

## **Dr. Melanie Pichler**

Born on 28 June 1985  
in Wels, Austria

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### **Academic Background**

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Since 03/2018	post doc researcher at the Institute of Social Ecology, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna
11/2015 – 02/2018	post doc researcher at the Institute of Social Ecology, Alpen-Adria Universität Klagenfurt, Austria
09/2013 – 10/2015	post doc researcher at the Department of Political Science, University of Vienna
03/2010 – 06/2013	PhD in Political Science, University of Vienna (graduation with honours)
10/2004 – 11/2009	MA in Development Studies, University of Vienna (graduation with honours)
03/2006 – 06/2009	MA in Political Science, University of Vienna (graduation with honours)

### **Scholarships and Awards**

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01/2011 – 09/2013	DOC-scholarship from the Austrian Academy of Sciences
10/2010 – 12/2010	doctoral scholarship from the Rosa-Luxemburg-Foundation in Germany
12/2008 – 02/2009	short-term grant abroad from the University of Vienna, research stay in Indonesia

### **Academic and Professional Experience**

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Since 11/2015	board member of the Austrian Association of Political Science
Since 10/2015	board member of the Mattersburger Kreis für Entwicklungspolitik
Since 03/2013	President of the Society for South-East Asian Studies (SEAS) in Vienna
09/2011 – 06/2012	Country researcher for the EU project “EACEA Youth Participation in Democratic Life” (coordinated by the London School of Economics and Political Science – LSE)
Since 03/2011	Editor-in-Chief of the Austrian Journal of South-East Asian Studies (ASEAS)
08/2010 – 12/2012	Affiliated Researcher at the Austrian Institute for International Affairs – oiip: Country Researcher for the project „Asia in the Eyes of Europe (coordinated by the Asia-Europe Foundation – ASEF in Singapore)
03/2009 – 06/2010	Research Assistant at the Austrian Association for Political Education
04/2008 – 04/2011	President of FIAN Austria (Food First Information and Action Network)

### **Stays Abroad and Summer Schools**

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09/2012	Summer School on „Areas Studies and Globalization“ at the University of Leipzig, Germany
07/2012	Summer School on „Political Ecology, Environmental Conflicts and Justice“ at ICTA, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
05/2011 – 08/2011	Research stay in Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia with a DOC-scholarship of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

**Publications (selection)**

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Books

- Pichler, M., Staritz, C., Küblböck, K., Plank, C., Raza, W., & Ruiz Peyre, F. (2016). *Fairness and Justice in Natural Resource Politics*. Oxon: Routledge.
- Pichler, M. (2014): *Umkämpfte Natur. Politische Ökologie der Palmöl- und Agrartreibstoffproduktion in Südostasien*. Münster: Westfälisches Dampfboot.

Special issues

- Kramm, J., Pichler, M., Schaffartzik, A. & Zimmermann, M. (eds.) (2017). Social Ecology. State of the Art and Future Prospects [special issue]. *Sustainability*, 9(7).
- Pichler, M. & Brad, A. (eds.) (2016). Political Ecology and Socio-Ecological Conflicts [special issue]. *Austrian Journal of South-East Asian Studies*, 9(1).
- Pichler, M. & Knierzinger, J. (eds.) (2014). Rohstoffpolitik und Entwicklung [special issue]. *Journal für Entwicklungspolitik*, 30(3).

Articles (peer reviewed)

