

Local peoples' attachment to land in forest-frontier contexts of Laos, Madagascar, and Myanmar

Julie G. Zaehring

Forest-frontiers in Madagascar, Laos, and Myanmar are experiencing highly dynamic telecoupled land use changes. Foreign investments for different cash crops are competing with conservation initiatives for land that was traditionally used by small-scale subsistence farmers. We have investigated the impacts of those changes on human well-being through focus groups and in-depth interviews. The values people attach to subsistence and commercial agricultural land uses differ between the three countries. In this presentation, I will present examples of cultural specificities regarding people's attachment to land in these places and highlight the importance of these cultural differences for land use change modelling.