

# MICHAEL B. DWYER

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## EDUCATION

- 2011 Ph.D., Energy and Resources, University of California, Berkeley
- 2003 M.Sc., Energy and Resources, University of California, Berkeley
- 1997 B.A. Oberlin College (mathematics)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND AFFILIATIONS

- 2016 Independent researcher (consultant to Forest Trends, Helvetas, United Nations FAO, University of Helsinki, University of California Berkeley, University of Sussex)
- 2015 Associate Researcher, University of Bern, Center for Development and Environment, ongoing
- 2015 Assistant Facilitator, Sacramento State University, Center for Collaborative Policy, ongoing
- 2013 Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Governance Program, August 2013 – July 2015
- 2012 Postdoctoral Researcher on Land Governance in Southeast Asia, University of Bern, Center for Development and Environment, July 2012 – June 2013
- 2012 Adjunct Professor, Monterey Institute of International Studies, Graduate School of International Policy and Management, January – May 2012 (spring semester)

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Peer reviewed*

- Michael Dwyer, Micah Ingalls and Ian Baird (2016) The security exception: Development and militarization in Laos's protected areas. [\*Geoforum\* 69: 207–217](#).
- Michael Dwyer (2016) Upland geopolitics: Finding Zomia in northern Laos c. 1875. [\*The Journal of Lao Studies, Special Issue 3: 37-57\*](#).
- Micah Ingalls and Michael Dwyer (2016) Missing the forest for the trees? Navigating the trade-offs between mitigation and adaptation under REDD. [\*Climatic Change\* 136\(2\): 353-366](#).
- Michael Dwyer (2015) The formalization fix? Land titling, land concessions, and the politics of spatial transparency in Cambodia. [\*The Journal of Peasant Studies\* 42\(5\): 903–928](#).
- Michael Dwyer, Emily Polack and Sokbunthoeun So (2015) 'Better-practice' concessions: Some lessons from Cambodia's Leopard Skin landscape. [\*International Development Policy / Revue internationale de politique de développement\* 6.1](#).
- Michael Dwyer (2015) Redirecting regulation? Land titling and Cambodia's post-neoliberal conjuncture. In [\*Governing Access to Essential Resources\*](#), edited by Katharina Pistor and Olivier de Schutter. Columbia University Press.
- Michael Dwyer (2014) Micro-geopolitics: Capitalising security in Laos's Golden Quadrangle. [\*Geopolitics\* 19: 377–405](#).
- Peter Messerli, Markus Giger, Michael Dwyer, Thomas Breu and Sandra Eckert (2014) The geography of large-scale land acquisitions: Analyzing socio-ecological patterns of target contexts in the global south. [\*Applied Geography\* 53: 449–459](#).
- Michael Dwyer (2014) Territorial entanglements: Ambiguities of giving back in northwestern Laos [Research Note]. [\*Journal of Research Practice\* 10\(2\), Article N9](#).
- Michael Dwyer (2013) Building the politics machine: Tools for 'resolving' the global land grab. [\*Development and Change\* 44\(2\): 309–333](#).

## **Research reports**

Michael Dwyer and Micah Ingalls (2015) *REDD+ at the crossroads: Choices and tradeoffs for 2015–2020 in Laos*. [CIFOR Working Paper 179](#). Center for International Forestry Research, Bogor Indonesia.

Michael Dwyer (2015) *Trying to follow the money: Possibilities and limits of investor transparency in Southeast Asia's rush for 'available' land*. [CIFOR Working Paper 177](#). Center for International Forestry Research, Bogor Indonesia.

Sithong Thongmanivong, Kaisone Phengsopha, Hounghphet Chantavong, Michael Dwyer and Robert Oberndorf (2009) *Concession or cooperation? Impacts of recent rubber investment on land tenure and livelihoods: A case study from Oudomxai Province, Lao PDR*. Unpublished, [online](#).

Michael Dwyer (2007) *Turning land into capital: A review of recent research on land concessions for investment in Lao PDR*. The Land Issues Working Group of the Lao INGO Network, Vientiane. [Part 1: Literature review](#) (also in [Lao language](#)) | [Part 2: Gaps and Future Research](#).

