

Panel proposal:

If 'we' are the future of political ecology then what should change in political ecology?: Voices of early-career political ecologists

Co-organizers:

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Keywords: early-career perspectives, decolonizing political ecology, South-North positionalities, divisions and collaboration

We are the early career political ecologists. We find ourselves in the South, North, between them or moving between both. We have started our academic journey and are getting acquainted with the literature in political ecology, theoretical frameworks, and methodology. We are planning and carrying out our fieldwork, analysing data, engaging with global scholars and institutions, attending academic conferences, and working towards initial peer-reviewed publications.

There is much good and bad that we inherit in the world and political ecology. There is much we wish to change in the world. But as we go about doing this through our work, there is something about the existing political ecology that doesn't feel right. This session focuses on: When did political ecology not speak to you (or your heart)? Why? What can be done?

This session questions and challenges our academic inheritance. It aims to make visible some of the concerns that are felt and shared by many of us. If we are the future of political ecology, then what do we want to leave behind as we move forward. We are interested in exploring the following questions, as well as any related ones:

- 1) How to decolonize all that has been passed down to us?
- 2) How do we challenge the knowledge of power and power of knowledge, given the disciplinary origin of political ecology?
- 3) How do we move beyond the anglophone aspect of political ecology?
- 4) How can collaborative work be done when there are structural inequities between the political ecologists of the North and the South?
- 5) Is there a common ground where early political ecologists find a common ground as 'We'?

For this panel discussion, we invite PhD students and Post-doctorates to submit their ideas for answering these and raising similar relevant questions. There will be a strong emphasis on the diversity of speakers (geographical origin, cultural perspectives, race, gender, caste, career stage, discipline, etc.) and inclusive discussions. Therefore, we kindly request that you include some information on your positionality (related to these dimensions or others you find important) when submitting your abstract.

Please direct any inquiries and/or submit your abstract (max 250 words), including a title, 3 keywords and your affiliation **by 17 Jan** to Abigail Croker (a.croker20@imperial.ac.uk), Kapil Yadav (kapil.yadav@kcl.ac.uk), and Naira Dehmel (naira.dehmel@kcl.ac.uk). We will communicate our decision on selected contributions by 25 Jan and submit our final proposal for an Organised Session, including the selected contributions, to the POLLEN 2022 portal by 30 Jan.