Stanford Researchers

The following are short biographies from the profiles of a number of Stanford-affiliated professors whose interests intersect with this course. Their research may give you ideas about topics you are interested in exploring for your paper project. Click their names to see their full Stanford profile.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Professor William H. Durham - Research focuses on biological anthropology, ecological and evolutionary anthropology, cultural evolution, conservation and community development, resource management, environmental issues; Central and South America. A MacArthur Prize recipient. Dr. Durham is Bing Professor in Human Biology and the Stanford Director of the Center on Ecotourism and Sustainable Development (CESD). His main interests are ecology and evolution, the interactions of genetic and cultural change in human populations, and the challenges to conservation and community development in the Third World.

BIOLOGY

Prof. Gretchen Daily - The ecological (and evolutionary) dynamics of biodiversity change in natural and human-modified ecosystems. The quantification and mapping of ecosystem services, in biophysical, economic, and cultural terms. Feasible pathways for and novel approaches to ecological restoration, from biophysical, economic, and cultural perspectives. Field research based mostly in the Neotropics and Hawai‘i; ecosystem services projects in a range of sites internationally.

Prof. Rodolfo Dirzo - My current work on conservation biology emphasizes the need of complementing the traditional interests of the conservation of taxa with the increasingly needed conservation of ecological processes. Most of my tropical work is carried out in Mexico and Central Amazonia.

Prof. Peter Vitousek - Nutrient cycling in tropical and temperate forests. Regulation of cycling of nitrogen, phosphorus, and several other nutrients by using chemical analysis of soil, water, and gas samples from field sites. Biological invasion by exotic species, and sources of elements during long-term soil and ecosystem development in the Hawaiian Islands.

EARTH SCIENCES

Prof. Eric Lambin - My research is in the area of human-environment interactions in land systems. I develop integrated approaches to study land use change by linking remote sensing, GIS and socio-economic data. I aim at better monitoring and modeling causes and impacts of changes in tropical forests, dryland degradation, and land use conflicts around natural reserves. I currently focus on land use transitions – i.e., the shift from deforestation (or land degradation) to reforestation (or land sparing for nature) – and geographic displacement of land use change.

Prof. Mauricio Fontes - Visiting professor from Universidade Federal de Vicosa, Brazil. He recently wrote an article in conjunction with the Economics and Geography department: Land suitability.
Sophomore College, 2013, Amazon
Stanford Researchers
By: Autumn Albers

water balance and agricultural technology as a
Geographic-Technological Index to support regional planning
and economic studies.