

# ROBIN DIANOUX

Email robin.dianoux@gmail.com

Phone +33 6 66 64 61 23

## Summary

I've just completed a PhD in sociology for which I studied the relation between biodiversity knowledge and environmental ethics by focusing on the implementation of biodiversity offset policies in Colombia. The ten-month fieldwork I did in the country, and in particular within its environmental authority, informed the ways biodiversity is taken into account within environmental impacts assessments, as well as the challenges regarding the evaluation of impacts and the implementation of conservation activities. During my PhD I've also studied the work of the IPBES, participated in the development of a software for textual analysis and did numerous presentations of my research at seminars and international conferences. I previously worked as an anthropologist (with a focus on the Peruvian Amazon) and qualitative researcher, as well as a photographer, documentary filmmaker and editor, leading me to produce numerous photographic series around the world and contribute to socially engaged films. I now look forward to leverage the knowledge I gained of the social science perspective on the management of environmental and biodiversity issues to help design, implement or assess transition or conservation projects, whether with international or national administrations or with local communities, while being also committed to explore any other avenues in which I could make a meaningful contribution, including through the production of photographs, documentaries and communication campaigns, the enhancement of consultation processes as well as the collaborative aspect of research, and the coordination of research networks and social projects.

## Personality Highlights

- Observation and listening, mediation
- Autonomy and perseverance
- Peacefulness, patience and dedication
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Interdisciplinarity, versatility and wide curiosity
- Organized, analytical, critical and synthetic
- Adaptability to diverse contexts, working methods, people and focuses
- Committed to inclusivity, equality and social and environmental justice

## Skills

- Qualitative and quantitative data recollection and analysis methodologies, including observation, semi-structured interviews, focus group facilitation, as well as participatory, visual, documentary or digital methods, through the help of software when appropriate
- Collective and interdisciplinary work, as well as at the interface between institutions, civil society and the academia
- Oral and written communication in French, English and Spanish adapted for different types of publics
- Project management and planification, problem identification and solving

## Specialisation

- Environmental sociology, biodiversity governance, environmental controversy transformations and citizen participation. Understanding of the issues, challenges and controversies around biodiversity degradation and conservation, assessments of impacts and compensations, sustainability transitions, the development of indicators and the establishment of protected areas;
- Functioning of the global governance of environmental issues, and in particular the climate and biodiversity negotiations and the science-policy interfaces, through institutions such as UNEP, CBD (and related protocols), IPCC, IPBES and IUCN at the international level, and more specific knowledge about the European Union, France, Colombia and the Amazon Region;
- Indigenous peoples of Latin America (and in particular of the Amazon) and their contemporary struggles and protection mechanisms.

## Languages

- French: native speaker
- English: fluent
- Spanish: fluent
- Italian: notions

## PhD in Social Sciences, specialty Sociology

**2016 — 2022.** Joint supervision between the University of Milan, Italy and the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS), Paris, France. Recipient of the Valeria Solesin PhD Scholarship of the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research.

**Research supervisors:** Prof. Francis Chateauraynaud (EHESS, France) & Prof. Luigi Pellizzoni (University of Pisa, Italy).

**Date of Defense:** 11 April 2022.

**Jury:** Prof. Valérie Boisvert (University of Lausanne, Switzerland), Prof. David Dumoulin (Paris 3 - Sorbonne Nouvelle, France), Prof. Esther Turnhout (University of Twente, Netherlands), Prof. Catalina Toro Pérez (National University of Colombia in Bogota, Colombia).

**The research:** titled *'Finding the balance: transformations of knowledge and valuations in biodiversity offset policies in Colombia'*, it focuses on the discourses and practices relative to the design and implementation of biodiversity offset policies in Colombia. I spent ten months in the country and did several months of ethnography in the National environmental authority (ANLA), observing the work of its employees and accompanying specialists as they visited projects under evaluation (including a hydroelectric powerplant, a coal mine, an oil field and a highway, in different regions of the country) which had to compensate their impacts on biodiversity, and observed numerous activities related to the protection and evaluation of impacts on biodiversity. I also did an ethnography of a plenary of the IPBES and of the negotiations taking place, allowing to expand my analysis to the relations between science-society-politics-policies-implementation, and to the role of businesses.

