

Land Use Competition

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Editors

Land Use Competition

Ecological, Economic and Social Perspectives

 Springer

Editors

Jörg Niewöhner
Institute of European Ethnology
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Berlin
Germany

and
Integrative Research Institute THESys
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Berlin
Germany

Antje Bruns
Governance and Sustainability Lab
Trier University
Trier
Germany

Patrick Hostert
Department of Geography
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Berlin
Germany

and
IRI THESys
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Berlin
Germany

Tobias Krueger
Department of Geography
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Berlin
Germany

and
IRI THESys
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Berlin
Germany

Jonas Ø. Nielsen
Department of Geography
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Berlin
Germany

and
IRI THESys
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Berlin
Germany

Helmut Haberl
Institute of Social Ecology
Alpen-Adria University
Klagenfurt, Vienna
Austria

Christian Lauk
Institute of Social Ecology
Alpen-Adria University
Klagenfurt, Vienna
Austria

Juliana Lutz
Institute of Social Ecology
Alpen-Adria University
Klagenfurt, Vienna
Austria

Daniel Müller
Halle (Saale)
Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Development
in Transition Economies
Berlin
Germany

and
IRI THESys
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Berlin
Germany

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Cover Illustration: Steep terrace farming at the Yangtze River, China. Photo taken by Zhanli “Jerry” Sun

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Preface

The basis for this volume has been a two-week workshop at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in September 2014: the KOSMOS Summer University FutureLand, supported by Humboldt-Universität through funds from the German government's Excellence Initiative. Graduate students and postdocs from physical and human geography, agricultural economics, anthropology and sociology brought their thick knowledge and experience of particular cases, regions and phenomena to Humboldt's Anthropology Department Integrative Research Institute THESys (www.iri-thesys.org) to enter into conceptual debate with a series of renowned international keynote speakers. Conceptual sessions, keynote lectures and debates around empirical material made for busy and productive two weeks. I thank everyone who took part in this endeavour through input, organisation, advice or any other form of support. We hope that everyone learned at least as much as we did from the experience.

The graduate students and postdocs took the results of the debate back to their home departments and produced, over the course of a year and often in co-authorship with colleagues from their departments and their study regions, the series of chapters that you have in front of you. Reading through the volume as a whole, you will notice how far lead authors shifted from their original disciplinary speciality into a broader understanding and contextualisation of their respective cases. We hope that processes and texts like this will help to shape a new generation of scientists who insist on and develop their focused expertise while staying mindful and respectful of other perspectives and developing boundary concepts between different thought styles.

We also thank Wiebke Hampel for producing the typeset manuscript under severe time constraints and everyone involved at the Springer Publishing Company, particularly Fritz Schmuhl and Human-Environment Interactions series editor Emilio F. Moran, for their patient support.

Berlin, January 2016

Jörg Niewöhner

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