Tapped between agriculture and forest?
EU tree density limitations, socio-ecological paradoxes and farmers’ management of woody pastures in Sweden
Background - ”Too many trees” on pastures in 2007

1. Cut or not? Value and management of pasture-trees ”on the ground”?

2. The role of tree density for plants and birds?
Processual landscape perspective

“'The best approximation we have in geography to a concept capable of grasping the momentary therness of all continuants is landscape” (Hägerstrand 1982)
Political ecology *within reach*

"The core problem may well be that as the spatial scale of problems grows, the cognitive and geographic distance also widens between those who possess the scientific knowledge and formulate management goals on one hand, and those who are requested to act – or refrain from action – on the other hand."

*Hägerstrand (2001) A look at the political geography of environmental management*

“If the state or other powerful groups – including scientists – gain from a specific ordering of the world, (...) they will not easily agree to shifts in how these categories and their boundaries are defined”

*Dahlberg (2015) Categories are all around us...*
"System boundaries” and a "sentient ecology”

“Global perspectives, such as planetary boundaries, have the potential to detach people from their immediate lifeworld. While dwelling emphatically locates people in this world, it does not connect to global flows of social–ecological relations in the manner achieved by planetary boundaries.”

Cooke et al. (2016) Dwelling in the biosphere: exploring an embodied human–environment connection in resilience thinking

“In short, climate is recorded, weather experienced ” (Ingold 2007:36)
“Multifunctionality” and persistent land-use categories/sectors

“Simplifying nature” (Scott 1998)
Will cut, but not unreservedly: the "relational values" (Chan et al 2016) of trees as seen by farmers

Beauty and encouragement and care of those who are present:

– "I’ve cut just before the new rules was introduced. And I was mocked for turning the pastures into a desert."

– "They said that it was really nice... In that sense it is as fun to keep the pastures open as producing a whole lot of grain."
”All trees are equal but some are more equal than others” (Butler 2014:205)

Regarding the pollarded trees:
”Are the leaves used for fodder?”
”No no, only because it looks good.”
Concluding remarks

• Trees are graspable – *Important to find relations that “makes sense”, “matter”, are “at hand”...*

• Conservationists perspectives are there – “*Internalized” or inescapable in farmers “lifeworlds”?*

• Forest conservation caused conflicts, restoring pastures became an arena for making alliances – *Conservationist entrepreneurs as the new “good farmer”?*

• Situational-, Sentient-, Political ecology - ”*Take back the economy [ecology] dismantels the idea that the economy [ecology] is separate from us and best comprehend by experts, demonstrating that the economy [ecology] is the outcome of decisions and efforts we make everyday (Gibson-Graham 2013)*"