### PhD training:

- Sociological theories; logic, epistemology and design of social research; methodologies for fieldwork and data recollection and analysis, including visual methods.
- Statistical Analysis for the Social Sciences (through the use of SPSS and STATA), including multivariate analysis.
- Workshops on digital methodologies for the social sciences, in particular on Nvivo and Atlas.ti, on 'R' (language and use for statistical analysis and bibliometrics), on Structural Topic Modelling (quantitative textual analysis) with R, and on network analysis (based on semantic or social links, from textual corpus, social media posts from twitter or facebook, or website hyperlinking) and on the Prospero software for textual analysis.
- Course of Italian language (60h).
- Summer school 'Political Ecologies in/of the Anthropocene: value, life and critique' organised by the Wageningen School of Social Sciences (WASS), Wageningen University, and coordinated by Prof. Bram Büscher and Dr. Robert Fletcher, 2017/06/22-27.
- Doctoral workshop of the interdisciplinary programme 'Politics of the Earth in the Anthropocene', organized by Université Sorbonne Paris Cité (USPC) in Florence, Italy, 2017/09/20-22.
- Doctoral workshop 'Local / Indigenous Knowledge and Global Mechanisms', Norwegian University Centre in Paris, France, 2019/11/20-22.

### Fieldwork in Colombia:

- Six months of ethnography of the Colombian National Authority of Environmental Licences.
- Participation to internal workshops on environmental compensations, on public participation and consultation, and on the development of collaborations with NGOs for the establishment of priority compensation areas
- Visit of projects (and their respective compensation areas) which environmental impact was evaluated by the ANLA, with specialists of the ANLA and environmental managers of the companies, including a mine, an oil field, an hydroelectric powerplant and a highway, in various regions of Colombia.

- Observation of meetings of participation of the communities to the process of evaluation of the ANLA, in particular regarding the construction of a high-voltage power line.
- Analysis in particular:
  - of the modalities of evaluation of the Environmental Impact Assessments submitted by companies
  - of the role of the information and the modes of compliance toward the norm
  - of the valuations of biodiversity in the EIAs and their assessment by the employees of the ANLA
  - of the circulation of formal and informal norms regarding the legitimate languages of valuations of biodiversity and of definition of 'adequate' biodiversity offsets
  - of the role of scales definitions in the valuations of biodiversity

#### **Other activities in Colombia:**

- Participation and observation of workshops organized with other institutions on the leveraging of private conservation areas and the design of success indicators of biodiversity offsets.
- Observation of public meetings and discussions with specialists about pressing debates and controversies in the country, like the development of oil extraction using fracking technologies, the prohibition of asbestos, the delimitation of paramo (high mountain ecosystem) areas, the aerial spraying of coca crops with glyphosate, the multiplication of hydroelectric powerplants or the role of indigenous peoples in relation to conservation.
- Volunteer work for the NGO Amazon Conservation Team consisting in accompanying and documenting the week-long visit of a group of Inga indigenous from the Caquetá region of Colombia to Misak and Nasa indigenous communities of the Cauca region.
- Participation to the National meeting of the Rios Vivos association, defending nationally the people affected by hydroelectric dams, in Barrancabermeja.

#### **Other activities undertook during the course of the PhD:**

- Active participation in the development of a software for mixed quantitative and qualitative analysis of textual corpuses (Prospero 3, a software which puts emphasis on the collaboration between the software and the researcher to produce analysis), including its financing and design, the organisation of a 3-day workshop in Bayonne, France, and by acting as secretary of the association Corpora undertaking the project.
- Collective inquiry with members of my research laboratory about the temporalities and reconfigurations produced by the coronavirus crisis, which led to a publication and a seminar.
- Observer accredited by the University of Turin at the IPBES 7th Plenary (Paris, 2019), which allowed to do an ethnography of the plenary and analysis of the practical modalities of the establishment and negotiations of its 'science-policy interface' characteristics.