- Schaffartzik, A., Brad, A., & Pichler, M. (2017). A world away and close to home: The multi-scalar 'making of Indonesia's energy landscape. *Energy Policy*, 109, 817-824. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2017.06.045>
- Pichler, M., Schaffartzik, A., Haberl, H., & Görg, C. (2017): Drivers of society-nature relations in the Anthropocene and their implications for sustainability transformations. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 26–27, 32-36. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2017.01.017>
- Schaffartzik, A. & Pichler, M. (2017): Extractive Economies in Material and Political Terms: Broadening the Analytical Scope. *Sustainability*, 9(7), 1047. doi:10.3390/su9071047
- Kramm, J., Pichler, M., Schaffartzik, A. & Zimmermann, M. (2017): Societal Relations to Nature in Times of Crisis. Social Ecology's Contributions to Interdisciplinary Sustainability Studies. *Sustainability*, 9(7), 1042. doi:10.3390/su9071042
- Pichler, M., & Brad, A. (2016): Political ecology and socio-ecological conflicts in Southeast Asia. *Austrian Journal of South-East Asian Studies*, 9(1), 1-10. doi: 10.1016/10.14764/10.ASEAS-2016.1-1
- Brad, A., Schaffartzik, A., Pichler, M., & Plank, C. (2015): Contested territorialization and biophysical expansion of oil palm plantations in Indonesia. *Geoforum*, 64, 100-111. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2015.06.007>
- Pichler, M. (2015): Legal Dispossession: State Strategies and Selectivities in the Expansion of Indonesian Palm Oil and Agrofuel Production. *Development and Change*, 46(3), 508–533. doi: 10.1111/dech.12162
- Pichler, M. (2014): Einmal Industrialisierung und zurück: Die Palmölproduktion in Indonesien als Teil eines extraktivistischen Entwicklungsmodells? *Journal für Entwicklungspolitik*, 30(3), 27-47.
- Pichler, M. (2013): "People, Planet & Profit": Consumer-Oriented Hegemony and Power Relations in Palm Oil and Agrofuel Certification. *Journal of Environment and Development*, 20(4), 370-390. doi: 10.1177/1070496513502967
- Pichler, M. (2010): Agrofuels in Indonesia. Structures, Conflicts, Consequences, and the Role of the EU. *ASEAS – Austrian Journal of South-East Asian Studies*, 3(2), 175-193.

Contributions to peer-reviewed books

- Pichler, M., Brad, A., & Schaffartzik, A. (2017). Räumliche Dynamiken und rohstoffbasierte Entwicklung in Südostasien: Das Beispiel der Palmölexpansion in Indonesien. In: H-J. Burchardt, S. Peters, & N. Weinmann (eds.). *Entwicklungstheorie von heute – Entwicklungspolitik von morgen*. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 223-240.
- Schaffartzik, A., Brad, A., Pichler, M., Plank, C., (2016). At a Distance from the Territory: Distal Drivers in the (Re)territorialization of Oil Palm Plantations in Indonesia, in: Niewöhner, J., Bruns, A., Hostert, P., Krüger, T., Nielsen, J.Ø., Haberl, H., Lauk, C., Lutz, J., Müller, D. (Eds.), *Land Use Competition. Ecological, Economic and Social Perspectives*. Springer International

Publishing, Cham.

- Pichler, M., Staritz, C., Küblböck, K., Plank, C., Raza, W., & Ruiz Peyre, F. (2016). Fairness and Justice in Natural Resource Politics: An Introduction. In: M. Pichler et al. (eds.): *Fairness and Justice in Natural Resource Politics*. Oxon: Routledge, 1-14.
- Pichler, M. (2016). What's democracy got to do with it. A political ecology perspective on socio-ecological justice. In M. Pichler et al. (ed.): *Fairness and Justice in Natural Resource Politics*. Oxon: Routledge, 33-51.
- Pichler, M. (2016). Nachhaltigkeit. In S. Bauriedl (ed.): *Wörterbuch Klimadebatte*. Bielefeld: transcript, 209-215.
- Pichler, M. (2016). Agrartreibstoffe. In S. Bauriedl (ed.): *Wörterbuch Klimadebatte*. Bielefeld: transcript, 23-28.
- Flemming, J., Pichler, M., & Plank, C. (2015): Alle knechtenden Verhältnisse umwerfen – und doch ein paar Bäume stehen lassen. Zum Verhältnis von marxistischer Theorie und sozial-ökologischen Fragen. In A. Demirovic, S. Klauke, & E. Schneider (eds.): *Was ist der "Stand des Marxismus"? Soziale und epistemologische Bedingungen der kritischen Theorie heute*. Münster: Westfälisches Dampfboot, 141-156.
- Pichler, M. (2012): Perceptions of a Diverse Region. Asia in the Eyes of Austria. S. Bersick, M. Bruter, N. Chaban, S. Iglesias, & R. Lenihan (eds.): *Asia in the Eyes of Europe. Images of a Rising Giant*. Baden-Baden: Nomos, S. 25-52.
- Pichler, M. (2012): Sustainable Palm-Based Agrofuels? Current Strategies and Problems to Guarantee Sustainability for Agrofuels within the EU. In: K. Alas, C. Günay, & J. Pospisil (eds.): *Add-on 11. Viennese Contributions to International Affairs*. Vienna: Facultas, 119-131.
- Pichler, M. & Pye, O. (2012): Wenn die Lösung zum Problem wird: Agrotreibstoffe und der Palmölboom in Indonesien. In: H. Schneider, R. Jordan, & M. Waibel (eds.): *Umweltkonflikte in Südostasien*. Berlin: Horlemann, 139-164.

