

12-2014

Introduction: Moving Beyond the 'Rational Actor' in Environmental Governance and Conservation


Nicole D. Peterson

University of North Carolina at Charlotte, npeterson@uncc.edu

Cindy Isenhour

University of Maine, Department of Anthropology, cynthia.isenhour@maine.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/ant_facpub

 Part of the [Agricultural and Resource Economics Commons](#), [Anthropology Commons](#), [Behavioral Economics Commons](#), and the [Environmental Policy Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Peterson ND, Isenhour C. Introduction: Moving Beyond the 'Rational Actor' in Environmental Governance and Conservation. *Conservat Soc* 2014;12:229-232

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Anthropology Faculty Scholarship by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

SPECIAL SECTION: RATIONAL ACTOR LEGACY

Year : 2014 | Volume : 12 | Issue : 3 | Page : 229--232

Introduction: Moving Beyond the «SQ»Rational Actor«SQ» in Environmental Governance and Conservation

Nicole D Peterson¹, Cindy Isenhour²

¹ Department of Anthropology, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC, USA

² Department of Anthropology, University of Maine, Orono, ME, USA

Correspondence Address:

Nicole D Peterson

Department of Anthropology, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC

USA

In this brief introduction, we examine the themes and issues that link the three papers in this special section. In each case, neoliberal conservation practices appear to be predicated on a certain kind of individual subject with certain kinds of motives and behaviours-the rational actor. Taken together, these three papers challenge three assumptions of rational actor models, including that individuals are self-interested and attempt to maximise their own benefits, that they only respond to economic incentives, and that economic markets are free, mutual, and rational. Together these articles promote greater attention to how individuals are conceptualised in conservation efforts, and suggest alternative ways to think through conservation projects.

How to cite this article:

Peterson ND, Isenhour C. Introduction: Moving Beyond the 'Rational Actor' in Environmental Governance and Conservation. *Conservat Soc* 2014;12:229-232

How to cite this URL:

Peterson ND, Isenhour C. Introduction: Moving Beyond the 'Rational Actor' in Environmental Governance and Conservation. *Conservat Soc* [serial online] 2014 [cited 2014 Dec 11];12:229-232

Available from: <http://www.conservationandsociety.org/article.asp?issn=0972-4923;year=2014;volume=12;issue=3;spage=229;epage=232;aulast=Peterson;type=0>

Thursday, December 11, 2014

[Site Map](#) | [Home](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Copyright and Disclaimer](#)