



FACULTY OF PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES

Contextualising Integrated Coastal Zone Management The Nature of Social-ecological Systems

Public defense to obtain the degree of
DOCTOR OF ADULT EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES
of

Ms. Bieke Abelshausen

which will take place on
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Campus Etterbeek

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Summary

Social-ecological management approaches such as Integrated Coastal Zone Management are characterised by a landscape of 'Islands of knowledge' thereby lessening their integrated nature. These 'Islands of knowledge' express themselves both in theory and practice and can be identified by a lack of interdisciplinarity and a lack of stakeholder participation. The incapability or unwillingness to hold true to integration lies at the basis of this PhD dissertation. By examining real-life examples of Integrated Coastal Zone Management and its associated concepts of participation and knowledge sharing in Vietnam; it is identified that the context (i.e. the Social-ecological characteristics) of a community (local, regional, national or international) influences the sustainability of these management approaches. The manner in which communities are organised (based on kinship and/or livelihood activity) influences the manner in which decisions are made. A relationship is identified that indicates that the manner in which decisions are made in everyday village life influences the manner in which decisions are made within Integrated Coastal Zone Management. Subsequently indicating that the context of a community influences the sustainability of Integrated Coastal Zone Management. The recommendations of this PhD dissertation therefore entail the needs to contextualise Integrated Coastal Zone Management on the one hand to embrace sustainability and on the other hand to remain true to integration.

Curriculum Vitae

Bieke Abelshausen was born in Turnhout on 12 July 1985. She obtained the degree of Master of Science in the Advanced Studies in Human Ecology in 2011 at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) with a thesis titled 'Assessment of knowledge transfer through stakeholder participation in Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Thua Thien Hue, Vietnam'. She started her PhD research at the VUB in November 2012. Her research focusses on the possible influence of context (i.e. social-ecological system) on the integrated nature of approaches aimed at the sustainable management of coastal zones in Vietnam. During the past four years, Bieke Abelshausen has presented her research results at various international and national conferences and has published several articles of her PhD dissertation in international peer-reviewed scientific journals.