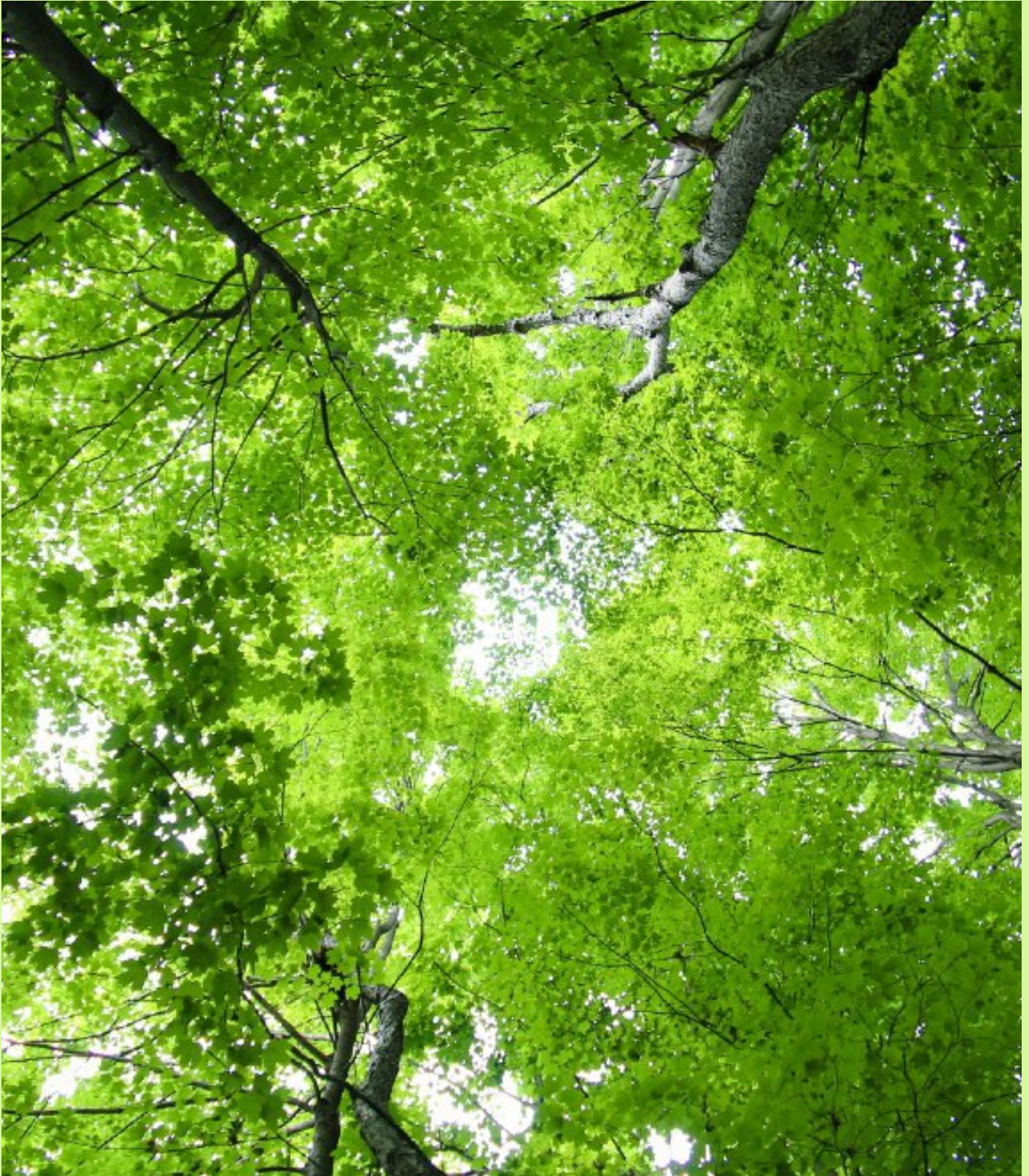


FORAGE

The Forest Anthropology Working Group on
Europe and Beyond



Autumn 2026 Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM THE FORAGE TEAM

