



The Commons Digest

PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE COMMONS

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Welcome to another edition of *The Commons Digest*! In this issue a number of IASC members have contributed essays sharing their professional and personal interactions with recently deceased IASC president-elect Douglas Clyde Kongshøj Wilson. The essays speak to the impact Doug's work and life had on fisheries, commons, and policy, as well as ourselves, as individuals. The issue begins with an essay by our editor **Alyne Delaney**, followed by **Bonnie McCay**, who worked with Doug in the US on fisheries projects. **Leticia Merino**, **Tobias Haller** and **Mafa Hara** refer to Doug's many projects in Africa (where he strove to strengthen networks of commons scholars and also strengthened the capacity of African fisheries researchers) and Europe, as well as his involvement with IASC. The Digest concludes with remarks from his colleague **Svein Jentoft**, with whom Doug worked for many years.

This issue also includes announcements, including the Call for Papers for the XVth IASC biennial meeting in Edmonton, Canada May 25-29, 2015. We hope to see you there! **Enjoy!**

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Reflections

Doug Wilson: a Life, interrupted

Alyne Delaney

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As commons researchers, scholars, and practitioners, many of us are familiar with Doug's work from his publications and long-standing attendance at IASC(P) biennial conferences. Doug had an extremely active and creative mind. In a short timespan, he worked to become a successful environmental and natural resource sociologist investigating aquatic management in Africa, Asia, North America and Europe, with particular interests and specialties surrounding the sociology of science and the knowledge base for fisheries management. He was at the forefront of changing one focus of fisheries research to include scientists and managers.

Doug also had a long and active affiliation with the International Association for the Study of the Commons. He served as Editor-in-Chief of our newsletter, the *Common Property Resource Digest* from 1999-2005. From 2006 he served on the board of the IASC's Executive Council, and he became President-elect of the IASC, though he stepped down just prior to taking office due to his illness in 2012. Doug was a strong supporter and advocate for cross-disciplinary



and cross-sectoral conceptual contributions in understanding the dynamics of the “commons.” Doug was a founding member of the Editorial Board of the IASC-affiliated *International Journal of the Commons* and Associate Editor of the journal *Maritime Studies*, actively reviewing papers for both journals right to the end.

Doug’s legacy lives on in his publications, presentations, and numerous keynote speeches he was invited to make at conferences around the world. He also lives on through the students whose dissertations he supervised and who now are fisheries and commons scholars themselves.

These are all fact. Yet, to know the scholar, one must also know the individual. Doug was well known for his wit, humour, and intellectual capacity, which was critical and sharp, but also, at times, encouraging and supportive. He did take getting used to, however. When I first arrived at IFM, I was, admittedly, a bit intimidated by his rants at the computer when it was too slow for his needs, which could be heard down the corridor; and was dismayed to discover on one of our first joint research trips with colleagues that his favourite conversational style appeared to be an argumentative one. He reminded me on numerous occasions, for reasons I could never quite understand, that he did not vote for my hire. Yet, he was always there for me, freely answering questions and offering advice. And if he was a bit distant as a mentor- seeming to follow the trial-by-fire method of mentoring- he did offer avenues for my own professional growth, such as editing the *Digest* with him from 2003 until he passed the reins over to me officially in 2006. Also, as a fellow American in rural Denmark, I had the benefit of almost weekly social evenings (while he was still single) with which to gradually get to know him, and understand his personality

better over time.

I have heard it suggested that you want project partners and colleagues that you enjoy personally. Of course, you need people who are professional, “know their stuff,” and can meet deadlines; but given you will be working closely with these colleagues for 3 or 4 years, you want someone you enjoy spending evenings with when at project meetings. And you want to spend time with people from whom you can learn and grow. Doug was one of those people.

We are members of a professional organization; we are also human. So when we include personal anecdotes and descriptions of our time with Doug it is because we acknowledge the importance of the human aspect for not only those for whom we work in our commons worlds, but also for ourselves.

Doug is greatly missed. I don’t know how many times I have had a question and immediately think “I’ll ask Doug; he’ll know” only to immediately realize, I can not ask Doug any longer. And I am truly sorry for us, the IASC, that we have missed out on the opportunity of having him serve as IASC president; he was an unfailing supporter and had great plans for strengthening our organization.

So yes, Doug is missed. But he is not forgotten. Let us build upon his legacy, in academic terms for the commons and commoners, in personal ones for ourselves, and institutionally through a stronger IASC.

