

Open Thesis Topics at the Chair of Social-Ecological Interactions in Agricultural Systems (Prof. T. Plieninger)

| Contact & Supervisor | title and brief explanation (may incl. method and literature) | Requirements |
|--|---|---|
| Topics in English Language | | |
| Dr. Kamila Svobodova (kamila.svobodova@uni-goettingen.de) | Socio-economic recovery after small-scale mining and quarrying: local stakeholders' perspectives. This project explores community benefits provided by rehabilitated post-mining sites in Germany. Methods: interviews with stakeholders, incl. participatory GIS. | Knowledge of German and English. Master students. |
| Jule Huber (jule.huber@uni-goettingen.de) | Literature Review on conservation-related Round Tables | Good English writing skills |
| Dr. Emmeline Topp (topp@uni-kassel.de) | How do farmers combine organic and conservation agriculture in Catalonia, Spain? This project will make use of the ConServeTerra project survey data to explore how Spanish farmers address soil management challenges while producing certified organic crops. The student will undertake qualitative and quantitative analysis in Excel, R, MaxQDA etc. | Good oral and written English. Knowledge of Mediterranean farming systems a plus. |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Dr. Emmeline Topp (topp@uni-kassel.de)</p> | <p>Understanding constraints to uptake of Conservation Agriculture in Mediterranean landscapes: A Delphi study. This project will employ online surveys of conservation agriculture experts in order to identify constraints to the uptake of CA in Mediterranean landscapes. The project includes survey design, contacting experts, analysis of responses (Excel, R) and write-up. Good oral and written English language skills. Prior knowledge of soil science/agriculture a plus. This project will likely take minimum six months, so the student must be able to make the time commitment. Master students preferred</p> | <p>Good oral and written English. Knowledge of Mediterranean farming systems a plus.</p> |
| <p>Tianyu Guo (tianyu.guo@agr.uni-goettingen.de)</p> | <p>Literature review on Dryland Terraced Landscapes in Spain/Mediterranean area. Nowadays, dryland terraced landscapes are confronted with many challenges, like land abandonment, land use change, out-migration, crop-structure shift, climate change and so on. The study will focus on 1) find the common challenges from literature and make typology of them, 2) collect local - national - regional management/conservation strategies/regulations/laws/legislations and build categories of them, 3) describe participatory actions for maintenance of dryland terraces have been carried out up to now.</p> | <p>Native or similar to native of Spanish. Good skill of written and oral English. Knowledge of social-ecological systems thinking and qualitative methods.</p> |
| <p>Tianyu Guo (tianyu.guo@agr.uni-goettingen.de)</p> | <p>Typological research of local strategies to deal with land abandonment in Chinese terraced agricultural heritage systems. The topic includes: 1) collect the local strategies and management approaches from the terraced agricultural heritage systems in China, 2) categorize them from different dimensions, 3) make comparison analysis targeting at land abandonment item.</p> | <p>Native or similar native of Chinese. Good skill of written and oral English. Master students with knowledge of qualitative methods.</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Dr. Marion Jay (marion.jay@uni-goettingen.de)</p> | <p>Discourse analysis of ecosystem restoration. Against the background of scientific evidence of ecosystem degradation and political momentum for the restoration of natural areas, the aim of the master thesis is to explore discourses related to ecosystem restoration in Europe and in Germany. How is restoration conceptualized and legitimated by different institutions and groups at the European level and in Germany, and how do these restoration approaches envisage which areas are to be restored, what are the main aims and what are the restoration targets? You will conduct a discourse analysis of ecosystem restoration based on desk research and the analysis of policy documents from administrations, NGOs and interest group representations. This can be completed by few expert interviews.</p> | <p>German and English languages necessary</p> |
| <p>Dr. Koushik Chowdhury (koushik@uni-kassel.de)</p> | <p>A systematic review to conceptualise the socio-ecological driver of peri urban transformation in Global South. Using peri-urban literature, need to determine the socio-ecological drivers of changing ecosystem service availability. make typology of them categorize them from different dimensions and make comparative analysis.</p> | <p>Good skill of written and oral English. Knowledge of social-ecological systems approaches and qualitative methods. Good knowledge on Qualitative software.</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Dr. Laura Kmoch (laura.kmoch@uni-goettingen.de)</p> | <p>Immigrants' ties to, and visions for the future of livelihoods and rural landscapes in Mediterranean Countries. Many residents of Germany were born in the Southern or Eastern Mediterranean Basin or maintain (im-)material family ties to this region. This thesis project aims to appraise these ties, and immigrants' visions for the future of rural Mediterranean landscapes. In-depths interviews, workshops, and participatory mapping techniques could be used to engage research participants with a migration background in dialogues around these research themes. ► A focus on immigrants' visions for rural landscapes in other world regions (e.g., Asia) may also be feasible, if the student can identify and establish rapport with relevant interview partners.</p> | <p>Master student, drive for a project requiring independence and creativity during the empirical research phase, relevant language skills (e.g., Arabic, Persian, Turkish) and/or personal ties to rural mediterranean landscapes advantageous but not essential</p> |
|--|---|---|

