

Exploring relational, political ecology, Indigenous and arts-based perspectives on socionature justice. DSA 2024 conference: Crisis in the Anthropocene: rethinking connection and agency for development.

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Building on an initial exploration on this theme at DSA 2023 Conference, we propose a panel that focuses upon relational perspectives on socionature justice and what these can offer to mainstream development and environment discourse and practice. The concept of socionatures emphasizes the inherent interdependencies and entanglements between the social and the natural, rejecting rigid dichotomies between humans and nature (i.e. a non-dualist approach), and foregrounds processes of becoming. Research in this field unpacks the process of production creating socionatures, as well as the labours and agency or vitality of the human, non-human and inhuman and the uneven power relationships involved (Bear, 2017). Relational philosophies include many Indigenous cosmologies, but also some Eastern religions and academic scholarship on relationality, including affect theory (Deleuze and Gattari, 1993), the more-than-human (e.g. Haraway, 2016), animism and emotional ecologies (González-Hidalgo, M., and Zografos, 2020). We invite papers, presentations and artworks that creatively explore new ways of thinking and being, drawing upon and contributing to relational and Indigenous philosophies, new materialisms and eco-Marxism, to explore the implications for (post)-development and decolonial approaches. We encourage submissions from political ecology, relationality, environmental sociology and anthropology, and arts scholars and practitioners, and Indigenous scholars and representatives. Collectively, we hope to explore pathways to pluriversal (Escobar, 2018), socionature justices. We ask what are the barriers, opportunities and assemblages needed to stimulate progressive change based on ethics of care and solidarity? We also invite consideration of methodological innovations and implications for research practice of such relational perspectives.