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Doug Wilson: Fisheries Social Scientist *in Extremis*

Bonnie McCay

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The past thirty years or so saw increased participation of social scientists—anthropologists, sociologists, geographers, among others—in fisheries science, as observers and critics of how the world's fisheries are measured and managed, and as measurers of the fisherfolk and communities involved. Doug came to this after he had done his doctoral dissertation research at Lake Victoria, in East Africa, when I hired him—sight and thesis as yet unseen—as a post-doc at Rutgers in 1996. It was a big risk and the best academic decision I ever made. Doug's youthful passion, expressed in his work with the Institute of Cultural Affairs before he went to graduate school, was in community development, the issue of how to help impoverished people live healthier, wealthier, and fuller lives. Graduate school at Michigan State University introduced him to new intellectual tools, most notably the methods and theory of sociology. He brought both to his research on the shores of Lake Victoria, on the social and economic effects of the introduction of a large new species, Nile perch. His research supported arguments for more participatory ways of managing the lake's great fisheries to alleviate some of the negative effects. Power to the people, through participatory or "co-management," was a strong theme in his later work, leading to a co-edited major book on the topic (Wilson, Nielsen and Degnbol 2003).

Doug's work on participatory management and the social dimensions of fisheries in

Africa appealed to me, but the clincher for my decision to hire him as a post-doc was his strong commitment to both rigorous method and deep theorizing. The latter was particularly unusual among people who are engaged in very practical research on social impacts of this and that. I needed someone to help me do social impact research for the fisheries of the Mid-Atlantic region, but I wanted someone who was really smart as well, and that was Doug.

When I hired Doug as a post-doc back in 1996, it was a long shot. I'd not met him in person, had only spoken on the phone, but what I learned about his work to that point was heartening. He seemed well schooled in social theory AND was an experienced field worker, an ideal combination from my perspective.

A good sign: when I explained that he did have to have a PhD in hand to be hired as a post-doc he overcame his dismay at short-circuiting the process and quickly finished and defended his doctoral dissertation despite his personal preference and inclination to draw out the process. Not such a good sign: he showed up at my university, in the city of New Brunswick, New Jersey, with little more than a suitcase, a box of books, and a bicycle, assuming that he would need no more. I had to force him to buy a car—an old one to be sure—because going to meetings and doing fieldwork at the fishing docks were essential parts of the job and New Jersey has very poor public transportation. He saved his integrity by



Photo credit: Sussi Kongshøj

Douglas Clyde Kongshøj Wilson

using the bicycle to commute back and forth between the rooms he rented and the office.

We then had four years together at Rutgers, years rich in fisheries research contracts and NSF grants that could not have happened without Doug. He brought to the tasks outstanding and classic sociological skills in research design and statistics. He even got us to venture into the then new frontier of email-based survey research, a study we did of job satisfaction among fishery scientists and managers, a typically clever Doug idea: all other job satisfaction research was done with fish harvesters (Wilson et al. 2002). He was the mainstay of a new center at Rutgers, the Ecopolicy Center, and when his post-doc ended, he became a research associate, an adjunct instructor, and, on the side, editor of the *Common Property Resource Digest* (now, *The Commons Digest*). It was during this period that he became active in the IASCP (as it was then known).

In our work on the fisheries we had occasion to drive together to meetings from time to time. I remember one such drive, out to

Riverhead, Long Island. During the several hour drive we not only argued about heuristic versus empirical, ideational versus material social realities, a favorite argument, but I also had to listen to his recital of a very long epic poem. I am no good at memorizing poetry; indeed, I cannot recall even the author or title or his chosen poem, and so I was impressed. He explained that he had taken on the task of memorizing parts of the poem every day as a brain-building challenge, much as lifting weights for the body -which he also did, at least for a while when Svein Jentoft, from Tromsø, Norway, was visiting Rutgers on sabbatical leave. Since that time he emerged as one of the leading scholars of 'the commons' and an internationally acclaimed leader in the sociology of marine fisheries.

One of the projects that showed how truly clever Doug could be—and this with what we might call "middle range theory"—is represented by our co-authored paper on the diverse meanings of "participation" within the regional fisheries management community (Wilson and McCay 1998b). Using a text analysis software program, he discerned not only the diverse and subtle meanings of participation but found a way to conceptualize the problem that not only categorized several different types of meaning, but discerned in the relationships between them contested areas, the existence of which casted light on problems of legitimacy.

Doug turned out to be a skilled ethnographer; he was not only a smart analyst of interviews and survey questionnaires, but someone who could immerse himself in a situation and observe the finer details of human behavior. I'm not saying that he got onto fishing boats or picked up a filleting knife in a processing plant; those were not his worlds. But he



could and did become an ethnographer of science and science policy, initially through membership on a technical committee concerned with scientific advice for managing Bluefish, where he carefully discerned the ways that scientists, too, interwove different kinds of knowledge, including experience-based 'anecdotal' information, in their deliberations (Wilson 2003, Wilson and Degnbol 2002). Through this and related experiences, he became a fine sociologist of science, capable of taking on the "science and technology studies" club, as also shown in *The Paradoxes of Transparency* (about which more below). He was the key intellect behind a large NSF grant that we obtained 2004-2007, after he left Rutgers for his position with IFM in Denmark; "Experience Based Knowledge in a Science Policy Context," and used his skills in text analysis as well as his theory savvy to steer the research of Teresa Johnson, one of the several graduate students who benefited greatly from working with Doug (Johnson 2007).

