

Dr. Esther Leemann
Senior researcher and lecturer

Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich
Andreasstrasse 15, CH-8050 Zurich, ✉ esther.leemann@uzh.ch

Publications

Monographs and edited volumes

- 2012 *Post-Disaster Reconstruction and Change: Communities' Perspectives*. Boca Raton: CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group. (co-edited with Duyne Barenstein, Jennifer).
- 2005 *Logik der Landnutzung : bäuerliche Ökonomie und Umweltdegradierung in San Dionisio, Nicaragua*. Diss. Universität Zürich.

Peer reviewed articles and chapters

- 2023 Indigenous collective land titling and the creation of leftovers: Insights from Paraguay and Cambodia. [Journal of Agrarian Change](#), early view. Open Access. (co-authored with Tusing, Cari).
- 2023 Time as the Enemy? Disjointed Timelines and Uneven Rhythms of Indigenous Collective Land Titling in Paraguay and Cambodia. [Land](#) 12(8), 1620-1636. Open Access. (co-authored with Tusing, Cari).
- 2022 Anthropologist on the advisory board: Contributions and dilemmas of anthropological engagement in knowledge production, Special Issue 'Anthropological Engagement in the International Sphere', Larsen, Peter; Bleeker, Mò; Hertz, Ellen; Käser, Isabel; Leemann, Esther; Mossman Riva, Susan; Schapira, Raphael; Schulz, Yvan, [Tsantsa](#) 27, 108-129.
- 2021 *Who is the community? Governing territory through the making of 'indigenous communities' in Cambodia*. [Geoforum](#), 119, 238-250.
- 2017 Giving up Fallows and Indigenous Swiddens in Times of Global Land Grabbing. In: Cairns, Malcolm (ed.) *A Growing Forest of Voices*, Earthscan, UK. (co-authored with Nikles, Brigitte).
- 2015 Persisting Power Structures, Leadership Capacities and Socio-economic Inequality in Post-disaster Resettlement. In: *Sustainable Post-Disaster Reconstruction: From Recovery to Risk Reduction*, i-Rec online publication.
- 2012 Introduction. In: Duyne Barenstein, Jennifer and Esther Leemann (eds.), *Post-Disaster Reconstruction and Change: Communities' Perspectives*. Boca Raton: CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group. (co-authored with Duyne Barenstein, Jennifer).
- 2012 Communal leadership in post-Mitch housing reconstruction in Nicaragua. In: Duyne Barenstein, Jennifer and Esther Leemann (eds.), *Post-Disaster Reconstruction and Change: Communities' Perspectives*. Boca Raton: CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group.
- 2011 Housing Reconstruction in Post-Mitch Nicaragua: two Case Studies from the Communities of San Dionisio and Ocotal. In: Miller, D. and J. Rivera (eds.) *Community Disaster Recovery and Resiliency: Exploring Global Opportunities and Challenges*. Auerbach, Taylor and Francis LLC.
- 2009 Successful community driven reconstruction in Ocotal (Nicaragua). In: Jha, A.K. et al. *Handbook for Post-Disaster Housing and Community Reconstruction*. World Bank/Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).

Working papers and other publications

- 2023 Disappearing Swidden Fields in Zomia: Fruitful Sites for Epistemologies. In: Leemann, Esther and Sutter, Rebekka. Working in the Field. Five Reflections on Doing Fieldwork in Agrarian Fields. ZANTHRO Working Paper No 16, p. 37-62 (co-authored with Sutter, Rebekka).
- 2023 Working in the Field. Five Reflections on Doing Fieldwork in Agrarian Fields. ZANTHRO Working Paper No 16, p. 3-62 (co-edited with Sutter, Rebekka).
- 2021 Ich weiss nicht, ob so etwas heute noch möglich wäre – Das Doktorat im Wandel. In: Derks, Annuska; Isler, Andreas; de Jong, Willemijn; Käufeler, Heinz. Gewundene Wege einer undisziplinierten Disziplin: 50 Jahre Ethnologie in Zürich. Zürich: ISEK - Ethnologie, 187-192.
- 2015 Limiting disaster risk through participatory relocation after hurricane Mitch in Nicaragua. Case study written for the IDMC Report *Urban Informal Settlers Displaced by Disasters: Challenges to Housing Responses*, IDMC: Geneva, pp.33-37.

