

## FORESTS

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### **Abstract:**

This panel aims to bring together STS perspectives on forests. Forests have recently become the object of renewed concerns, as wildfires and deforestation alarms have positioned them as the sentinels of the damages of climate change and environmental degradation, while their capacity to act as carbon sinks has revealed them as a potential venue for fighting climate change by reducing global CO2 emissions. The panel proposes to relate these recent developments to longstanding analyses of forests as the locus of future-making. In line with the conference theme, we invite contributions that examine the multiple temporalities of forests and the processes by which the past, the present and the future are drawn together and acted upon. More broadly, we aspire to position forests as an object for STS: an object that fruitfully lends itself to the categories and methods of STS, and an object that STS should think with if it ambitions to dissect the politics of techno-scientific (and other) futures. We expect participants to propose papers grounded in empirical analysis and addressing themes related (but not limited) to:

- Forest temporalities: notions of sustainability and the long-term future; ecological restoration and conservation of the past; temporal conflicts across different actors (states, firms, local communities, transnational organizations...);
- Forests and knowledge production: scientific and bureaucratic interventions vs. locally embedded practices, forestry and forms of expertise, conservation biology and biodiversity;
- Forests and power dynamics: the role of forest management in state building, colonial expansion, and post-colonial relations; forests and global governance initiatives; forest property regimes and land use conflicts;
- Forest valuations: the multiple (economic, environmental, heritage...) values of forests and the assessment of the ecosystem services they provide, the cultural and political economy of the exploitation of natural forests and the management of forest plantations;
- Forests ontologies and imaginaries: the category of primary (old-growth) forests; the construction of pristine natures, virgin environments and wilderness; the reference states for forest restoration and conservation; human and non-human interventions, disturbances and interactions within forests.

### **Key words:**

forests, temporality

