

**Call for Papers: Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, 5-9
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-apologies for cross-posting-

The Green Side of the COIN: Analyzing the Greening of Counterinsurgency

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Discussants: (note this may still be subject to change)

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Counterinsurgency (COIN) relates to a totalizing style of warfare that combines 'conventional' and 'liberal' deployments to create 'a whole-of-government effort' using military, but also civil institutions and NGOs (FM 3-24, 2014: 1-14). COIN works through such practices like the creation of intelligence networks, the deployment of psychological operations (PSYOPS), information manipulation and social development in order to control populations (FM 3-24, 2014; Kitson, 2010/1971). While some of the techniques associated with COIN have characterized warfare for centuries, it was during the colonial wars this doctrine began to solidify, developing its own reflexive praxis that continues to play a ubiquitous role in military occupation, political change and 'population management' globally.

While critical analyses on COIN have appeared from the time it was practiced—a famous example is Frantz Fanon's (1961) rendering of the Algerian war for independence—the 2003 US invasion of Iraq triggered a resurgence of critical scholarly interest in the matter. One of the later strands of this emerging body of literature has focused on COIN's role in shaping human-nature relationships, processes of territorialization and resource access and control in relation to 'forests' (Peluso and Vandergeest, 2011), agrarian policy (Copeland, 2012), land deals (Grajales, 2013), ecotourism (Devine, 2014), and 'model villages' (Wilson, 2014).

A particularly prolific debate has been held on the application of COIN in biodiversity

conservation (Ybarra, 2012; Verweijen and Marijnen, 2016), as part of wider processes of 'green militarization' (Lunstrum, 2014), the securitization of conservation (Neumann, 2004; Duffy, 2016) and the generation of 'green violence' (Büscher and Ramutsindela, 2016). Additionally, some authors have examined how COIN is integrated into forms of 'green grabbing' to 'pacify' and 'neutralize' resistance movements, in this way strengthening or creating new environmental commodity markets (Osborne, 2013; Dunlap and Fairhead, 2014). Lastly, there is growing attention to the ways in which military establishments involved in COIN draw upon the 'green economy' to further their objectives, like through the use of biofuels, the seizing upon climate and other ecological crisis narratives to justify coercive action, or the deployment of NGOs to act as a 'force multipliers'.

This session seeks to widen and deepen our conceptual understanding and empirical knowledge of the 'green side' of COIN in a broad sense, aiming to promote a comparative conversation that will illuminate global interconnections and distinguish regional particularities. It intends to draw together papers that document and discuss the way COIN appropriates and is being appropriated by an environmental ethic, and how these synergies serve to advance techniques of population control and 'social pacification' employed by a diverse range of actors, including governments; (trans)national corporations; NGOs; and public and private security forces. We seek papers relating (but not limited to) the following themes:

- Counterinsurgency as a set of techniques of breaking/domesticating/pacifying resistance to 'green' projects in rural, urban and suburban areas.
- The diffusion of counterinsurgency technologies and techniques among multi-scalar networks of security forces, corporations and governmental actors.
- The ways in which the 'greening of counterinsurgency' is linked to the growing commodification of nature and green grabbing processes.
- Discourses around counterinsurgency and their intersection with narratives on the green economy, nature conservation and climate change, and how this intersection shapes and is shaped by the securitization of green issues.
- The ways in which the 'green economy' is seized upon by militaries, police and private mercenary/security forces, for instance as 'force multiplier,' or to appropriate natural and technological resources.
- The territorial dimension of green counterinsurgency or how military and environmental rationalities create overlapping territorial projects and how space is organized to enable population and environmental control
- Explorations into the interrelations between environmentality, subjectification and

- counterinsurgency; or how green economy and environmental projects foster new subjectivities that facilitate achieving the objectives of counterinsurgency or vice versa
- The appropriation of social science generated knowledge into the project of greening counterinsurgency, such as the weaponizing of geography, anthropology or other sciences.
 - Examinations of the types of violence (e.g. structural, symbolic, physical) at play in green counterinsurgency projects, the interplay between these types of violence and the nature of 'green violence'

Please email abstracts of no more than 250 words to Alexander Dunlap (a.d.dunlap@vu.nl) or Judith Verweijen (judith.verweijen@ugent.be) by **Thursday October 20th, 2016**. Successful applicants will be contacted by October, 27th 2016 and will be expected to submit their abstracts online to the AAG website by February 23, 2017.

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Ybarra M (2012) Taming the Jungle, Saving the Maya Forest: Sedimented Counterinsurgency Practices in Contemporary Guatemalan Conservation. *Journal of Peasant Studies* 39 (2): 479–502.