

Benjamin D. Neimark, Ph.D.

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RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Human geographer with research and teaching interests in political ecology, political economy, and natural resource extraction, specifically biological prospecting, international environmental policy and governance, environmental justice, and uneven development with a regional focus on Africa and Madagascar.

EDUCATION

- 2009** Ph.D., Rutgers University, Department of Geography.
Dissertation title: "Industrial heartlands of nature: The political economy of biological prospecting in Madagascar."
Certificate in Human Dimensions of Environmental Change, Certificate in African Studies.
- 2001** M.S., Cornell University, Horticulture Department.
Thesis topic: Vegetation propagation strategies of agro-forestry trees in Madagascar.
- 1995** B.S., State University of New York at Buffalo, Social Science and Interdisciplinary Studies - Concentration in Environmental Science.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- 2009-** Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Urban Studies, Temple University (since 2008).
- 2009-** Head Academic Advisor, Environmental Studies Program, Temple University.
- 2009-** Research Associate, New Use Agriculture and Natural Plant Products (NUANPP), Rutgers University (since 2005).
- 2007-08** Fellowship Advisor, CHASER, Graduate Student External Support Research Center, Rutgers University.
- 2004-05** Graduate Instructor, Department of Geography, Rutgers University.
- 2002** Project Coordinator, Agribusinesses in Sustainable Natural African Plant Products (ASNAPP), Rutgers University.
- 2002** Editorial Consultant, World Resources Institute, Washington DC.
- 2001** Research Consultant, Chemonics International, Washington DC.
- 2000** International Election Monitor, United States Department of State/OSCE, Belgrade Serbia.

- 1999** Environmental Educator, Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh, India.
- 1995-97** Extension Agent, Ministry of Forestry/Agriculture, Peace Corps, Korçë, Albania.
- 1990** Assistant Grant Writer, Siskiyou Regional Education Project, Medford, Oregon.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Neimark, B.**, and R. Schroeder (forthcoming) "Hotspot discourse in Africa: Making space for bioprospecting in Madagascar," *African Geographical Review* Vol. 28.
- Neimark, B.** (under review) "Industrializing nature, knowledge, and labour: A case study of bioprospecting in Madagascar," *The Professional Geographer*.
- Neimark, B.** (under review) "Finessing access to natural commodities: A case study of *Prunus africana* in Madagascar," *Development and Change*.
- Neimark, B.** (under review) "At the 'Pharm.' Gate: The Mann-Dickinson thesis and the 'natural' barriers of bioprospecting production in Madagascar," *Journal of Peasant Studies*.
- Neimark, B.** (in preparation) "Global goods: Third World nature and its importance for the bioprospecting industry?" Proposed submission November 2009, *Geoforum*.

BOOK CHAPTERS AND NON-PEER REVIEW PUBLICATIONS

- Neimark, B. 2009** "Models of benefit sharing natural products: Opportunities and challenges in ensuring ethical natural product discovery," In: Simon, J. and H., Juliani (eds.), *African Natural Plant Products: New Discoveries and Challenges in Chemistry and Quality*. American Chemical Society, Washington, DC.
- Neimark, B. 2004** "Shifting propagation: The political economy of bioprospecting in Madagascar." e-Scholarship Repository, University of California: Center for African Studies, University of California, Berkeley.
- Neimark, B. 1996** "*Natyre*: A comprehensive environmental education guide in Albania," Albanian Pedagogy Institute: Tirana.

TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS

- Simon, J., Juliani, R., Acquaye, D., Jefthas, E., Asante-Dartey, J., Hitimana, N., Diatta, M., Diouf, B., Langenhoven, P., Tannous, P., Renaud, E., Daka, A., **Neimark, B.**, Hughes, K., Moharram, H., Goliath, J., Govindasamy, R., Brown, J., and C. Wilson. **2006** "Sustainable development of African natural plant products." American Association of Industrial Crops Meeting and the 6th New Crops Symposium: Creating Markets for Economic Development of New Crops and New Uses. San Diego, CA.