It was a privilege to watch Doug mature as a professional. This was evident in his role as a leader in the new "Fisheries Systems" group created in the International Commission for Exploration of the Seas (ICES). Through Doug's relationship with Poul Degnbol, a highly esteemed fisheries biologist, ICES made the bold move of inviting social scientists to participate in its deliberations. As this committee's work developed, Doug eventually added diplomacy to his large skill set. And it was through both diplomacy and the respect he was granted for the high quality of his research, I believe, that he was able to carry out the extraordinary study he did of ICES and its halting movement toward ecosystem-based fisheries management.

That research provides an opportunity to

review some of the major contributions Doug made to the social science of fisheries. In the short two decades since Doug appeared at my door as a post-doc, he emerged as one of the leading scholars of the fisheries commons and an internationally acclaimed leader in the sociology of marine fisheries. *The Paradoxes of Transparency: Science and the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management in Europe* (Amsterdam University Press, 2009) is brilliant testimony (see also (McCay 2010)). The book is based on his research among fishery scientists and managers in Europe who have been grappling with the task of managing marine fisheries, a difficult and complex matter in itself, in the context of efforts to do so in an ecologically sensitive way, even more challenging and yet critical to the future.

Wilson's principal innovation was the development and application of theory about decision-making for complex adaptive governance of the commons. Over the years, and reaching fruition in the book, he developed communicative systems theory, adapted from his reading of Habermas as well as commons scholars such as Ostrom. The question, in Doug's rendition, is how people as social actors make decisions. What do they bring to this communication challenge? To what extent is the process rational in the sense of being based on careful and reasoned deliberation of the facts and weighing of the values and interests at hand, as distinct from decisions that are made through the influence of status and prestige, the exercise of the power of authority, or the exchange of money. The first, so-called "rational communication," is far more embedded in the rich mixture of shared background meanings that make communication possible, but, as he argued, it may not be adequate or appropriate for large-scale, complex systems, such as marine ecosystems.



The second major theoretical innovation is to argue for the importance of scientific knowledge in the governance of complex systems of the commons, and within that framework to identify the theoretical issues or challenges facing the application of science, the so-called “paradoxes of transparency.” Many commons scholars have focused on the importance of local knowledge, traditional ecological knowledge, and other non-scientific sources of knowledge and understanding, and the importance of co-production of knowledge in “co-management” of the commons. Doug took this a big step further, by focusing on science itself as it plays out in particular institutional settings, with the goal of contributing to adaptive governance of marine fisheries—the classic situation of both open access and controlled commons.

Science is built upon the value and goal of transparency, but, as Wilson argued and showed at length in his book, the techniques used to attain transparency in science often undermine themselves. He outlined four general transparency paradoxes: (1) of precision and expertise, where, for example, the high level of quantification allows for the scientific goal of replication, but it also requires mathematical expertise that is difficult to acquire; (2) of quantification and reification, or how measurement transforms and invents phenomena, sometimes giving an illusion of certainty and precision that is not justified, such as a fish stock as a singular entity; (3) of surveillance, whereby the requirement of openness of negotiations to others can make it difficult for the scientists to search for consensus or the negotiators to search for compromise; and (4) of scale, in that efforts to involve a large number of people can distort information and pose challenges to the coordination of behavior. Briefly, if fewer people are involved, such coordination can be done



Photo credit: Bonnie McCay

Svein Jentoft, Dick Merritt and Doug Wilson

through rational communication, but with larger numbers of people, more coercion, through authority, status, or financial means, is required, and the information being shared can lose richness and nuance, becoming systematically distorted.

The problem of scale is a major one for “commons” scholarship, and a third innovative aspect of Wilson’s work, already hinted at above, was his attention to the problem through the question of how an international scientific institution, ICES, addresses and adapts itself to the challenges of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. He highlighted the dual or contradictory feature of this scale of commons management in that it requires centralized decision-making to handle the interagency coordination and multi-disciplinary expertise required as well as the larger spatial scope of management units, but it also requires more decentralized and participatory decision-making across multiple scales because of the need for detailed information and knowledge about ecological and social processes occurring across many scales, from local to global. He moved further, by analyzing the dilemmas facing ICES and its scientists and suggesting organizational changes required to meet these needs.



Wilson's innovative contributions were thus solidly in the realm of social theory, both developing that theory and applying it to very specific and important commons governance problems. They are evident in the 2009 book, in his numerous articles, and in the research traditions he has played a major role in creating, particularly during his tenures as editor of the International Association for the Study of the Commons Digest, as research scientist of a leading fisheries institution in Denmark, and as a leader of the interdisciplinary study of fisheries systems within ICES. I am honored to have been his colleague and friend.