#### Reports/Studies/Editorials/Book reviews

- Schaffartzik, A., Brad, A., Pichler, M., & Plank, C. (2015): Power over land: The expansion of oil palm plantations in Indonesia. In A. Mayer, A. Schaffartzik, W. Haas, & A. Rojas Sepúlveda (eds.): *Patterns of global biomass trade – Implications for food sovereignty and socio-environmental conflicts*. EJOLT Report No. 20, 56-63.
- Pichler, M. & Knierzinger, J. (2014): Globale Rohstoffpolitik am Scheideweg? *Journal für Entwicklungspolitik*, 30(3), 4-8.
- Parvanova, D. & Pichler, M. (2013): Editorial: Activism and Social Movements in South-East Asia. *Austrian Journal of South-East Asian Studies*, 6(1), 1-6.
- Pichler, M. (2012): Book Review: Pye, Oliver/Bhattacharya, Jayati (eds.) (2013): *The Palm Oil Controversy in Southeast Asia. A Transnational Perspective*. *Austrian Journal of South-East Asian Studies*, 5(2), S. 376-380.
- Pichler, M. (2011): *Palm Oil and Agrofuels in South-East Asia. A Political Ecology Framework for Studying Human-Nature Interactions and the Role of the State*. In: [http://www.icird.org/files/Papers/ICIRD2011\\_Melanie%20Pichler.pdf](http://www.icird.org/files/Papers/ICIRD2011_Melanie%20Pichler.pdf).
- Funk, S. & Pichler, M. (2011): *Agrartreibstoffe im Fokus. Politikkohärenz aus der Perspektive des Rechts auf Nahrung*. In: [www.fian.at/assets/Agrartreibstoffe-im-Fokus.pdf](http://www.fian.at/assets/Agrartreibstoffe-im-Fokus.pdf).
- Pichler, M. (2011): Agrociburants en Indonésie: logiques, structures, conflits et conséquences. *Alternatives Sud*, 18(1), 57-75.
- Pichler, M. (2011): Book Review: Mark Whitehead, Rhys Jones, Martin Jones: *The Nature of the State. Excavating the Political Ecologies of the Modern State*. Oxford 2007. 234 In: *raumnachrichten.de*, <http://www.raumnachrichten.de/rezensionen/1259-ecologies>

#### **Reviewer for Journals**

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Geoforum  
Journal for Environment and Development  
Land Use Policy  
Peripherie

