

PhD projects at the Research Group of Social Anthropology

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Wetland Agriculture and the Political Ecology of Health: A Case Study from Namulonge, Uganda

Keywords: Africa, Medical Anthropology, Political Ecology of Health, Wetland Agriculture, Uganda

The PhD project investigates the connection between wetland agriculture and health, with special attention for the emic perspectives on healing, health and disease.

The agricultural exploitation of wetlands is linked to health issues in manifold ways. As a source of freshwater, wetlands play a crucial role in the supply of potable water for local populations as well as for the management of wastewater. Additionally, wetlands provide a source of medical plants and herbs, which serve as important remedies for a range of diseases and medical issues. Also, local smallholders derive an income out of wetlands, which in turn facilitates access to the public health system.

Whereas wetlands commonly provide a range of valuable ecosystem services and are a rich source of a variety of resources, their overexploitation can place a threat to human well-being as important ecosystem services deteriorate. Therefore larger processes like land appropriations as well as the (mis-) management of the environment are of crucial importance, as they can have a crucial effect on the quality of wetland ecosystem services.

This project seeks to place the linkages between wetland agriculture and health in a local cultural context, thereby incorporating the emic understandings of health, disease and healing. Furthermore a political ecology approach will give special attention to the interactions between environmental, social, economic and political processes in relation to health.



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1 st Supervisor	Prof. Dr. Michael Bollig
2 nd Supervisor	
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