Participatory approaches to studying social-ecological systems: reflections on sense of place

from the former Transkei (Eastern Cape, South Africa)

Vanessa Masterson

Stockholm Resilience Centre
Sustainability Science for Biosphere Stewardship

Stockholm University

The Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics

Kungl. Vetenskaps-Akademien
The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

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Case Study:

Mnquma Municipality, South Africa

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Sense of place – to illuminate social-ecological system dynamics

1. Practices that connect people to rural place – multifunctional landscape
2. Conservation project of forest – meanings of place in narratives

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

Semi-structured interviews

Photovoice

Role of Sense of Place in SES

Timeline construction

Ecological sampling

Participatory research challenges

- Push towards participatory research challenges
  - Lack of training on mixed methods analysis
- Positionality?
  - white woman, studying 'overseas'.
  - Reason I wanted to use photovoice: camera in participant's hands
- Ethics and expectations
  - Participation can raise expectations - limits of a research project
  - Question role of researcher
  - How to give back to community

Thank you!