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

### **Public scholarship**

2015 “Trying to follow the money: Tracing investments to actual places in Southeast Asia.” Blog entry, Center for International Forestry Research ([online](#)).

2015 “The formalization fix? Land titling and land concessions in Cambodia.” Policy brief, Center for Development and Environment, University of Bern ([online](#)).

2011 “The Internal Frontier: Chinese Extra-territoriality in Northern Laos?” Part two of the three-part series “Crossing Borders: Chinese investment in Southeast Asia.” New Mandala: New Perspectives on Mainland Southeast Asia ([online](#)).

2009 “Territorial Affairs: The Production of Available Land in Laos's Northern Economic Corridor.” Photo essay. New Mandala: New Perspectives on Mainland Southeast Asia ([online](#)).

2007 “Turning Land into Capital” ([online](#), also listed above under Research Reports).

### **Academic service**

Peer reviewer for *Asia-Pacific Viewpoint*, *The Australian Geographer*, *Development and Change*, *Feminist Economics*, *Geoforum*, *The Geographical Journal*, *Journal of Agrarian Change*, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, *Land Use Policy*, Routledge Press, *SAGE Open*, *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, the US National Science Foundation (Cultural Anthropology), and *World Development*.

Co-organizer, co-editor and co-author (with Ian G. Baird) of conference panel and set of interventions on “Principled Engagement: Political Ecologists outside the Academy.” The panel took place at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. The collection was published in *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies* 13(4), and includes M. B. Dwyer and I. G. Baird (2014), “Principled engagement: political ecologists and their interactions outside the academy. Introduction to a set of short interventions.” [ACME 13\(4\): 473–477](#).

Co-organizer (with Dan Fahey and Arthur Green) of two sessions on “Post-Conflict Geography” at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers.

Book reviews: (1) Co-author (with Keith Barney), “Apprentice Nationalists: Review of Soren Ivarsson (2008), *Creating Laos: The Making of a Lao Space between Indochina and Siam, 1860–1945*.” [Asia-Pacific Viewpoint \(2009\) 50: 247–249](#). (2) Author (in preparation), review of Sarah Turner (2013, ed.), *Red Stamps and Gold Stars: Fieldwork Dilemmas in Upland Socialist Asia*, for *The Journal of Peasant Studies*.

### **Public dialogue and research**

Member, advisory group to World Resources Institute (WRI) on global comparative research on forest concession transparency (meetings in July and September 2015).

Member, Research Advisory Board, National Economic Research Institute (NERI), Lao Ministry of Planning and Investment (since February 2015).

Member, Land Sub-sector Working Group (Laos) focal groups on Land registration and communal land titling; Land use planning and forestland category review; and Land tenure, policy and implementation (since January 2015).

Organizing committee member, Lao National Research Forum for Development (December 17-18 2014).

Advisory committee member to the Lao Land Issues Working Group (LIWG) on the development of a Lao National Land Policy (ongoing since mid-2012).

Laos specialist, Sydney University research team (Professor Philip Hirsch, leader) for Mekong Regional Land Governance Program (ongoing since November 2014)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### ***University of Bern (International Graduate School)***

June 2014 Co-instructor (one of two): 3-day short course for doctoral students on Political Economy and Political Ecology: Concepts, Applications and Contemporary Debates

### ***Monterey Institute of International Studies (International Environmental Policy track)***

Spring 2012 Instructor: Seminar on Agriculture, Forests and Development; and Interdisciplinary Analysis for Energy Policy (both at Master's level)

### ***University of California, Berkeley***

Fall 2010 GSI: \* American Environmental and Cultural History (Dept. of Environmental Science, Policy and Management (ESPM)); upper level undergraduate. Instructor: Ken Worthy

Spring 2010 Lecturing Assistant: American Environmental Policy, Law and Administration (ESPM); mid-level undergraduate. Instructor: Alastair Iles

Fall 2009 GSI: Political Ecology (ESPM); upper level undergraduate. Instructor: Nancy Lee Peluso