### **Conference Contributions and Workshops**

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- 11/2017 Organization of the forum “The SDG agenda: a masterplan for a socio-ecological transformation?” at the *7. Österreichische Entwicklungstagung, Sozial-ökologische Transformationen jetzt!* in Graz, Austria (together with Daniel Bacher, Jakob Mussil and Waltraud Rabitsch)
- 09/2017 Plenary lecture on „Food in a globalized world” at the international conference *EAThink: Eat local – think global. Global Citizenship Education | food* in Vienna, Austria
- 02/2017 Organization of the workshop “Zwischen Autoritarismus und Demokratisierung – Kämpfe für ein gutes Leben für alle“ at congress *Gutes Leben für alle* in Vienna, Austria (together with Birge Krondorfer)
- 09/2016 Organization, chair and discussion of the panel “Political-economic perspectives on (South-)East Asian regionalism” at the *3-Länder-Tagung “Regionalismus in einer entgrenzten Welt”* in Heidelberg, Germany (together with Tobias ten Brink and Colette Vogler)
- 08/2016 Presentation of the paper “Receding into sustainability? Financial crisis and material use in the European Union” at the *5<sup>th</sup> Degrowth Conference* in Budapest, Hungary (together with Anke Schaffartzik)
- 06/2016 Plenary lecture on “Demokratisierung der Naturverhältnisse” at the symposium *Ziemlich beste Feinde – Das spannungsreiche Verhältnis von Demokratie und Kapitalismus* in Darmstadt, Germany (together with Ulrich Brand & Christoph Görg)
- 03/2016 Presentation of the paper “What’s democracy got to do with it? A political ecology perspective on socio-ecological justice” at the *International Conference of the European Network of Political Ecology (ENTITLE)* in Stockholm, Sweden
- 03/2016 Organization of and contribution to the roundtable on “Socio-ecological Transformations in a Global Perspective. Exchanging and Discussing Conceptual Approaches for a Radical Transformation” at the *International Conference of the European Network of Political Ecology (ENTITLE)* in Stockholm, Sweden
- 11/2015 Presentation of the paper “What’s democracy got to do with it? Eine polit-ökologische Perspektive auf sozial-ökologische Gerechtigkeit” at the *Tag der Politikwissenschaft* at the University of Salzburg, Austria
- 09/2015 Invited lecture on “Socio-ecological transformation in Europe and Southeast Asia. Trends – Visions – Conflicts” at the *Kick off workshop for a Permanent Working Group on Social-Ecological Transformation in Asia* in Hue, Vietnam
- 08/2015 Organization of the panel “Analyzing Socio-Ecological Conflicts from a Political Ecology Perspective” at the *8th EuroSEAS Conference* in Vienna (together with Alina Brad)
- 12/2014 Presentation of the paper “Territorialization of Contested Land in Indonesia’s Palm Oil Expansion” at the *1st Austrian Conference on International Resource Politics* in Vienna
- 12/2014 Presentation of the paper “Palm Oil Production in Indonesia as Part of an Extractivist Development Model“ at the *1st Austrian Conference on International Resource Politics* in Vienna
- 09/2013 Presentation of the paper “Bringing the State Back in? The Role of the State in Land Conflicts in the Indonesian Palm Oil and Agrofuel Production” at the *8th Pan-European International Relations Conference* in Warsaw, Poland
- 10/2012 Discussion input on “Südostasienwissenschaft im deutschen Sprachraum. Wohin geht die Reise?“ at the conference *Southeast Asia Today. Dynamics, Contradictions, Perspectives* at the University of Bonn, Germany

09/2012	Presentation of the Paper “Contesting the RSPO. The Certification of Palm Oil and Biodiesel in South-East Asia as an Example for a new Form of Privatized Statehood“ at the <i>Summer School on Area Studies and Globalization</i> at the University of Leipzig, Germany
06/2012	Presentation on “Palm Oil and Biofuel Politics in South-East Asia. Current Strategies, Sustainability Issues, and the Role of the European Union“ at the <i>European Biodiesel 2012</i> in Krakow, Poland
11/2011	Presentation on “Guaranteeing Sustainability for Agrofuels – Current Strategies and Problems” at the <i>4th Bi-Regional EU-SEA S&amp;T Stakeholders Conference</i> in Hanoi, Vietnam
10/2011	Presentation on “Diversity without arbitrariness – Political Science and Southeast Asia” at the <i>1st International Conference on Rethinking Global Inequalities: Development (Studies) in Discourse, Critique and Practice</i> in Vienna
09/2011	Presentation of the results of the research project “Asia in the Eyes of Europe” at the Panel Discussion <i>Public and Media Perceptions of Asia in Europe: Challenges and Opportunities for External Relations with Asia</i> in Vienna
05/2011	Paper presentation “Palm Oil and Agrofuels in South-East Asia. A Political Ecology Framework” at the <i>1st International Conference on International Relations and Development</i> in Bangkok, Thailand
03/2011	Presentation of the interim report “The perceptions of Asia in Austria. Findings from Media Analysis” at the <i>Asia in the Eyes of Europe Methodology Workshop II</i> in Beijing, China
05/2010	Paper Presentation “The Political Economy of Palm Oil and Agrofuel Production in Indonesia” at the <i>5th Viennese Conference on South-East Asian Studies</i> in Vienna
11/2009	Paper Presentation “Agrofuels – Structures, Conflicts and Consequences in Indonesia According to the Mandatory Target in the EU“ at the <i>4th Annual Conference of the GARNET Network on Food Security and Sustainable Development: Challenges for the Governance of International Relations</i> in Rome, Italy

