

Approaching multispecies cultural niche construction – an introduction

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Multispecies Cultural Niche Construction for Biodiversity Recovery

BIOD

MMM & YM

Dialogue

Ecological niche

Call for Contributions

Protected areas alone are not enough to halt biodiversity loss and enable its recovery. We also need to protect biodiversity on private and public lands used for economic purposes as current sectoral laws have not adequately addressed these needs. The European Union's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the Law on Nature Restoration are ambitious, but significant efforts to restore biodiversity will depend on strategic policymaking, collaboration, and voluntary actions. Therefore, strategic land use planning and nature-based solutions adopted on various scales will become crucial for protecting biodiversity on these lands.

Our symposium will explore how to make strategic land use planning effective and equitable for biodiversity recovery. We will draw on concepts from biological and cultural niche construction to view land use planning as a form of niche construction, involving property owners, stakeholders, planners, decision-makers, residents, and nonhumans as niche constructors. By thinking of social practices as niche constructive, we will reflect on how strategic land use planning can enhance biodiversity within existing sectoral laws and policies, and how it can promote plan designs and orders for multispecies cultural niche construction and interspecies democracy.

April 16

- 10:00 Introduction, Juha Hiedanpää (Natural Resources Institute Finland, Luke)
- 11:00 Cultural niche construction as more-than-human infrastructural landscaping, Carsten Herrmann-Pillath (University of Erfurt)
- 12:00 Lunch
- 13:00 Niche construction and cumulative cultural evolution: combinatorial innovation and its consequences, from past to present, Roope Kaaronen (University of Helsinki)
- 14:00 Nature-based governance: Reconfiguration for eco-social recovery, Tatiana Kluvankova (SlovakGlobe IFE Slovak Academy of Sciences)
- 14:30 Water commons and protective measures on Åland Islands, Stina Svets (Natural Resources Institute Finland, Luke)
- 15:00 Change in ecosystem and sociocultures: The Teno river salmon stock collapse and invasive species, Jaakko Erkinaro (Natural Resources Institute Finland, Luke)
- 15:30 Break

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- 16:00 Swapping Multispecies Knowledge: Interconnectivity of Seeds and People in Garden-Scale Agrobiodiversity, Monika Rusvai (Library and Information Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences)
- 16:30 The potential of nature-based solutions in agriculture in constructing a biodiversity-friendly food system, Irene Kuhmonen (University of Jyväskylä)
- 17:00 Positive social relationships in hunting groups are connected to compliance with the higher-level moose management, Laura Tuominen (University of Turku)
- 18:00 Dinner (Forum Marinum)

April 17

- 9:00 Developing tools for biodiversity-positive land-use planning, Panu Halme (University of Jyväskylä)
- 10:00 A niche for multispecies stakeholder engagement in NBS planning, Simo Sarkki (University of Oulu)
- 10:30 Nature positive cities, plural values and urban development: cultural niche construction in urban environments, Misa Tuomala (University of Turku)
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 Conceptualising affordances in multi-species niche construction in urban landscape, Himansu Mishra (Natural Resources Institute Finland, Luke)
- 11:45 Care as a cultural practice in a niche construction, Katriina Soini (Natural Resources Institute Finland, Luke)
- 12:30 Embodied visits to other than human perspectives, Heli Keto & Kaisa-Liisa Logrén (Other Spaces Live Art collective)
- 13:30 Lunch

Niche construction

“The evolution and development of human bodies, skills and languages are best understood as coevolving forms of niche construction”

Social practice

“Niche construction is the key process that both allows and requires incorporating social practices within a more expansive ecological-developmental conception of human development and evolution.”

Phase regional plan for nature values and natural resources (2016–2022)

Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Land use law

Nature Resources Forums

Development Principle Symbol

Fish farming

Nature recreation

Continuous forest areas

Zonation

Trojan Horse

Regional council 2021

Interviews

And now the dialogue

Language

“If language is indeed a product of behavioral niche construction, and human brains and speech and auditory capacities coevolved with those behaviors, then claims that behavior is too ephemeral to have evolutionary significance confronts a salient, powerful counterexample.”

“Normativity, broadly construed, concerns what is open to nonarbitrary assessment, whether as good or bad, successful or failing, correct or incorrect, meaningful or senseless, right or wrong, just or unjust, appropriate or inappropriate, justified or not and so forth.”

“Biological normativity is not accountability to (already-) determinate norms, but instead concerns how various events and processes are dependent on and hence accountable *to one another* for continuation of that mutual interdependence.”

“Dennett (2014) argues that other organisms thereby have *reasons* for their behavior, anatomy, and physiology even though they cannot understand, express, or act *on* those reasons.”

Language as niche construction

The game of giving and asking for reasons

Deontic score-keeping

Interpretation of law as social practice

Final vocabularies

Discursive practices

Discursive deconstruction as transdisciplinary practice

Trojan horse

Grey area, legal effects, resistance

Responsibility, property rights, constitutional rights

Strategic biodiversity recovery

Continuing on multispecies cultural niche construction



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