

Zoom Chat Box

Week 8: Forest Histories—Disturbance and Resurgence (Tsing)

Samantha Baxter : 1. Thinking about the odd choice to write about the *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* do you think some organisms are less likely to be the subject of eco-narratives? Lack of Disney movies maybe? 2. Are the peasant oak-pine forests examples of human and nature cohabitation/recovery? I had some trouble understanding it.

Amanda Wibel : Tsing talked about the difference between Finnish forests and Russian forests that he had seen and how the Russian forests were deemed a “mess”. Would having this sort of industrial forests (like the Finnish forests) help conserve American old-growth forests? Farming these industrial forests made to me cut down would decrease the risk of cutting down older forests?

Alexis Voisard : Why are the “clean” forests of Finland an aesthetic to strive for and sustain, given understanding, emphasis, and importance on assemblages that thrive in multispecies communities? Why is the aesthetic of a “messy” forest not favorable in some cultures?

Amber Massie : In the reading, it is discussed how disturbances are viewed differently based on who they effect, like with the ant hill vs city destruction. I was wondering if we have anthropomorphized disturbances in a way. Like made them too central to humans and not looking enough into how other organisms are effected.

Haylee : Would it be beneficial to have an international database, where each submission is translated into other languages, about restoration of various ecosystems since each location around the world varies?

Noah Berner : I liked the explanation of how some plants thrive more when there is disturbance than when there is rest. It’s like how procrastinators perform better with a deadline. Are there plants that can not survive in normal conditions but thrive when there is near constant disturbance? I guess like a plant version of an extremophile?

Tiff : So, after hearing about the fungus that came from China that destroyed the American Chestnut and Anna Tsing mentions the fungus that came from America that is affecting the pine trees there, is there anything we can do to help protect other trees here proactively? Any way to help trees build up an ‘immunity’ for a lack of better words?

Nicole Wallace : Why are pines seemingly so invincible? I know they've evolved with the fungi, but are there other factors at play?

gracereibold : What kind of consciousness do worms and nematodes have? Are they as complex as primates, for example?

John Reedy : What could be a possible solution to the pines being the primary colonizers of vacant areas (after forest clearing or fires). Or should we allow the pines to grow and not disturb the area further to where a Finnish forest would be able to grow?

Jared Compaleo : Do you think pines would be able to adapt and continue to survive if they were to lose their mycorrhizal allies?

Alexis Voisard : Are there other species like the pines that “like some of the kinds of messes humans make without trying” (170)?

brandon butler : Is coppicing just a by product of a disturbance? I see the loss of the trees that are felled as a disturbance that results in the loss of old growth characteristics in the forest.

Sarah Clouse : Could you explain specifically what Tsing means when she talks about “peasant forests?” Is it simply just people living with nature, and if so, does it have to be a forest? Would people living on a farm be considered a type of peasant forest?

Drew Gillum : The reading mentioned ecosystem engineers. Are humans considered ecosystem engineers? I would assume so, right? Are there any other ecosystem engineers that have (arguably) negative impacts on the ecosystem?

Cassidy Alspaugh : Related to our assignment but also sort of what was discussed in the podcast: When writing a place history/landscape narrative, how do we avoid these 'bubble narratives', how does one properly create a narrative from the entirety of the landscape, what are some tips for these? Would you say a landscape narrative is a combination of a bunch of different bubble narratives of different organisms within the place?

Evan Saylor: I was just curious, in the reading it talks about the close relationship between pines and fungi and how fungi are a supplier of nutrients to these trees. I have never looked around pines in Ohio, but if I were to would I find some trace of fungi relatively near by?

Drew Gillum : Why are "brain mushrooms" considered edible in Finland but poisonous in the U.S.? Is there something physically different about the mushroom, is it prepared differently, or do people in Finland just not care?

Kailani Sparrow : I liked hearing the ideas of peasant forests and it's something I didn't put much thought into. Our ancestors did a lot of foraging in the forests. Are there any spots in the US where you can forage for things? I know a lot of places it's illegal to remove plants/animals from certain lands.

Alexandria Robertson : On page 161 it is stated that deciding what counts as a disturbance is a matter of point of view. Is it possible that forests undergo many disturbances we don't know about because they are too small to recognize from our point of view?

Tiff : In Finland, is it a bad thing that they keep their grounds so 'neat' by picking up debris. Or does it help keep the forest floor clear for new growth?

Kailani Sparrow : Also going along with peasant forests, is it really fair to “police” nature? I agree we should protect areas from destruction, but like in Alaska a lot of people can take what they want and live off the land. Not really a question, but just a thought.

marianna laufo : I had a similar question to Cassidy, how can a landscape narrative be told primarily from the viewpoint of a landscape and not that of a living organism when the living organisms are what shape the landscape? I'm just having a really difficult time finding a way to look through that nonliving lens

Kailani Sparrow : Would Appalachia be considered a peasant forest? My family has lived there for a long time using herbs, plants, animals, etc. for remedies and food.

Tiff : I was also curious about the land that Dr. Rooney manages in WI, how you said it had never been plowed. How are you able to tell that?

McKenzie Stefanoff : Tsing mentioned that some disturbances can renew ecologies and that disturbances aren't always bad. What are some of positive outcomes of disturbances on nature?

marianna laufo : Is there a scientific significance in wavelike or episodic regeneration of pine forests? For example, could this type of regenerate be useful in tracking possible diseases throughout pine history or possible physical changes in the pines? Almost like being able to track specific events within a particular pine forest back to a certain generation to better study what happened?