## Organization of Academic Conferences

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08/2015	Co-organizer (member of the local organizing team) of the <i>8th EuroSEAS Conference</i> in Vienna (cooperation of University of Vienna, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna University of Technology, Society for Southeast Asian Studies and Museum of Ethnology)
04/2015	Organizer of the symposium <i>Pathways into a better future. Contributions from sustainability studies</i> in Vienna (cooperation of the Department of Political Science and the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna)
12/2014	Organizer of the <i>1st Austrian Conference on International Resource Politics</i> in Vienna (cooperation of the Department of Political Science with the Institute of Geography of the University of Innsbruck and the Austrian Foundation for Development Research)
07/2011 & 08/2013	Organizer of a summer school on Political Ecology in Wietow, Germany (cooperation of University of Vienna, Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin School of Economics and Law and University of Kassel)

## Teaching

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ST 2018	MA proseminar <i>Social Ecology</i> (together with Karlheinz Erb) (University of Klagenfurt)
	MA seminar <i>Socio-scientific Foundations of Social Ecology</i> (together with Christoph Görg) (University of Klagenfurt)

	MA summer school <i>Political Ecology</i> (together with Christoph Görg) (University of Klagenfurt; together with lecturers from FU Berlin, University of Vienna, Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jena)
	MA <i>Master Seminar: Society and Environment</i> (together with Christoph Görg)
WT 2016/17	MA proseminar <i>Social Ecology</i> (together with Martin Schmid) (Institute of Social Ecology, University of Klagenfurt)
	MA seminar <i>Socio-Ecological Reproduction</i> (Institute of Social Ecology, University of Klagenfurt; together with lecturers from Philipps Universität Marburg, Universität Kassel, University of Vienna)
ST 2016	MA seminar <i>Crisis and Transformation</i> (together with Christoph Görg) (Institute of Social Ecology, University of Klagenfurt)
WT 2015/16	MA lecture <i>Interventions and Debates from the 'South' in Political Theory</i> (together with Tobias Boos) (Department of Political Science, University of Vienna)
ST 2015	MA research seminar <i>Contested Globalization. Social Movements and NGOs</i> (together with Ulrich Brand) (Department of Political Science, University of Vienna)
ST 2015	BA seminar <i>Gramsci at the Margins</i> (together with Tobias Boos, Daniel Fuchs & Benjamin Opratko) (Department of Political Science, University of Vienna)
ST 2015	MA seminar <i>Globalization and Ecological Crises: Debates on Democracy and Society-Nature Relations</i> (Department of Political Science, University of Vienna)
WT 2014/15	BA seminar <i>Environmental and Resource Conflicts</i> (Department of Political Science, University of Vienna)
WT 2014/15	<i>Bachelor's degree seminar</i> (Department of Political Science, University of Vienna)
ST 2014	MA research seminar <i>International Political Economy</i> (together with Ulrich Brand) (Department of Political Science, University of Vienna)
ST 2014	MA seminar on <i>Political Ecology – Theories and Case Studies in International Environmental and Resource Conflicts</i> (Department of Political Science, University of Vienna)
WT 2013/14	BA seminar <i>Ecological Crisis and Environmental Politics</i> (Department of Political Science, University of Vienna)
WT 2013/14	<i>Bachelor's degree seminar</i> (Department of Political Science, University of Vienna)
ST 2013	BA seminar <i>Introduction to Scientific Work</i> (Department of Political Science, University of Vienna)
WT 2011–WT 2012	Course <i>Political Aspects of Development. State – Development – Environment</i> (Department of Development Studies, University of Vienna)

## Language Skills

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German: native language  
 English: fluent  
 Spanish: good command  
 French: basic knowledge  
 Indonesian: basic knowledge