Presentations

- *When housing provokes a scandal: Of Indigenous aspirations and donor expectations in times of transition.* AAA/CASCA conference 'Transitions', Toronto, 18.11.2023
- *Countering Stereotypes: Anthropology in Swiss Classrooms.* Summer School 'Critical Sustainability Engagements. Anthropological Perspectives on Theory and Practice', 13-16 June 2023, Centro Incontri Umani in Ascona, 14.06.2023
- *Troubled ways of relating: Humans and More-than-humans in land struggles.* Introduction to the panel, co-organized with Catherine Scheer, EuroSEAS 2022, Paris, 1.7.2022
- *Collective land titling as conservation? Indigenous titling, forest loss and agrarian change in Cambodia.* RAI conference 2021 on Anthropology and Conservation, online, 27.10.2021
- *Disappearing Swidden Fields, Persisting Social Landscapes.* Annual Meeting of the SAA-SEG-SSE 'Re-viewing the field: Contemporary debates and approaches to fieldwork', online, 23.04.2021
- *Exploring land's meanings: Reflections on methodological challenges of translating indigenous territorialities in Cambodia.* RAI 2020 conference on Anthropology and Geography: Dialogues Past, Present and Future, online, 18.9.2020
- *Land's meanings: Reflections on challenges of research on communities displaced by large-scale plantations in Cambodia.* Panel 'Land Relations in Flux: New Land Investments and Precarity'. Discussant: Tania Li, CASCA/AAA 'Changing Climate' conference in Vancouver, 23.11.2019
- *Who is the community? (Re)constitutions of belonging for the sake of indigenous land titling in Cambodia.* POLLEN Conference, Oslo, 22.6.2018
- *Who is the community? Governing territory through the making of 'indigenous communities' in Cambodia.* Presentation in the Workshop 'Ethnogovernmentality in the 21st century: Governing territory and resources through ethnicity and community', Copenhagen, 13.11. 2017
- *Communities' Perspectives on Policies of Exclusionary Development and Displacement in Cambodia.* Presentation at the Political Ecologies of Conflict, Capitalism and Contestation Conference 2016, Wageningen, 8.7.2016
- *Collective Responses to Policies of Exclusionary Development in Cambodia.* Presentation at the IASC European Regional Conference, Bern, 11.5.2016
- *Measuring sense of place: Reflections on the methodological challenges of research on communities displaced by large-scale plantations in Cambodia.* Presentation at the SFAA conference in Vancouver, 28.3.2016

- *Refuting Persistent Stereotypes in Environmental Education: Social Anthropology in the Classroom.* Presentation at the 8th World Environmental Education Congress 2015 in Gothenburg, 30.6.2015
- *Fighting dispossession? Global discourse, local realities: the paradox outcomes of indigenous land titling efforts in Cambodia.* Presentation at the SAA conference 2014 'Social Anthropology and Global Transformations', Basel, 1.11.2014
- *Communal Land Titling Process in Bu Sra Commune: Main Challenges.* Presentation for the Technical Working Group on Land, World Bank, Phnom Penh, 15.1.2014
- *Persisting power structures, leadership capacities, socio-economic inequality and resettlement outcome.* Presentation at the 6th International i-Rec Conference on 'Sustainable Post-disaster Reconstruction: from Recovery to Risk Reduction', Centro Stefano Franscini, Ascona, 25.5.2013
- *Current Trends in Land Titling Policies.* Presentation for the Technical Working Group on Land, OHCHR, Phnom Penh, 30.1.2013
- *Sustainability for Whom? The Politics of Exclusionary Development.* Presentation at the SAA conference 2012, Luzern, 2.11.2012