Hello,

FORAGE has had a busy year, supporting speakers through the Human Forest Relations Coffee Talks series, organized together with the Finnish Society for Forest Science and Soz-Wald. We have also expanded our existing blog, Understories, and launched our second blog, Roots for a Critical Forest Lexicon. FORAGE members have presented at numerous events; most recently, we hosted a three-panel program at the European Association of Social Anthropologists annual conference in Poznan, titled Political Forests – Polarized Forests: Forest Anthropology in Europe and the Global North. While in Poznan, FORAGE also hosted associated social events, and it was a lovely chance to see established members face-to-face and meet some new ones as well!

FORAGE aims to bring together social scientists engaging with community-grounded forest research across the Global North. If you would like to join our listserv, contribute to one of our blogs, or otherwise share your research and connect with like-minded people, please reach out to one of the organizers listed below.

Jodie Asselin, jodie.asselin@uleth.ca

Agata Konczal, agata.konczal@wur.nl

Irene van Oorschot, vanoorschot@essb.eur.nl



EASA 2026 Poznan, Poland

FORAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr Irene van Oorschot Receives ERC Grant and is a new FORAGE Co-Coordinator



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Dr van Oorschot has received an ERC grant to build her own research team and develop the EUFORESTS (Resilient European Forests: Unearthing, Comparing, and Conceptualizing the Values of ‘Resilience’ Across European Forest Worlds) project. This project asserts that existing approaches to forest resilience focus narrowly on definitional and management questions. Yet resilience is unstable and contested, entangled in conflicts over the multiple and often clashing values of forests as sites of production, biodiversity, spiritual and cultural meanings, and local livelihoods.

The project will be the first multi-sited, comparative ethnography of how these competing values are practically negotiated within initiatives to promote forest resilience. By comparing developments in three highly diverse contexts—Sweden’s subarctic boreal forests, the Netherlands’ continental mixed stands, and Spain’s Mediterranean shrub and woodlands—we analyse the value tensions, conflicts, and trade-offs in projects promoting forest resilience. A creative combination of methods from policy studies, anthropology and ecology—document analysis, immersive fieldwork, and transect walks—will enable bringing the discourse of resilience in expert knowledges, legislation and policy strategies into conversation with ecological realities and lived experiences on the ground.

Congrats Dr van Oorschot!

For the full press release click [here](#)

We would also like to announce that Dr Irene van Oorschot has officially joined FORAGE as a Co-Coordinator alongside Dr Jodie Asselin and Dr Agata Konczal.

UPCOMING EVENTS/OPEN CALLS/INVITATIONS

FORAGE COFFEE TALKS SERIES

NEXT TALK: 18th of November, 2026

Greying the Green Frontier: forest extraction, dependency, and harm in the Carpathian Mountains

Presented by: George Iordachescu

During the 43rd Congress of the German Society of Sociology (Der 43. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie), Ad-hoc Group 39 Society and Forest- Sociological Analysis of Conflicts, Transformation and Future (AdH39: Gesellschaft und Wald – Soziologische Analysen von Konflikten, Wandel und Zukunft) will take place on 29.09 at 14:15, for more information in German click [**here.**](#)

The German network of Sociological Forest Research (Soziologische Waldforschung) organizes 4th Sociological Forest Research Symposium from 08-09.10.26 in Frankfurt am Main. The event is free of charge, interested scholars can reach the organizing team at: soziologisches_waldsymposium2026@uni-frankfurt.de

Call for Papers: A World of a Thousand Cuts: Forests, Wood, and Industrialisation Across the Globe in the 19th and 20th Centuries

6-8 July, 2027, hosted by the University of Turin

The applications should be sent to inwood@unito.it

Submission Deadline: 30th of November 2026

For more about the conference click [**here.**](#)

WEBSITE HIGHLIGHTS

ROOTS FOR A CRITICAL FOREST LEXICON

Roots for a Critical Forest Lexicon is an expanding collection of critical terms, concepts, and approaches that invite reflection on contemporary mobilizations of forests within large-scale governance efforts. Grounded in the social sciences, each contribution offers a succinct yet probing exploration of forest terminologies—those everyday words and ideas that shape how forests are known, managed, and inhabited. Through short interventions, problematizations of taken-for-granted terms, and proposals of novel concepts, *Roots* seeks to cultivate the foundation for more engaged, exploratory, and just forest relations.

