

Period: Fall 2024

Topic: **Sustainable local development planning in the remote and marginal human habitats: cases, experiences and reflections**

Projection of a documentary film

Into the extreme lands, in search of sustainability

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZBdjTa3iNc&t=95s>

Summary

Marginal and remote human habitats in the extreme lands such as tundra, taiga, steppes, mountains, deserts, savannah, jungle, remote islands, marshlands... are the buffer zones between the 'no-man's-land' and the human world. Such habitats represent rural-wilderness interface/*continuum*, the edge of anthroposphere. Such habitats hold interesting clues about human adaptive strategy and economy-environment relations. Millennium-long human presence in harsh terrains close to immense wilderness has resulted in unique and distinct ethno-linguistic and cultural formations, a variety of traditional ecological knowledge, skills, arts, crafts, morals, manners, and economic organization. All that may be a great source of scientific hypotheses for 'sustainability' practice models, perhaps.

The marginal human habitats in the extreme lands represent a complex context of isolation, logistic difficulties, risk of being under the crossfire of competition and tensions for natural resources and trade corridors, loss of population (low birth rate and outbound migratory movements), climate uncertainties and environmental risks... In our times, even the World's most remote corners are impacted by global economic dynamism such as growing demand of natural resources, increasing alignment of local and international markets, increasing consumerism, expansion and overlap of global supply chains, and large-scale infrastructures development.

This seminar intends to share the experience of field survey, consultations with the indigenous inhabitants and outsiders (administrators, traders, NGOs...) and local development planning in the marginal human habitats of western Alps (Italy), central Himalayas (Nepal), tropical Andes (Venezuela), southern Caucasus (Armenia) and north Asian steppes and taiga (Mongolia).

Essential References

Leimgruber, W. (2004), **Between Global and Local: Marginality and Marginal Regions in the Context of Globalization and Deregulation**, Ashgate Publishing Ltd, Aldershot (UK).

Pant, D.R. (2019), **Eurasia's Extreme Lands, Marginal Human Habitats and Large-scale Infrastructure Development: Critical Interdisciplinary Reflections**, article in: **Proceedings of Eurasian Economic Forum**, vol. II, Ural State University of Economics, Yekaterinburg (Russia).

Pant, D.R. (2018), "**Sustainable Livelihoods in Extreme Lands**", book chapter in: Kingsolver, A. & Balasundaram, S. (eds), **Global Mountain Regions: Conversations toward the Future**, Indiana University Press, Bloomington (USA).