Doug was a man of extremes, reciting very long poems; drinking huge quantities of the finest Belgian beers; eating nothing but canned tuna fish for months at a time; raising the bar for would-be grooms by singing a love song for his new bride, Sussi Konghøj, at their wedding; and reading everything that Jurgen Habermas ever wrote. Doug had the most theoretically active and creative mind I have ever encountered. Yes, his obsession with German social theorists was wearying, and I observed that discipline does sometimes create disciples. But Doug was not one to parrot the language and ideas of his mentors; instead, he developed his own theoretical interpretation, one that he was able to explain even to me and to use imaginatively and productively in research settings. Although I shudder at terms like "life world," I am forever persuaded through Doug's efforts to persuade me and others. It pervades everything he did and is well developed in many of his writings. However, Doug felt that he had more to say on the matter, and in early October 2013, close to the end of his life, he and I talked excitedly about revising a paper we first wrote and presented in 1998 (Wilson and McCay 1998a) that could pull together the many

strands of his theory. A man of extremes indeed.

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Memories of Doug

Leticia Merino

President

International Association for the Study of the Commons

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Doug had a long history with the IASCP: as a member of the association and participant in the IASC conferences; as editor of the *Common Property Resource Digest* and thus, an ex-officio council member; and as an elected member of the Council, including, finally elected as president. During the eleven years I knew him, I found he was really passionate about the theme of the commons and about the Association. From 1999 to 2005 as editor of the *Digest* he published 26 issues. In 2006 he became an elected council member. He had a key role in the First IASC European Conference held in Brescia, Italy in 2007, and backed strongly the proposal of the XII IASC Conference in the UK, where "the Commons Act" that acknowledged the patrimonial value of the Commons in England had recently been approved by the parliament. That conference was hosted by the Countryside and Community Research Institute of the University of Gloucestershire, that play a key role providing empirical evidence in order to support the advocacy in favor of the Commons Act. Doug also directly supported the second IASC African Conference, in Cape Town, where he is warmly remembered.

I first met Doug in 2002 in Zimbabwe, the day before the opening of the IX IASCP conference in Victoria Falls, hosted by the University of Zimbabwe. I well remember that meeting of the IASCP council with Janice

Alcorn, Roberto Dieguez, Owen Lynch, Erling Berge, Bonnie McCay and Doug himself held in a tent (the meetings of that conference were held in tents because the hotel got where the conference took place burned some months before). I was asked to attend that conference in order to present my proposal to organize the X IASCP Conference in Oaxaca, Mexico in 2004. While exhausted after many hours of travel, I was questioned during the meeting about the organizing experience I had, the support and the team I could gather, about the pros and cons to holding a conference in Mexico, and in Oaxaca itself which had already a reputation of having very corrupt and sometimes violent authorities. Doug questioned me, increasingly seriously; I was even a bit afraid of him. I answered the best I could, but arguing that, as in the case of Zimbabwe, in the presence of authoritarian and corrupt governments, we find in Oaxaca a long story of community resistance and self-organization, well-preserved natural systems whose main threats come from centralized policies foreign to local realities, and the impacts of neoliberal policies in rural Mexico. The X IASC Oaxaca Conference was held ten years after Mexico entered the North American free trade agreement.

I was passionate about hosting an IASCP conference in Oaxaca -where I had worked for a long time. I left the room, the Council had to receive other proposals and make a decision. Leaving the room I did not know



Photo credit: Bonnie McCay

Doug Wilson and Wim van Densen

what to think; I knew the other proposals were solid and good, mine seemed to me a costly fairy tale, as I proposed to cover all the sessions with simultaneous translation. The next day to my surprise I was called to the tent of the IASCP council and told my proposal was selected. Later I knew that Doug had been one of the strongest supporters of the proposal of the Conference in Oaxaca. When I left that second meeting he approached me and told me "be careful what you wish for, because you may get it." In fact, I had in front of me two very hard-working years; I discovered that Doug had spoken from his own experience with the association.

When Doug became an elected member of the IASC Council his commitment was clear. In 2008 when the economic crisis in North America hit IASC's traditional funders, we had to face the need to change our operating and economic model, relying more in the contributions from the members, trying to become more relevant to their work. I remember how many times Doug insisted in the viability and need to sustain the IASC in spite of the hardship, he use to emphasize the need to be funded "by our doing, not merely by our being." For him that meant that the large body of knowledge produced by the IASC members, and at IASC conferences, had

to be more widely known and considered pertinent to address contemporary pressing problems. In fact many of the ideas and inspiration that has enabled the maintenance of the IASC came from Doug.

