



The Green Criminology Monthly – January 1st , 2013 - #5

Introduction to the ESRC Green Criminology Seminar Series.

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Myself, Matthew Hall, Angus Nurse, Gary Potter and Nigel South with further help from Jenny Maher have embarked upon a ground-breaking project that we hope will further the awareness and impact of green criminology not only in the UK where it is taking place, but internationally as well. We were successful in securing funding from the UK Economic and Social Research Council for a research seminar series dedicated to green criminology. The series will consist of five half-day seminars and a final two day mini-conference over nearly a two-year period.

The ESRC Green Criminology Seminar Series is designed to:

- Bring together a core group of Green Criminology scholars and students, ecological and/or conservation practitioners, environmental and wildlife law enforcement officials, and other relevant officials in order to firmly establish an international interdisciplinary network.
- Contribute to the empirical and theoretical enrichment of Green Criminology, through discussion, publication, and research collaboration.

- Expose and engage a wide audience in terms of number of participants, geographical location, career stage, and discipline through the use of webcasts of each seminar on a dedicated seminar series.
- Explore methodological issues around researching Green Crimes while developing a short and medium term research agenda through the encouragement and facilitation of collaborative research projects, which will in turn have impact on policy.

The series will include established academics, early and new career academics, and postgraduate students as part of the core group of participants. They will be joined by practitioners from a variety of non-governmental organisations, which will vary depending upon the topic of each seminar. An indication of those expressing interest is: Friends of the Earth, the Environmental Investigation Agency, the Environmental Justice Foundation, the Worldwide Fund for Nature, and TRAFFIC as well as law enforcement and other officials from the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime Secretariat, the Police Wildlife Crime Officer network, the Environment Agency, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and HM Customs. The League Against Cruel Sports, the Bat Conservation Trust, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the National Wildlife Crime Unit, and the Law Commission have already agreed to take part. It is fully expected that the seminar series will evolve into a self-sustaining network drawing on the contributions of the academic, non-governmental and governmental members. The website created for this series is also expected to evolve into a permanent online source of relevant information and scholarly activity devoted to Green Criminology (<http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/sd/academic/sass/about/socscience/events/greencrime>). In the long-term then, the seminar series, by facilitating the creation of this network, will help in the development of policies relating to Green Crimes through the network's ongoing collaborative research and policy analysis, and the wider dissemination of Green Criminological academic debate to a wider practitioner and public audience.

I hosted the first of these seminars in October 2012 at Northumbria University. We were delighted to have Nigel South and Avi Brisman detail the theories and concepts that provide the foundation and framework for green criminological inquiry. As part of this series, all seminars will be made available online to maximise impact and enhance the global green criminology network. [Please visit our youtube channel to watch the first presentations.](#)

(<http://www.youtube.com/user/ESRCGreenCrime?feature=mhee>)

Additionally, as part of the tenth annual ESRC Festival of Social Science, I organised a guided nature walk followed by a talk discussing how criminology has engaged with nature. University students and local conservationists attended and it made for a great day out as well as being successful in raising awareness about crimes against the environment.

Jenny Maher at University of Glamorgan will host our next event on 22 February in Cardiff on wildlife and timber trafficking where we are pleased to have Tim Boekhout van Solinge from the University of Utrecht and Charlotte Davies from the Environmental Investigation Agency as our speakers. Our funding covers the cost of one international speaker and one UK speaker and the travel for about 15 UK participants. For a small fee, events will be open to others who are able to join us. In July 2013, Angus Nurse at Birmingham City University with the help of the League Against Cruel Sports will host the seminar on animal welfare and abuse. We return to Northumbria in October 2013 to discuss hazardous waste and pollution. In February 2014 Matthew Hall at the University of Sheffield will lead the seminar on environmental law and regulation. The finale will be a two day mini-conference lead by Gary Potter of London Southbank University with the help of Jasper Humphreys and the Marjan Centre for the Study of Conflict and Conservation at King's College London where the event will be held in early July. The conference will be the opportunity to hold panels on all those topics that weren't covered in the previous seminars. We're looking into the possibility of having this be the second or third Environmental Crime Conference after the inaugural event in Delft, The Netherlands.

We hope you all will join us at some point or watch the series online!



an original publication by

www.GreenCriminology.org

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