



SEMINAR SERIES

1130 HOURS FRIDAY 21ST JANUARY 2011

G08, CRUICKSHANK

We would like to welcome

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Collective efforts to manage cultural landscapes - examples from Europe

Our present landscapes are a result of human activity in the past, and such activities continue to impact on landscapes today. The focus of this presentation is on efforts to collectively manage cultural landscapes in four European countries. Landscapes can be conceptualised as social-ecological systems, with collaborative groups as social subsystems in the overall system. Collaborative groups have formed to actively manage landscapes in order to preserve their natural and cultural values, but also to derive an income from them. The research identified groups in Germany, the UK, Austria and the Netherlands using desk-based review of documents, literature, newspapers articles and websites, as well as key informant interviews. I selected Landcare groups (*Landschaftspflegeverbände*) in Germany, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Groups (FWAG) in the UK, the 'Thistle Group' (*Distelverein*) in Austria, and environmental cooperatives in the Netherlands. These groups share similar goals in that they work to balance economic development with environmental and social goals, i.e., they strive for sustainable management of rural landscapes. This paper compares the characteristics of these groups at an aggregated level (including origin, year of formation, size, membership, focus of activities, institutional level and organisational structure). Although all types of groups have a history reaching back more than fifteen years which indicates that they have been resilient to changes over time, groups in Austria and Scotland (UK) have dissolved in 2009. I explore the hypothesis that the loss of social units that have previously managed a landscape reduces the resilience of the whole social-ecological system.

**Everyone Welcome!!! Should anyone wish to meet with Katrin, please contact Lesley,
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