The XIII IASC conference in Hyderabad, India, organized by the Foundation for Ecological Security in January 2011 was the last IASC conference that Doug attended; soon after that conference he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and start his courageously fight of the disease. Despite his illness, he decided to remain in the Council, I was very touched when he told me he gave me his vote in case of need for decision making in Council meetings he could not attend. I was pleased with the decision of the nominating committee in 2012 to nominate him as president-elect and by him becoming president-elect in early 2013. His election was a recognition of his vision, commitment and work of many years for the IASC, and in favor of the commons.

He was optimistic, accepted the role of president-elect and planned to attend the XIV IASC in June 2014 in Fujiyoshida, Japan. Two months before the conference, he found he would not be able to travel. During the the XIV IASC conference, in spite of his absence, the IASC gave him a special recognition for "Outstanding Commitment" to the Association. He maintained regular contact with the Council until the very end. With Doug's passing we lost a devoted and bright colleague. With his memory, his work, his friendship, the ideals in common we gained new insights, inspiration and courage to follow up.

Thank you Doug!!!

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In memoriam of Doug Wilson **One who combined wisdom, passion and humor with science**

Tobias Haller

Professor

Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern, Switzerland

When getting involved in the IASC, which was still called IASCP (the “p” was for “property”) in 2004, I was quickly put in touch with Doug as he was the person doing commons studies in Africa. But more specifically we were interested in the same country, Zambia, where he did research in fisheries and co-management initiatives. At that time, I led a comparative research in 5 African countries on the management of the commons in floodplains including seven MA and PhD students from the University of Zurich. As we were putting our material together for comparison and organized a small conference, we wanted to have someone from the IASC to attend and help us in the discussion. Doug quickly responded and came to Zurich. He was not just interested but he provided us with many centrally important insights that helped us in the process of comparison. Issues of local perceptions and variation of position in resource management were central topics he pushed us to look deeper and further. His great sense of abstraction and his sense of humor were highlights in the discussions. He then also proposed to us to publish findings in the *Digest*, which was the first publication on the project and was a great help for further publications. Later on, he put me in contact with several researchers in Southern Africa for a large EU project. Even now I admire his scientific and organizational strength to pull as many people together –most importantly African scholars– in order to produce an

African science view on common pool management and institutions. Thanks to him a network was created that was extremely stimulating. His personality to always get to the core issues while listening to the many views before that made him the ideal co-ordinator; he never lost the overview and gave us all a sense of home in research. Even thorny tasks such as accountings or putting policy briefs together became bearable. I remember one IASC regional African meeting where at the end, when everyone was extremely exhausted he succeeded to make us collectively write a coherent piece of recommendations that I still consider one of the best in this field – and I have seen many.

Doug was fascinated about Africa and a passionate researcher who could push others in a friendly way always to keep the focus while trying to include and make sense of multiple voices, positions and issues. He was the collective action man in the very sense of scientific collaboration and cooperation that was, I felt, fueled by his interest, love and passionate care for Africa and its people. He really looked for solutions to problems, but he was clear about that these solutions had to come from good research in participation. I cannot think of anyone who tried to show better than him what collective action means. At the same time his scholarly work generally did not exclude political and power related issues.

On the other hand I felt that he had been a bit of a single wolf and I felt so happy for him



when I got to know that he got married, to become extremely sad when I heard of his sickness. Having lost several colleagues these last five years because of cancer I was very much worried but I also hoped for Doug's recovery, as I knew that progress had been made in this field. In the too rare occasions of e-mail and phone contacts with him, his basic comment was: "It just sucks!" – bringing on the point, as always, how the situation was.

With Doug we lose a great figure scientifically and organizationally for the IASC and a good president that he wanted to be in the end – but most sadly, we lost a great colleague and encouraging friend who combined wisdom, passion and humor with science.

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Douglas Clyde Kongshøj Wilson Championing Cross-disciplinary and Cross-sectoral Commons Management

Mafaniso Hara

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While at the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) conference in Hyderabad in 2011, Doug, two other colleagues, and I had planned to go out for dinner after the day's programme. Later Doug told us that he wished to be excused from going to dinner as he was not feeling well. He intimated that he felt like a stomach burn and did not feel like eating. We assumed it was just a reaction to a strong curry (being in India!) from the previous day. These symptoms continued in the next few days to the extent that he had to go back home (Denmark) earlier than planned while attending the post-conference IASC Executive Committee meetings, to which he was a member and president-elect for 2015. It was shocking therefore to hear three months later that what we had thought as being a reaction to a curry was actually pancreatic cancer.