BELOW ARE A COUPLE OF THE MOST RECENT TERMS ADDED TO THE CRITICAL FOREST LEXICON



Vegetal Labour

By: James Palmer



Arboreal Nationalism

By: Erella Grassiani

Submissions are welcome! Potential authors are encouraged to contact the FORAGE coordinators for further details. All posts can be found on the FORAGE website.

UNDERSTORIES: TALES FROM THE FIELD

While FORAGE seeks to think across disciplinary and national boundaries, ethnography is also a craft of thinking big questions through a careful engagement with highly specific contexts and practices. In our *Understories*, we feature conceptualization, reflection, and musings drawn from ethnographic encounters with forests worlds.

HERE ARE SOME OF OUR RECENT UNDERSTORIES



Digging through archives, crawling through “forests,” and observing from the crossroads by Lily Overacker



“Getting lost” by Malcolm Sanger



What Does it Mean to Know a Forest? Reflections from the precipice of forest anthropology by Aleksandra Grabowski

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SUBMISSIONS!

If you want to contribute with your own writing – between 400 and 600 words – or other forms of output, including video or visual materials, please get in touch with the coordinators of FORAGE [here](#).

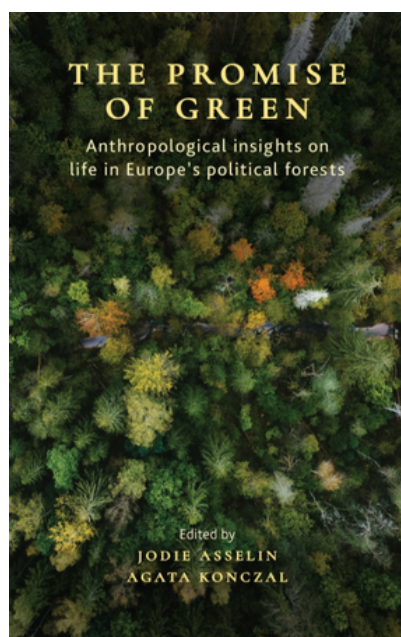
RECENT AND UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Konczal, Agata A., De Koning, Johannes H. C., ... & Winkel, Georg (2025). Integrating nature and people in European forest management: what is the state of nature conservation and role of participation?. *International forestry review*, 27(3), 402-430.

Asselin, Jodie (2025). *Troublesome Ground Farming Trees and Green Policy in Rural Ireland*. University Press of Colorado.

Konczal, Agata A. and Asselin, Jodie (2025). Exploring the Green Frontier within Europe's Recent Forest Initiatives. *Geoforum* 160.

van Oorschot, Irene (2025). Forest Futures in the Making: Legal Infrastructures and Multispecies Speculation in Planning Climate-Adaptable Forests. *Tecnoscienza Special Issue, Infrastructured Timescapes of the Anthropocene* 15(2): 83-102

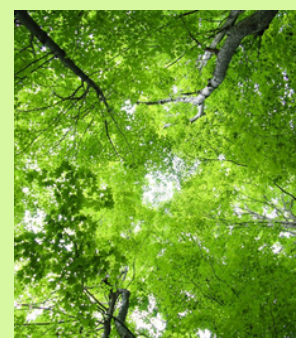


Keep an eye out for The Promise of Green!

Coming out in 2027.

Asselin, J and A. Konczal. (Ed.). (2027). *The Promise of Green: Anthropological insights on life in Europe's political forests*.

If you have a publication, event, or contribution you would like to see in the next FORAGE newsletter please reach out to one of the coordinators!



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