professional programme, in Swedish

This program provides students with an advanced, mainly social science education with a specialization in rural development, with interdisciplinary elements and courses in agricultural science. The education provides the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge from relevant areas and to analyze, assess and manage complex phenomena, especially the sustainable development of rural areas and the agricultural sector.

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<https://www.slu.se/utbildning/program-kurser/program-pa-grundniva/agronomprogrammet-landsbygdsutveckling/>



MSc in Rural development and Natural Resource Management

2 year MSc programme, in English

This programme provides students with in-depth understanding of rural livelihoods, governance of natural resources, food systems and power inequalities in the context of societal development. Students gain a deeper insight into development issues with a social science perspective on natural resources and globalisation.

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<https://www.slu.se/en/education/programmes-courses/masters-programmes/rural-development-and-natural-resource-management/>

PhD program: "Rural Development"

We offer 4-year PhD education in Rural Development, defined as an interdisciplinary field firmly anchored in Critical Social Sciences perspectives. Our students are part of the Research School "People, Society and Sustainability" (PSS), which offers a range of PhD courses accessible to all PhD students, (some online or hybrid) such as "Rural Development in the Global South", "Gender, Development and Environmental Governance", "Political Ecology", "Qualitative Research Methods".

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The Rural Development in the Global South group.
Uppsala, 22nd of May, 2024.
Photo: SLU Service Ull.



SCIENCE AND
EDUCATION **FOR**
SUSTAINABLE
LIFE

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