



The 90th KUASS

Kyoto University African Studies Seminar

“Livelihoods in Balance? Resilience Contestations in a Delicate Montane Socio-Ecology in Eastern Uganda”



Thursday 25 July 2019, 15:00 - 16:30



**Room #318 (CAAS Seminar Room),
3F, Inamori Center, Kyoto University**

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Whilst montane socio-ecologies signify major production systems in Uganda, a common narrative avers that they are highly degraded and prevalent with natural hazards. In the montane landscapes (>1500masl), a significant proportion of the livelihoods (>80%) are intricately linked to Environment and natural resources (ENR) particularly rainfed agricultural activities.



The occurrence of soil erosion and landslides in montane socio-ecologies, coupled with high population densities and growth rates above the national levels are often invoked to contest the resilience of livelihoods and ecosystem in these geographies. This narrative linearly conceives human environmental interactions in montane regions as retrogressively tilted. How valid is this narrative in the fragile but strongly coupled Mt. Elgon in Eastern Uganda? This talk unravels the intricacies, dichotomies of land degradation on Mt. Elgon both from the social as well as natural science

perspectives and expounds on proximate and underlying issues. It draws information and knowledge from multiple sources including; (a) deeper interactions with the studied communities spanning a period of about 20years (b) social survey studies conducted in the communities (c) experimental and modelling studies at various scales and (d) synthesis of scattered studies in the region. Conspicuously emerging from the above are resilience contestations and randomness in the physical processes.

Jamba!



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