- Simon, J. Juliani, H., **Neimark, B.**, Moharram, H. and M. Wang. **2003** “Quality control for natural plant products of Madagascar. Support and capacity building tools for the natural plant products label. Agribusiness in Sustainable Natural African Plant Products technical publication.” Submitted to Chemonics International Inc. and the Landscape Development Interventions Project (LDI-Madagascar).
- Moharram, H., Renaud, E., **Neimark, B.**, Simon J. and H. Juliani. **2003** “Good agriculture practices, good collection practices, and good manufacturing practices. Target crop focus: Rooibos tea (*Aspalanthus linearis*). Country focus: South Africa. Target community supported: Wupperthal.” Agribusiness in Sustainable Natural African Plant Products, Technical publication.
- Simon, J., Juliani, H., Wu, Q., Park, C., **Neimark, B.**, Govindasamy, R., Gavin, L. and G. Ghai, **2000** “Artemisia and Madagascar: An assessment and technical assistance for Business and Market Expansion Program (BAMEX).” Chemonics International Inc. Washington. DC.
- Neimark, B** and E. Styger, **1999** “Sustainable agriculture research in Madagascar.” Cornell University and Chemonics International Sponsored Programs for the Landscape Development Interventions Project. USAID, Washington DC. 100pp.

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2009** Temple University General Education Peer Teaching Award, **\$2000** (Shared award for curriculum design).
- 2009** Global Goods Conference, Associated Departmental Funding Grants, **\$5000**
- 2008** Aluka Award for Innovative Teaching, **\$2,000**.
- 2007** Rutgers University, Dissertation Teaching Award, **\$3,500** (Award for curriculum design).
- 2006** Rutgers University, Louis Bevier Fellowship Award, **\$16,500**.
- 2005** Fulbright Institute for International Education (IIE), Dissertation Award, **\$24,500**.
- 2005** Chemonics International, Contract Award to New Use Agriculture and Natural Plant Products Project, **\$36,000** (Award provided to NUANPP project - **\$8000** for my individual research).
- 2004** Rutgers University Graduate School Pre-dissertation Research Award **\$1,500**.
- 2002** Agribusiness in Sustainable Natural African Plant Products and Conservation International Start-up Grant for Environmental Programs in Madagascar **\$10,000** (Award provided to ASNAPP project, co-author of proposal).
- 2000** Cornell Agroforestry Working Group, Mini-Grant, **\$3500**.
- 1999** Chemonics International/Cornell Institute for Food Agriculture and Development, Research Stipend, **\$20,000**.
- 1998** Heinz Foundation, Grant for Environmental Research, **\$6500**.

TEACHING EXPERIANCE

Date		Course title	Undergrad. enrolment
Fall	2009	Sustainable Environments	144 students
		Hazards Geography	15 students
Summer	2009	Sustainable Environments	11 students
		African Development	8 students
Spring	2009	Sustainable Environments*	139 students
		African Development	42 students
		Political Ecology	15 students
Fall	2008	Sustainable Environments	120 students
		Hazards Geography	30 students
Spring	2008	Special topics in Geography*	30 students
Summer	2007	Africa and the Environment	39 advanced scholars
Spring	2005	Earth Systems (co-Instructor)	312 students
Fall	2004	Geography of Europe	40 students
Spring	2004	Geo. Background to World Affairs	38 students

* Recipient of teaching award

CONFERENCES AND PANELS, ORGANIZED, CHAIRED, AND DISCUSSED

- 2009** "Global goods: Changing perspectives on trade, human rights and the environment" Conference Co-organizer, New Brunswick, NJ, April.
- 2009** "Making markets, maintaining morality," Panel chair for the Global Goods: Changing Perspectives on Trade, Human Rights and the Environment Conference, New Brunswick, NJ, April.
- 2007** "Environmental rights in Madagascar," Panel organizer African Studies Association, Annual Meeting New York, October.
- 2007** "New political ecology research in Madagascar," Panel organizer at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, San Francisco, April.
- 2003** "The First and Third World binary: Political ecology differences and continuities," Discussant, First World Political Ecology Conference, Rutgers University. March.

CONFERENCES AND PANELS PRESENTED

- 2009** "Climate change, social vulnerability, and hazards: The science behind the stories." Introductory Presentation for the Temple University Environmental Law Society Teach-In on Climate Change, Philadelphia, PA, October.
- 2009** "Ethical bioprospecting in a Malagasy hotspot?" Paper presented for the Global Goods: Changing Perspectives on Trade, Human Rights and the Environment Conference, New Brunswick, NJ, April.
- 2009** "The proliferation of biodiversity hotspots and the politics of 'enframing'" Paper presented for the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Panel title: Conservation, Materiality, and Practice, Las Vegas, April.