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Dr. Laura Kmoch (laura.kmoch@uni-goettingen.de)</p> | <p>Shifts in rural people's sense of place in post-disaster landscape settings. Rural communities in Germany and many Mediterranean countries recently experienced climate-related disasters, including floods, storms, droughts, and wildfires. This thesis project aims to engage with residents of such disaster-affected communities, to appraise how their sense of place and socio-cultural valuation of agricultural landscapes may have changed in consequence of their disaster experiences. Surveys, qualitative interviews, and participatory research approaches could be used to explore these themes.</p> | <p>Master student, drive for a project requiring independence and creativity during the empirical research phase, personal ties to a disaster affected landscape/region advantageous but not essential, relevant language skills (e.g., French, Spanish, Italian, Greek) are required for a study outside Germany</p> |
|--|---|---|

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Sukanya Basu (sukanya.basu@uni-goettingen.de)</p> | <p>Understanding the impacts of urban agriculture on human wellbeing and urban sustainability. In recent decades, cities worldwide have experienced significant changes. According to UNDESA (2018), it is projected that by 2050, 68% of the global population will reside in urban areas, with 90% of this growth expected in Asia and Africa. However, the reality of urbanization presents a dual scenario. On one hand, there is a rising demand for urban services such as food supplies, leading to increased inequality and challenges like congestion, reduced green spaces, higher greenhouse gas emissions, and the proliferation of informal settlements (Cook et al., 2015; Padgham, Jabbour, & Dietrich, 2015). On the other hand, urban areas are viewed as hubs of opportunity, capable of enhancing well-being and promoting sustainable urban development by bypassing unsustainable paths (Revi & Rosenzweig, 2013; Bazaz et al., 2018). This perspective is especially relevant in the context of most cities in the global south, where rapid urbanization brings about various social and environmental issues. Consequently, there is a growing need for innovative approaches to urban design that integrate the physical structure of cities, food production, and design (Ali & Srivastava, 2017; Cohen, 2006). Therefore, this study concentrates specifically on urban agriculture (UA) as a form of green infrastructure, aiming to explore the impact of agriculture on human well-being and urban sustainability in cities of the global south.</p> | <p>Good command over English language (writing skills), intersted in systematic review.</p> |
|--|--|---|

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Tobias Plieninger (plieninger@uni-kassel.de)</p> | <p>Pan-European mapping of cultivated terraces in European landscapes. Especially Southern Europe has a diversity of terrace landscapes of high nature value that are often in danger of land abandonment. This master thesis will explore possibilities of mapping European terrace landscapes, combining two types of information: (1) a review and qualitative comparison of existing landscape typologies, and (2) the use of spatially explicit EU-wide land-cover datasets.</p> | <p>Good knowledge in GIS and data processing, and interest in a European perspective on agricultural landscapes</p> |
| <p>Maria Chiara Camporese (maria.camporese@uni-goettingen.de)</p> | <p>Assessing local knowledge and management practices for the construction of stone walls and terraces in Las Hurdes, Spain.</p> | <p>Knowledge of Spanish language, curiosity to discover traditional terraces management, possibly GIS knowledge.</p> |
| <p>Maria Chiara Camporese (maria.camporese@uni-goettingen.de)</p> | <p>Irrigation strategies in the terraced landscape of Las Hurdes, Spain. As land abandonment affects the terraces of Las Hurdes, the traditional practices of water management get lost more and more, and with them, the efficacy and resilience of such landscapes. The Master's thesis includes a stay in Las Hurdes to collect data on site.</p> | <p>Knowledge of Spanish language, willingness to learn about irrigation systems, interest in terraced landscapes dynamics.</p> |
| <p>Maria Chiara Camporese (maria.camporese@uni-goettingen.de)</p> | <p>Mapping traditional land uses in the terraced landscape of Las Hurdes, Spain through an assessment of crop production. The Master's thesis includes a stay in Las Hurdes to collect data on site</p> | <p>Knowledge of Spanish language, knowledge of botanic in Mediterranean ecosystems, interest in Terraced landscapes dynamics.</p> |
| <p>Maria Chiara Camporese (maria.camporese@uni-goettingen.de)</p> | <p>Present and future of Las Hurdes. The Master's Thesis is centered on the analysis of a three horizons workshop that was held in las Hurdes in order to identify present concerns and pathways for possible futures of the local cultural landscape. The analysis will be complemented with interviews with local stakeholders. (A travel to Las Hurdes might be required)</p> | <p>Knowledge of spanish language is preferred.</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Dr. Marion Jay (marion.jay@uni-goettingen.de) | Mapping landscape change in the region of Göttingen. Search and use historical maps / landcover images to compare land cover and land use of selected region of the County of Göttingen across time and reconstruct landscape change. | Basic command of mapping software such as QGIS required, German language an asset (search of reliable quality data, contact authorities or knowledge/data holders) |
| Themen in Deutscher Sprache | | |
| Kontakt & Betreuer | Titel und Kurzbeschreibung (inkl. Methoden und Literatur) | Anforderungsprofil |
| Dr. Laura Kmoch (laura.kmoch@uni-goettingen.de) | Siehe Themenangaben in Englisch oben. Beide Projekte könnten auch in Deutschland/auf Deutsch umgesetzt werden. | Deutsch als Muttersprache oder sehr gute Kenntnisse in Wort und Schrift. |