Spring 2009 GSI: American Environmental Policy, Law and Administration (ESPM); mid-level undergraduate. Instructor: Alastair Iles

Fall 2004– Spring 2005 GSI (two-semester sequence): Senior Research Projects Class for Environmental Science Majors (Department of Environmental Sciences); senior undergraduate level. Instructors: John Latto and Christina Castanha

Fall 2003, Fall 2002 GSI (two times): Energy and Society (Energy and Resources Group); upper level undergraduate and Master's. Instructor: Daniel M. Kammen

Spring 2003 GSI: Quantitative Aspects of Global Environmental Problems (Energy and Resources Group); upper level undergraduate and Master's. Instructor: John Harte

### ***Laos (short-term teaching during doctoral fieldwork)***

2008 Visiting instructor, interdisciplinary research methods and GIS; National University of Laos, Center for Environment and Development Studies; instructor level, 8 days

2007 Trainer, field methods for interdisciplinary research on land policy issues; National Land Management Authority, Laos; postgraduate/young professional level, 10 days

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & HONORS

2015 Innovation Fund grant, Mekong Region Land Governance project (Forest Trends, in negotiation)

2012 Small grant, Land Deal Politics Initiative

2011 Senior research fellowship (funding provided by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs), Center for Khmer Studies, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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\* GSI (Graduate Student Instructor) is Berkeley's term for teaching assistant.

- 2010 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) Teaching Award, Fall 2010 (for American Environmental and Cultural History)
- 2010 Small grant, Land Deal Politics Initiative
- 2008 John L. Simpson Memorial Fellowship in International and Comparative Studies, Institute for International Studies, University of California, Berkeley
- 2006 Doctoral Dissertation for Research Improvement Grant in Geography and Regional Science, National Science Foundation (NSF DDRI)
- 2006 International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (SSRC IDRF)
- 2006 Summer Grant-in-aid, University of California, Berkeley Center for Southeast Asian Studies
- 2005 Mini-grant, University of California Pacific Rim Research Program
- 2004 Summer Grant-in-aid, University of California, Berkeley Center for Southeast Asian Studies

#### **INVITED LECTURES**

- 2016 "Titling and Tenure: Overlaps and divergences in Cambodia and Laos." Land Core Group, Yangon, Myanmar. March 11
- 2016 "The Formalization Gap: Bringing the state back into customary tenure debates in the Mekong region." Mekong Land Research Forum (keynote address), Vientiane, Laos, February 24
- 2015 "The Return of the Concession? The Hard-to-see Regulatory Geography of the Lao Rubber Sector and Why it Matters." National University of Laos, Faculty of Forestry, Vientiane, 7 January
- 2013 "Company + People: Concessions, Contract Farming and the Communal Land Question in Laos's Northwestern Rubber Sector." Land Issues Working Group, International NGO Network, Vientiane, December 12
- 2013 "Land Grabbing, Land Titling and the Politics of Transparency: Post-neoliberal Geographies of Property Formalization in Laos and Cambodia." Center for Development and Environment, University of Bern, June 6
- 2013 "The Formalization Fix? Land Grabbing, Land Titling and the Politics of Geographical Transparency: The Case of Cambodia." Nelson Institute Land Tenure Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, April 18
- 2013 "Far from Vientiane: Three 'Forgotten Landscapes' and their Implications for Laos's Land Sector." Land Issues Working Group, International NGO Network, Vientiane, March 6
- 2012 "The Uneven Geography of Property Formalization in Southeast Asia: Some Lessons from Laos and Cambodia." University of Zurich, Geography Department, September 7
- 2011 "Territorial Affairs: Re-reading the Global Land Grab in Northwestern Laos." University of California, Berkeley, Energy and Resources Group Colloquium, November 16
- 2011 "Looking North to Understand the Lao 'Geo-body', or Why Southeast Asian Studies Needs Chinese Geopolitics." Center for Khmer Studies, Phnom Penh, September 9
- 2011 "Conducting Research on Laos's Northern Economic Corridor: A Case of Policy-Oriented Fieldwork." National University of Laos, International Development Studies program, July 16
- 2011 "The Territorial Fix? Chinese Investment in Laos and Its Implications for the 'Global Land Grab'." University of Wisconsin, Madison, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, April 29