- 2008** “Eden articulated: The co-evolution of hotspot science and bioprospecting in Madagascar,” Paper presented for the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Panel title: Advancing Environmentalism. Boston, April.
- 2008** “Environmentalism and biological prospecting in Madagascar,” Paper presented for the Center of African Studies, Research Fellows Workshop, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, March.
- 2007** “Bio-prospecting for space, subjects and new drugs in a Madagascar hotspot,” Paper presented at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting Panel title: Environmental Rights in Madagascar, New York, October.
- 2007** “The biological prospecting *filière*: Political ecology of access and extraction in Madagascar,” Paper presented at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Panel title: New political ecology research in Madagascar. San Francisco, April.
- 2006** “Hotspot science and the politics of biological prospecting in Madagascar,” Paper presented at the African Studies Association Annual meeting San Francisco, November.
- 2006** “Commodity chain analysis as a methodology for complex systems: Case study of biological prospecting in Madagascar,” University of California, Berkeley, Madagascar Specialty Studies Group, November.
- 2006** “History of a hotspot: Environmental science, policy and justice in Madagascar,” Center for African Studies Brown Bag Paper Series, October.
- 2006** “The biological prospecting *filière*,” Paper presented at the Association of American Geographers Middle States Geography Conference, Rutgers University, October.
- 2006** “Qualitative research methods in the field,” School for International Training, Guest lecture, Antananarivo, Madagascar, September.
- 2005** “At the pharm. gate: The political economy of biological prospecting in Madagascar,” Paper presented at the American Association of Geographers, Development Areas Specialty Group Pre-conference, Boulder, CO, April.
- 2004** “Industrial heartlands of nature,” Anthropomorphic Environments in Africa, Joint Conference with the Center for African Studies and Princeton University’s Program in African Studies, December.
- 2004** “Research in Africa in a post-9/11 world,” Roundtable discussion in cooperation with the Center for African Studies, Rutgers University, October.
- 2004** “Shifting propagation: The political economy of bioprospecting in Madagascar,” Paper presented at the Breslauer Symposium on Natural Resource Issues in Africa, University of California, Berkeley, March.

MENTORING AND ADVISING

2009 Environmental Studies Program, Temple University

Developed course curriculum for the environmental studies program and advised over 80 students for the academic years of 2008-2009 and the forthcoming 2009-2010 year. Helped in the advanced placement of students into professional positions, internships, grants and awards. Worked with the International Programs office to place students in overseas academic positions and field sites in Costa Rica and the Caribbean.

2007 Graduate Student External Support Research Center, Rutgers University

Mentored and provided peer-review on fellowships and grants for graduate students at Rutgers University. Advised graduate students on external funding support for fellowships, grants and research awards, including the Social Science Research Council, Fulbright Hays and IIE, National Institute of Health, National Science Foundation, and Carnegie Mellon. Organized and participated in workshops on proposal writing, mock review sessions and information sessions on how to apply to major funders. Provided assistance in developing budgets in all fields of the sciences, engineering, humanities and social sciences and at all levels, including postdoctoral.

DETAILED FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2005-06 United States Fulbright Institute for International Education, Madagascar

Spent 14 months conducting in-depth interviews, participant observation and on-site trips within three rural sites in the Taolagnaro, Antsiranana and Sofia regions of Madagascar. In total, I conducted over 125 rural interviews in these three sites. In the capital of Antananarivo, I interviewed 25 elite administrators, scientists and researchers in national research centers, ministries and government institutions. This work was in conjunction with my dissertation field work on the politics and history of biological prospecting.

1999-00 Field Research in Moramonga, Madagascar

In cooperation with the USAID funded Landscape Development Interventions and the Cornell University International Institute for Food Agriculture and Development, I build training materials and conducted field experiments directed at the creation of alternatives to swidden or “slash-and burn” practices. This research involved eight months within the eastern forest corridor of Madagascar and follow-up experiments in the US (Cornell University).

DETAILED NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

2009- Research Associate, New Use Agriculture and Natural Plant Products, Rutgers University

Since, 2005, I have organized and conducted specialized field-based research on new crop introduction of Artemisia and other healthcare based plants, i.e., essential oil and aloe. Edited specific technical publications concerning quality control, quality assurance and good marketing practices, with a USAID-supported sustainable business and marketing development organization in Antananarivo, Madagascar, BAMEX. Coordinated commercial support based programs for new natural product lines of homeopathic and medicinal-plant products. Facilitated the creation of the first Malagasy Natural Products Label, “NATOIRA,” and the procurement of international funding with our partners in Africa (i.e., Chemonics International, Conservation International).