Doug did his doctoral studies on Lake Victoria in the early 1990s (Dissertation title: *The Critical Human Ecology of the Lake Victoria Fishing Industry*) and obtained his PhD from Michigan State University (1996). Throughout his working life thereafter, he continued his passion for African fisheries, especially the fishing communities. While at IFM (Innovative Fisheries Management) he led and participated in a number of European Union-funded collaborative projects on African fisheries between IFM and a consortia of southern African institutions and partners such as KNOWFISH (Knowledge base for Fisheries Management: 2001- 2004), CROSCOG (Cross Sectoral Governance of Commons in Southern Africa: 2007 - 2009) and DARMA (Defragmenting Resource Management in Southern Africa: 2009 - 2013). These projects culminated in publications such as the 2003 book (Wilson,



Photo credit: Sussi Kongshøj

Doug Wilson

D.C., J.R. Nielsen and P. Degnbol (Eds.) *The Fisheries Co-management Experience: Accomplishments, Challenges and Prospects*. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers), special issues in *Development Southern Africa* (Vol. 26, No. 4, October 2009) and *International Journal of the Commons* (Vol. 4, No. 2, 2010) and many other publications, conference presentations and policy briefs. Some of the findings of the project he was involved in at the time of his death (Defragmenting Resource Management in Southern Africa - DARMA) will be published in a special issue on the *International Journal of the Commons* while the case material for four of the cases studies (Lake Chilwa, Lake Kariba, the Southeast Arm of Lake Malawi and the Okavango Delta) have been published as books by Lit Verlag, Berlin, Germany. The projects were also important in terms of capacity building, producing a number of doctorates for African researchers and scholars. He acted as supervisor and co-supervisor for a number of these doctoral students.

Doug's particular interests and specialties were around the sociology of science and the knowledge base for fisheries management. He was a strong and avid

advocate of inter-disciplinary and cross-sectoral conceptualisation of commons management and sustainability science. The projects listed above which he helped to conceptualise, lead in proposal writing and actively collaborated in undertaking with us, the Southern African partners, are symptomatic of this specialisation and passion. In Africa where over 75% of the populations are rural-based and heavily dependent on natural resources for livelihoods, this approach that champions managing commons as complex a cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral perspective as social-ecological systems is particularly pertinent. Doug pushed for this type of scholarship, research and policy engagement in his students and with his partners in Southern Africa.

Even during the time when was receiving chemotherapy and was obviously in great pain and suffering, he continued to engage with, comment on and chat with us about work with his usual sharp intellect and urgency. All the time, until the last couple of weeks of his life, I continued to chat to him on the phone or skype, and he never complained about how he was feeling, even though those physically close to him intimated that he was in great pain. It was typical of Doug that he wanted to come and attend the final conference for the DARMA project in Cape Town (South Africa) in April 2013, until wise counsel from colleagues in Denmark and his family prevailed over him not to! Hamba kahle Doug Clyde Kongshøj Wilson. Continue the good work wherever you are. We know you are in a good place because of your big heart and personality.

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Remembering Doug

Svein Jentoft

Professor

Norwegian College of Fishery Science, UiT, Norway's Artic University, Tromsø, Norway

When Doug (Douglas Clyde Kongshøj Wilson) passed away about a year ago, I did not only lose a close colleague, I also lost a dear friend. This is also how many of us will remember and grieve him. It is a sad thing for me to have to write about him in the past tense, especially when all it takes to bring him alive is to close my eyes and hear him laughing – which he did often. As a colleague, to remember him takes just to go to the shelf and pick up a book by him. We worked and published together, for which I am grateful and proud. Writing together means more than putting words on paper. It is also about establishing a relationship, confirmed forever by the printing of our names next to each other.

There are so many good things to remember about Doug, as when he used to come to the international film festival that we have in Tromsø every year in January. At that time we are still waiting for the sun to return after two months of hiding. The dark winter never stopped him from coming back. Watching movies together from distant places and cultures, and discussing them afterwards, was always enjoyable. His observations were always sharp and well-articulated.

Doug complained that he never got to see the Aurora when in Tromsø, which I always promised him. He teased me that it could just be a trick to attract tourists. But the last time he came for the film festival, he could see it from my veranda when he got up in the middle of the night and found it fascinating and impressive – which it truly is. He was very sick then.

Doug had a distinguished career as a fisheries social scientist, which made him well-known and highly respected within academia and fisheries policy circles around the world. He had a background from research in Africa and the US before he came to Denmark to work for the IFM – Innovative Fisheries Management – located then in Hirtshals, at the northern tip of the Jutland. He later became professor at close by Aalborg University. Doug was an important asset at his institutions.

Doug lives on in his many research articles and books. As co-editor of the MARE Book Series, then at University of Amsterdam Press (now at Springer), it was a privilege for me to help publishing his “The Paradox of Transparency” (2009). The book is about the work that goes on within the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) when quotas are negotiated. In the book he also could draw on his intellectual favorite, Jürgen Habermas. It stands out as an essential contribution to the sociology of knowledge in fisheries management. For this contribution he also draws a lot of admiration within that institution and the marine natural science community. Doug was also a passionate admirer of both Elinor Ostrom and Bonnie McCay. They both inspired much of his work.

