



The political frontier: Bridging political economy & political ecology

Friday, 24 January 2025; 10:00 – 12:30pm
RIHN Lecture Hall / Online

* For online participation, please register [HERE](#) by 6pm, 22 Jan

Join us for an exciting discussion of theories, analytical frameworks and insights from long-term research in frontiers!

Political Ecology



Nancy Lee Peluso

University of California Berkeley
RIHN Invited Scholar

Critical Political Economy



Maria Brockhaus

University of Helsinki

Dimensions of resistance in frontiers



Kelvin Egay

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

Ethnicity and indigeneity in frontiers



M. Alif K. Sahide

Universitas Hasanuddin, Sulawesi

Discussants

Mikitaro Shobayashi

Land Use Innovation Program Director

Moira Moeliono

CIFOR-ICRAF

Grace Wong

FairFrontiers Project Leader

Nancy Lee Peluso

*Henry J. Vaux Distinguished Professor of Forest Policy at University of California Berkeley, USA
RIHN Visiting Scholar (January-February 2025)*

Nancy Peluso is Professor of Society & Environment, Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management, at the University of California, Berkeley. She held the Rausser College of Natural Resources' Henry J. Vaux Distinguished Professorship of Forest Policy from 2009-2019. A political ecologist by training, Dr. Peluso has conducted research in Java and Kalimantan, Indonesia for over 40 years, focusing on the politics of access, control, and use of forests, farmland, gold mines, and resource-related labor. The practical and theoretical implications of her work have influenced environmental and social justice scholars and activists working in many different disciplines and parts of the world.

Maria Brockhaus

Professor of International Forest Policy at University of Helsinki, Finland

Dr. Brockhaus has worked more than twenty years at the science-policy and research-development interface in West & Central Africa, Southeast Asia, Middle East and Latin America. In her research, she focusses on questions of equity, politics and power related to forests & climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the political economy of deforestation in the Global South. She is currently leading the [FOREQUAL project](#), which examines the inequalities embedded in trade and investment patterns in relation to forests and forestland in Congo Basin.

Kelvin Egay

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia

Kelvin Egay's research collaboration with the different indigenous communities in Sarawak spans more than twenty years. His research focuses on indigenous communities' land tenure and natural resource use systems, specifically on the issues of competing claims, contested rights, and livelihood capabilities. Recently, he has been working with former hunter-gatherer communities in mapping their contested landscapes.

Muhammad Alif K. Sahide

Professor, Head of Forest and Society Research Group of Forestry Faculty at Universitas Hasanuddin, Indonesia

Dr. M. Alif K. Sahide's research focuses on critical perspectives of international regimes, land use policy, commons and commoning, political ecology, community forestry, institutions, and bureaucratic politics in Indonesia. As founding and chief editor of the journal [Forest and Society](#), Alif has also been active in leading capacity building and writing workshops for young researchers across Southeast Asia. He is engaged in various action research as well as facilitating capacity building and writing workshops for young researchers, supports various local NGOs on writing and publishing their ideas, all of which has been facilitated through the platform of the Forest and Society Research Group.

Mikitaro Shobayashi

Land Use Innovation Program Director, RIHN

Dr. Shobayashi holds a Doctorate in agriculture from the University of Tokyo. Since 1982, he has worked in policy planning related to agricultural policy, agricultural environment and water resource policy, trade and environment, etc. at Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, World Bank, OECD, and Shiga Prefectural Government. He was a professor and later vice president at Gakushuin Women's College. His major publications include "Agri-environmental Policy in Japan" and "The Concept and Policy Design of Agricultural Direct Payments."

Moira Moeliono

Senior Associate at CIFOR-ICRAF

Dr. Moeliono has conducted research for more than 20 years at CIFOR, on issues of governance as developing in social forestry and decentralization, adaptive collaborative management, social and community-based forestry and rights-based issues, climate change and more recently issues of social forestry in the context climate change. She has a background in forestry from Bogor Agriculture University as well as a degree in social geography from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.