

## **Wreckage & Recovery: Living with change**

Workshop 11-12 December 2013 w/Anna Tsing  
Joint sponsors: University of Oslo and Aarhus University

BY INVITATION ONLY

Wreckage and recovery, especially when paired up, are two words that give a number of associations. They resonate with extinction and survival; pollution and adaptation; demolition and re-building. Or we start to think about loss and rescue of the existing, human practices of destruction and innovation. Common for all these pairs is the connection to the tearing down or building up of something specific.

We live in times where climate concerns are wide reaching, affecting the everyday life of people and politics. We use biotechnological tools to produce new forms of life that challenge understandings of life and nature as we used to know it. We live with imperial legacies that continue to produce contested landscapes. We are forced to confront the complex interlink between devastation of ways of life, human and non-human, by human activities, as well as their associations with various forms of technoscience.

These examples illustrate the theme for this workshop, which has broad empirical grounds connected to either *wreckage* or *recovery*, or both, but with a shared focus on discussing how such issues can be studied fruitfully with tools from STS and anthropology. We seek works in progress around questions of:

- how ruining of present conditions (natural, systemic and/or political) affect us and force us, by necessity or creativity, to deal with new conditions of living and being human;
- how human interferences leave footprints on land and climate, where we negotiate, appropriate or oppose these developments;
- how contested social-natural landscapes emerge within structures of political economy and post-colonial formations;
- how we co-habit (or not) with other kinds of species in times of loss and restoration;
- how various people live with, negotiate and argue over change through strategies of restoration, policies for mitigation, or alternative practices of co-habitation.

We invite STS scholars and anthropologists who recognize this broad research interest in their own work, either because of suitable empirical material, methodological approaches or theoretical perspectives on how to study *change and adjustment*. Some of us focus on broken and disordered landscapes, some follow endangered species on converge of extinction, while others attend to constructions of nature and animals in science. Perhaps you write about industries or technological solutions, follow science and policy processes, past and present, or seek to understand political ecology or capitalist and post-colonial imaginaries. We welcome you to join in on this workshop.

### **Practical information**

**Dates:** 11-12 December 2013. **Place:** University of Oslo (or environs, more information to follow).

The participants are to present their work by sending in a paper in advance of the workshop. The format can be both works-in-progress, early works or drafts for a chapter or an article. The papers will be discussed individually for about 45 minutes each, where every participant is assigned a dedicated paper that s/he is responsible for commenting upon. All papers are expected to be read before the workshop. Professor Anna Tsing will be an active participant of the group, and also take part in commenting upon the texts. The total amount of participants is 15. **Limited seats, please respond quickly.** Accept the invitation by sending an email to Tina Talleraas at TIK, UiO ([tina.talleraas@tik.uio.no](mailto:tina.talleraas@tik.uio.no)) no later than **15 October 2013**. Deadline for submission of paper: **15 November 2013**, sent by email to Tina. *This event is organized by the University of Oslo (the TIK Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture; the Department of Social Anthropology), and will be held in collaboration with the Department of Social Anthropology, Aarhus University.*