It was nice to see him grow to become such a prominent fisheries scholar on the European arena. Not only did he, as an American, find that he could excel academically here, he also became part of the local community where he got many



friends, also within the choir which he enjoyed so much. In Denmark he also found Sussi Kongshøj, the love of his life and who he married. Doug was a happy man, and considered himself to be very fortunate. I never heard him express bitterness, but he was definitely not ready to die. It is painful to think of the cruel fact that he and Sussi got less than a year before he fell ill – at the Common Property meeting in Hyderabad. I was in Tenerife when my wife called and told about the diagnosis. I remember vividly where I was, and how it felt. This is a moment that will stay with me.

I first got to know him while on a sabbatical leave at Rutgers University in 1996-97. We had offices next to each other and spent a lot of time together. He invited my wife and I to meet his family in Connecticut, where he grew up. Doug was a warm and generous person, always interesting to talk to, always fun to be around, even during his illness. He kept his humor despite his tragedy. I visited him a couple of weeks before he passed away. We had many laughs around the dinner table; I have us on tape. The last thing he said when he waved goodbye was: "I will see you at the film festival." I think we both knew then that it would not be.



Photo credit: Alyne Delaney

White flowers to remember Doug

In a small jar he had commissioned, he reserved a bit of his ashes for friends. When spring arrives and the ground thaws, I will put it into the ground and plant a tree there. The exact location is already selected: our summer cottage outside Tromsø, where he visited several times. To watch the tree grow and bloom will always remind me and my family of who he was and how he could still have been. And then, when the leaves fall in the autumn, we will remember how much we miss him.

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Recent Publications

Emily Castle

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BOOKS

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Announcements

Send Letters and Announcements to Alyne Delaney, Editor, Commons Digest, Innovative Fisheries Management, Aalborg University, Skibbrogade 5, Aalborg 9000, Denmark. ad@ifm.aau.dk Tel: +45 99 40 36 94

Be part of the IASC!

IASC is itself a commons, and depends on its membership dues for many of the critical activities it undertakes. Become a member!
<https://membership.iasc-commons.org/>

Suscribe to the newsletter! Tell a friend! The newsletter is the easiest way to receive all the news about the association Click here to sign up, or contact us at iasc@iasc-commons.org to post announcements - conferences, job positions, etc. - and reach the +3K members of our community:
<https://membership.iasc-commons.org/civicrm/profile/create?gid=12&reset=1>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline Extension - Call for abstracts for IASC 2015 Global Conference open until December 1st

The deadline to submit Individual Presentation Abstracts has been extended until December 1st, 2014.

The XV IASC Global Conference, titled The Commons Amidst Complexity and Change, will take place from the 25th to the 29th of May, 2015, in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

The conference will focus on many kinds of

common-pool resources including fisheries, forests, and water resources as well as a host of emergent problems of social and environmental change. Participants in the conference will be invited to share ideas, evidence and practical solutions on questions of poverty, food security, social-ecological resilience, effective governance, human rights, indigenous knowledge, sustainable natural resource development and climate change.

More information on the call for abstracts, Conference topics and organization may be found on the conference website:
www.iasc2015.org

For more information about the conference contact: Dr. Brenda Parlee, University of Alberta at bparlee@ualberta.ca

Assistant Cooperative Extension Specialist In Rangeland Planning And Policy - University of California, Berkeley

The Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at the University of California, Berkeley seeks an Assistant Cooperative Extension Specialist (Fiscal Year) in Rangeland Planning and Policy. The Specialist would investigate the linkages between policy and planning processes, and environmental outcomes on rangelands at multiple scales. Rangelands are grasslands, meadows, shrublands, and savannas.

The candidate should be able to work productively with diverse communities and stakeholders, and to build cross-disciplinary teams to meet the diverse challenges of rangeland conservation and management. Salary is commensurate with experience.

To apply, please go to the following link:
<https://aprecruit.berkeley.edu/apply/JPF00579>.

The initial review date is December 1, 2014. Applications received by this date will receive



priority. To receive full consideration, please submit all materials prior to this date; however, this position will remain open until filled. Please direct questions to espm_recruit@berkeley.edu.

UC Berkeley has an excellent benefits package as well as a number of policies and programs in place to support employees as they balance work and family. The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status.

Job posting: Tenure Analyst (Manager Level) at Rights and Resources Initiative

The Tenure Analyst is responsible for conducting and managing original, high-quality research on forest and land tenure, climate, conservation, and women's land rights in the world's developing and forested countries, maintaining and advancing RRI's global tenure methodologies and databases, coordinating collaborative work on RRI priority themes, and contributing to other aspects of RRI's Global Programs and the Coalition.

This responsibility requires demonstration of effective and proactive decision-making, and exceptional research and analytical skills. The position requires excellent communications skills and multicultural awareness, as the Tenure Analyst will work with RRI's diverse global coalition and all levels of staff. The Tenure Analyst must also be prepared to assist with activities and projects outside the realm of her/his duties defined below as the needs of the Coalition dictate to deliver maximum progress toward the Coalition's objectives.