#### **PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS**

- 2016 "Concession Development: Timber Financing and Risk Modulation at Southeast Asia's Upland Frontier." InterAsian Connections V: Seoul, April 27–30
- 2016 "REDD after Paris: Recent Trajectories and Possible Futures through the Case of Laos." Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, San Francisco, March 31

- 2015 "Untitled but not Informal: Land Politics in Formality's Gray Spaces – Evidence from Laos." International Academic Conference on Land Grabbing: Perspectives from East and Southeast Asia; Chiang Mai University, Thailand, 6 June
- 2015 "Untitled but not Informal: Land Politics in Formality's Gray Spaces." Land Fictions conference, Rutgers University, 2 May
- 2015 "Technical matters: The development of REDD+ baselines and business-as-usual scenarios in Laos." Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Chicago, 22 April
- 2014 "Laos's Land Titling Gap and its Implications for Rural Land Tenure." Lao National Research Forum, National University of Laos, 17-18 December
- 2014 "Investor Disclosure and Spatial Transparency: Bridging the Accountability Gap?" Forest Trends workshop on illegal forest conversion in the Mekong region, Phuket, 23 July
- 2014 "Jurisdictional approaches to green development: Evidence from Laos." Forests Asia Conference, Jakarta, 5 May
- 2014 "'Thirty Thousand Hectares Will Not Be a Problem': The Regulatory Politics of Sino-Lao Rubber Cooperation." Asia Pacific Sociology Association (APSA) Conference, Chiang Mai University, 15-16 February
- 2013 "Formalizing the Concession: A Genealogy of Regulatory Illegibility in the Lao PDR." Workshop on Property and Citizenship in Developing Countries, University of Copenhagen, June 30
- 2013 "'All-Around Strong Localities': Focal Site Development in Laos's Postwar Political Forest." Fourth International Lao Studies Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, April 21
- 2013 "Property Frontiers in Laos and Cambodia: Evidence of a Post-Neoliberal Conjuncture?" Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, April 11
- 2012 "The Formalization Fix? Land Titling, Agribusiness Concessions and Geographical Transparency in Contemporary Cambodia." Second International Academic Conference on "Global Land Grabbing", Cornell University, October 19
- 2012 "The Uneven Geography of Property Formalization in Southeast Asia: Some Lessons from Laos and Cambodia." 3rd International Conference on Research for Development (ICRD 2012): Research for Global Transformation, University of Bern, August 21
- 2012 "Surviving State Land: Civil Society and the Cambodian Land Grab." AAG Annual Meeting, New York, February 24
- 2011 "The Politics of Sovereignty and Property: Laos and the Global Land Grab." AAG Annual Meeting, Seattle WA, April 12
- 2011 "Building the Politics Machine: Tools for 'Resolving' the Global Land Grab." International Academic Conference on "Global Land Grabbing", Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, April 7
- 2010 "Technical Matters: The Practice and Politics of Geo-referencing." AAG Annual Meeting, Washington DC, April 18
- 2010 "Turning Battlefields into Marketplaces: Property and Citizenship in Northwestern Laos." AAG Annual Meeting, Washington DC, April 17
- 2009 "Technical Matters: The Regulatory Politics of Geo-referencing in Contemporary Lao Agribusiness." Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies Conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, October 16
- 2009 "Formal Territory and Postwar Development in Northwestern Laos." AAG Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, March 22
- 2009 "Investment-based Development in Lao PDR: A Lingering Postwar Landscape." Vietnam Center Conference, Texas Tech University, March 14
- 2008 "Turning Land into Capital: The World Bank and the Juridical Model of Power." AAG Annual Meeting, Boston, April 18

2006 “Orienting the Resource Landscape: Mapping and Upland Development in Lao PDR.” AAG Annual Meeting, Chicago, March 8

**LANGUAGES & SOFTWARE**

Lao (conversational speaking, intermediate reading, basic writing)

French (intermediate reading)

ArcGIS (advanced)

Q-GIS (competent)