Experiencing Diversity and Mutuality

Book of Abstracts
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**Farmers and/or Hunters: Negotiating Heritage in an Alpine National Park**

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The paper will highlight some of the contested issues regarding cultural and natural heritage preservation in the case of Trenta valley in the Triglav national park (Slovenia) - the largest, the oldest, and the most important protected area in Slovenia. The institutionalisation of the only Slovenian national park has been obviously grounded on the conception of its role of the instrument for preserving heritage of great importance for the national community and the newly born nation-state. Looking discursively, the institutionalisation of the TNP was partly based on the Slovenian Alpine “mythology” and idealisation of the Alpine “way of live”. Under the veil of unquestionable concept of national heritage, this idealisation is implicitly present also in many contemporary scientific and political debates about the new law of the TNP that is to be adopted in Slovenia. These “national” conceptions are rarely confronted to the heritage as seen from the point of view of people that are existentially tied to the landscape being “nationalised”. In the case of Trenta local community, the notion of heritage is being constantly renegotiated, and in many cases opposed to the heritage as conceived by diverse national institutions. The ambivalence of “national” versus “local” point of view will be presented in two contexts, related to the issue of preserving the traditional agricultural landscape and to the one of preserving hunting as a traditional spatial praxis par excellence. The interpretation of these examples will be based on ethnographic fieldwork data collected over the last five years in the region.

**Local Ecological Knowledge also Comes “from Books”: Cultural Change, Landscape Transformation and Conservation of Biodiversity in Two Natural Protected Areas in Portugal**

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The study of social and economic change and the consequent landscape transformation in Parque Natural de Montesinho and Parque Natural de Douro Internacional (in the Northeast of Portugal) allows us to discuss the ambivalent relation between the political aims of biodiversity preservation and social reality in protected rural areas.

Ethnographic research of plants uses and nature discourses together with an analysis of social differentiation (in terms of age, gender and schooling) of ethnobotanical knowledge show us the dynamic way local people combine traditional and orally transmitted knowledge with popular or then scientific exogenous ecological knowledge, especially that learned from the media and books. This data allows us to reflect also about the way local culture in the context of protected areas is transformed into heritage.

**Protected Areas, Conflict and the Social Acceptability of Environmental Regulation**

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Anthropological studies of protected areas have focussed mainly on political conflicts