This position reports to the Director of Global Programs.

This is a full-time position based in Washington, DC.

Information on essential job functions and required qualifications, experience and skills may be found on IASC Website: <http://www.iasc-commons.org/blog/job-posting-tenure-analyst-manager-level-rights-and-resources-initiative>.

To Apply

Please send a cover letter, your resume, and a short writing sample (1-2 pages maximum) in English and Spanish or French to human resources (hr@rightsandresources.org) with the position title "Tenure Analyst" in the subject line. Only applicants selected for interviews will be contacted. No phone calls please.

Rights and Resources Group is a non-profit organization that serves as the coordinating mechanism for the Rights and Resources Initiative, a global coalition to advance forest tenure, policy and market reforms. Rights and Resources Group is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Job Announcement: Assistant Professor - Marine Ecosystems and Society

The Department of Marine Ecosystems and Society at the Rosenstiel School seeks individuals with a PhD in a discipline relevant to marine and/or coastal resource management. We seek a quantitative social scientist who can integrate physical and natural science data with theories and methods from the social sciences. We seek applicants from diverse social science fields, including but not limited to, economics, decision sciences, and the broadly defined policy sciences.

The successful candidate will have an excellent research record related to the study of human-environment relations, an ability to secure



extramural funds, and strong teaching and communication skills. They will be expected to develop an active interdisciplinary research program, in collaboration with researchers from the University's Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy and elsewhere across the University; to teach both undergraduate and graduate courses; and to advise masters and PhD students. We are seeking a hire at the rank of Assistant Professor. Exceptional applicants at other ranks may also be considered. Our strategic plan includes 16 faculty hires in the next few years, across all departments.

Please submit your CV, the names and contact information for three references, a sample of scholarly writing, and a concise statement of research interests via email to: MESSearch@rsmas.miami.edu. This position will remain open until filled. We anticipate conducting interviews for the positions in February 2015.

The University of Miami is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Affirmative Action Employer. Females/Minorities/Protected Veterans/Individuals with Disabilities are encouraged to apply.

More information on: <http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/research/departments/marine-ecosystems-and-society/faculty-employment-opportunities>

Commons in Action - New video on Knowledge Commons

Commons are forms of governance and governance strategies for resources created and owned collectively. Knowledge commons governance is likely to be key to successfully addressing important social issues in medicine, environmental protection, education, science and beyond. It is critical for us to study knowledge commons and learn how variations and governance affect outcomes: what works,

what doesn't. Recently a group of university researchers affiliated with IASC has founded a new internet based research network called Workshop on Governing Knowledge Commons.

We encourage others interested in these topics to connect with us!

Watch the new video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3N9Gb3bKzQ>

Keynotes recordings of the 2nd IASC Conference on Knowledge Commons available online

The keynotes of the 2nd Thematic Meeting on #knowledgecommons are now available on our YouTube channel. The keynotes feature lectures from Michael McGinnis, Eric von Hippel and Yochai Benkler

Michael McGinnis discusses how Elinor Ostrom's research on common property in the sustainable management of shared resources apply to individual micro-cosmos in health care delivery in the United States, as well as to the aggregate processes at the community and national levels.

Eric von Hippel discusses that, as a result of individual consumers protecting their innovations via intellectual property rights, the designs most user innovators create are potentially freely available to any potential adopter or to a commons. He also discusses how, because the innovations are freely revealed, user innovators may have no or too little incentive to actively invest in diffusing their innovation-related information to others.

In his keynote lecture, Yochai Benkler discusses how the emergence and growth of rich literature on the commons during the past three decades has challenged and pushed back against five intellectual foundations of what he considers to



be a financial, dehumanized form of late-twentieth-century capitalism.

The keynotes may be watched here:
<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAAFvhxfMjvequKaxOXqRUeO96a627pcn>

Call for Proposals to Host IASC XVI Global Conference

The International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) is now accepting preliminary proposals from individuals or organizations interested in HOSTING our 16th Global Conference for 2017.

IASC Global Conferences bring together commons scholars and practitioners from around the world. The benefits of hosting these conferences for your organization include an expanded network of both global and regional commons scholars, substantial organizational capacity building, and a major opportunity to place a spotlight on the needs of people dependent on commons in your region. The past few conferences have drawn 450-700 participants, from up to 90 countries.

The flexibility in timing is meant to accommodate possible regional differences in the best times of year to schedule meetings.

Those interested should submit a statement identifying your interests in hosting an IASC conference.

Proposals must be sent electronically no later than December 15, 2014 to Simone Buratti, IASC Executive Director at: [iasc\[at\]iasc-commons.org](mailto:iasc[at]iasc-commons.org)

For additional information, please contact: Simone Buratti, IASC Executive Director [buratti.simone\[at\]iasc-commons.org](mailto:buratti.simone[at]iasc-commons.org)