

Seminar November 26, 2014

Filiberto Altobelli

Bio

Filiberto Altobelli's research focuses on economic and environmental sustainability and development of methodologies for the assessment of phenomena and processes in the agro-environment context. His major research focus is water use and water management in agriculture sector.

Title: Food security and Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment: international debate and policy initiatives

Abstract

“With the growth in world population and changes in income levels and life-styles, world demand for food is set to increase steadily. More investment in agriculture is vital particularly for developing countries. At the same time, the upward trend in food prices in recent years has made agriculture an attractive sector for investment. As agricultural investments take place in developing countries, the need has emerged for globally agreed guidelines or principles to ensure investments in agriculture support sustainable development and are carried out in a responsible manner that does not impact negatively on people, their livelihoods and natural resources”(FAO 2013). This contribution intended to deepen and share these issues through the experience matured by the INEA *Committee Food Security/Responsible Agricultural Investments - CFS/RAI*.

Laura Fregolent

Bio

Laura Fregolent (July 25th 1966), architect, PhD in "Sciences and Methods for the city and the territory of Europe", is Associate professor of Urban Planning at the University IUAV of Venice. Her researches studies are focused in two main areas: processes of sprawl and interactions between planning tools and principles of sustainable development; relationship between territorial transformations and social dynamics. In these two research fields she analyzes the structural characteristics of urban and territorial transformations and studied the possible uses of plans and policies in a sustainable way and how the use of land influenced the insurgence of social movements and the participation practices.

Title: “Conflicts, landscape and renewable energies”

Abstract

The present contribution addresses the protests and conflicts in terms of landscape and renewable energy production in the Veneto region as well as in the national context. The contribution draws on the recent editing of the “dell'Atlante del malessere territoriale del Veneto”.

Matilde Carabellese

Bio

Matilde Carabellese holds a II level University Master Degree in Euro- Mediterranean Culture and Policies (2007) and a PhD in Development Geography (2014) both from the University of Naples “l'Orientale”. For her PhD thesis, she examined the phenomenon of “land grabbing”, focusing on the expansion of genetically modified soy production into the Chaco Province of Argentina. Her main research interests are in the fields of political and environmental geography with particular attention to natural resource governance, land issues, informal waste collectors and Romani politics.

She also works as an independent research consultant for non-profit organisations (Occhio del Riciclone, Fondazione Frammartino) and private companies (Think tank srl).

Title: “Land grab: the case of soya and Argentina”

Abstract

The contribution will present some reflections on the intensification of GMO soy cultivation into the Chaco Province of Argentina, in the context of the global land rush.

The growing production of the so-called “flex crops” (maize, oil palm, soybean, and sugarcane), is considered one the main drivers of land grabbing.

Among these crops, soy became a strategic commodity, as a feedstock for biodiesel and as the largest source of animal feed in the world. The European livestock sector, for example, is highly dependent on the soy produced in Latin America, especially from Argentina. The rapid land use changes caused by the accelerating demand for land for soybean cultivation are particularly evident in the northern Provinces of Argentina. Here, the expansion of soy has many implications, leading to new forms of land control and land access, but also provoking fraudulent sales of public lands, deforestation and transformation of (supposedly) ‘marginal lands’.