- 2004 Project Coordinator, Agribusiness in Sustainable Natural African Plant Products, Rutgers University**
Wrote, reviewed, and edited project concept papers. Established and strategized goals and objectives for major grants through US governmental donors (USAID), major-foundations and collaborating non-governmental organizations. Established tools for quality control, technical capacity building and sustainable harvesting for the natural plant product (including medicinal plants, spices, teas) sectors of West and East Africa countries, including South Africa, Zambia, Madagascar and Ghana.
- 2003 Editorial Consultant, World Resources Institute Institutions and Governance Program, Washington, DC.**
Edited three working papers for the series entitled, *Decentralization of Natural Resources*. Conducted literature reviews and edited research for the publication of a series of African-based case studies on natural resource and forest politics.
- 2001 Research Consultant, Chemonics International, Washington, DC.**
Editorial chief to the Landscape Development Interventions 150-page annual research report published in May 2000. Developed research and published a chapter in the research report on agroforestry and sustainable agricultural practices conducted in the humid rainforests of Madagascar.
- 1997 International Election Monitor, United States Department of State/ OSCE, Belgrade, Serbia**
Observed presidential and parliamentary elections for the Office of Security and Cooperation in Europe. Monitor of election registration, and polling stations for irregularities that inhibited a free and fair election.
- 1997 Environmental Educator, Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh, India**
Advised six professors and thirty students on windbreak, soil conservation, and reforestation techniques within the unique ecosystem of northern India. Conducted lectures and teacher trainings leading to a primary draft on environmental education curriculum concerning sustainable agricultural and forestry extension.
- 1995-97 Peace Corps Volunteer, United States Peace Corps, Korce, Albania**
Trained four Albanian Forest Service counterparts in the proper application on agroforestry extension techniques. Purchased and supervised planting of 10,000 saplings for the use in soil conservation, windbreaks, and micro-enterprise opportunities. Designed proposals and procured funds for the initial capital required to start two local forest-tree nurseries. Organized the importation of apple tree rootstock from Greece which led to the establishment of eight fruit-tree nurseries around Albania. Spearheaded an environmental education workshop, which developed curriculum on environmental issues for Secondary Schools and Universities throughout Albania. Published the first Comprehensive Environmental Education Guide in Albania, titled *Natyre*. Provided lectures on Environmental Education at the University of Korçe and the Korçe Agricultural High School

- 1991 Assistant Grant Writer, Siskiyou Regional Education Project, Medford, Oregon**
Assisted on the *SREP* major donor and ancient forest fundraising campaigns. Developed ecological tourism opportunities with local wilderness guides and small businesses.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association of American Geographers (AAG) (since 2009)
African Specialty Group of the AAG (since 2009)
Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group of the AAG (since 2009)
Development Geographies Specialty Group of the AAG (since 2008)
African Studies Association (2005-2007)
Graduate Geographer's Project – Graduate student association at Rutgers University (2002-2009)
Center for African Studies, Rutgers University (2002-2009)
Faculty Cluster on the Geopolitics of Petroleum, Rutgers University (2009)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS

English (native)
French (good)
Fluent in Albanian (tested ACTFL expert in 1998)
Malagasy (fair)
Hebrew (fair-reading)

COMPUTER SKILLS

ArcGIS 9, QSR NVivo 7, Windows 95/98/NT/2000/XP, MS DOS, Apple System xx, SPSS, MS Office, MS Excel, MS Word, MS PowerPoint, MS Access, Macromedia Deamweaver MX, Adobe Photoshop CS3 and Illustrator CS3, MS Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Quicken, HTML, GIS- ARC 8.3.

LIST OF REFERENCES

Dr. Richard A. Schroeder (Ph.D. advisor)
Associate Professor
Department of Geography
Rutgers, State University of New Jersey
54 Joyce Kilmer Ave.
Piscataway, NJ 08854
Tel: (732) 986-7944
Email: rschroed@rci.rutgers.edu

Dr. Kevin St Martin (Ph.D. committee member)
Associate Professor
Department of Geography
Rutgers, State University of New Jersey
54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue
Piscataway, NJ 08854
tel: (732) 445-7394
email: kstmarti@rci.rutgers.edu

Dr. David McDermott Hughes (Ph.D. committee member)
Associate Professor
Department of Human Ecology
Rutgers, State University of New Jersey
55 Dudley Road
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Tel: (732)-932-9153 ext. 361
Email: dhughes@aesop.rutgers.edu

Dr. James E. Simon (Ph.D. committee member)
Professor Plant Science
Principle Investigator- New Use Agriculture and Natural Plant Products
59 Dudley Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Tel: (732) 932-9711 ext. 355
Email: jesimon@aesop.rutgers.edu