#### **Communications:**

- 2017-09-22 *"Anthropocène, rapports au monde et éthique de l'action environnementale [Anthropocene, worldviews and ethics of environmental action]"*, Doctoral workshop of the interdisciplinary programme 'Politics of the Earth in the Anthropocene', organized by Université Sorbonne Paris Cité (USPC) in Florence, Italy.
- 2017-10-10 *"Understanding our place in the world: Exploring the relation between the production of knowledge about the human-nature relationship and environmental ethics through the discourses and practices of management of biodiversity in Réunion Island"* (presentation of my PhD research project), NASP Seminar, Milan University, Italy.
- 2019-07-03 *"Assessing and compensating which impacts? 'Areas of influence', offsetting and the frontiers of impacts evaluations"*, 2019 Environmental Justice Conference, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK.
- 2019-08-22 *"The natures of biodiversity and its relations to humans in environmental laws and compensation schemes in Colombia"*, 2019 Conference of the European Sociological Association, Manchester, UK

- 2019-08-28 *“Évaluer et compenser quels impacts ? Aires d'influence, échelles et frontières des évaluations environnementales”*, 2019 Congress of the French Sociology Association, Aix en Provence, France.
- 2019-08-30 *“Les natures de la biodiversité et sa relation aux humains : Exemple des lois et compensations environnementales en Colombie”*, 2019 Congress of the French Sociology Association, Aix en Provence, France.
- 2019-10-02 *“The natures of biodiversity and its relations to humans: The case of environmental laws and compensation schemes in Colombia”*, German Anthropological Association 2019 Conference, Konstanz, Germany.
- 2019-11-21 *“Plural biodiversity knowledges and assessments in Colombia”*, overall research presentation during the PhD workshop ‘Local / Indigenous Knowledge and Global Mechanisms’, Centre Universitaire de Norvège à Paris, France.
- 2020-06-19 *“La fabrique de la compensation environnementale en Colombie : ethnographie d’une autorité environnementale [The making of environmental compensation in Colombia: ethnography of an environmental authority]”*, Pragmatisme et Conflictualité seminar, EHESS, Paris, France.
- 2020-09-24 *“A complex and chimeric bureaucratic process? Negotiating and producing the nature compensated by biodiversity offsets in Colombia”*, session ‘Implementation challenges and ethical dilemmas in biodiversity offsetting’, Political Ecology Network (POLLEN) 2020 Conference, online.
- 2021-03-05 *“Relations entre échelles et évaluations de la biodiversité dans les études d’impacts et les compensations en Colombie [Relationships between scales and biodiversity assessments in impact assessments and offsets in Colombia]”*, séminaire Transitions Écologiques Américaines, Institut des Hautes Études de l’Amérique Latine, Paris, France.
- 2021-06-04 *“Retour pragmatique sur ‘le monde d’après’, le merveilleux futur qui n’est pas apparu [A pragmatic return to ‘the world after’, the marvellous future that did not appear]”*, intervention during the special session of the Pragmatisme & Conflictualité seminar on the effects of the coronavirus pandemic organized by the GSPR lab Covid Group, EHESS, Paris.
- 2021-10-01 *“The subtleties of the Anthropocene: from overarching narratives to the construction of alternative futures”*, 2021 Network Symposium of the IAPS (International Association for People-Environment Studies), A Coruña, Spain.
- 2022-05-30 Intervention on the social aspects of ecological issues during a doctoral course on sustainable development given by Léa Ikkache at Paris Saclay University.

#### **Scientific publications:**

*‘Au-delà du « monde d’après » ou comment penser la crise dans la durée avec le pragmatisme sociologique [Beyond the ‘world after’ or how to think about the crisis in the long term with sociological pragmatism]’*, collective text, Groupe de Sociologie Pragmatique et Réflexive (GSPR, EHESS), Socio-informatique et argumentation Blog, 30/05/2020, <https://socioargu.hypotheses.org/6191>.

#### Articles issued from my PhD work (not yet submitted):

Dianoux R.: *‘Assessing and compensating which impacts? Mitigation hierarchy, areas of influence and the scales of impacts evaluations’*.

Dianoux R.: *‘The natures of biodiversity and its relations to humans: The case of environmental laws and compensation schemes in Colombia’*.

Dianoux R.: *‘The weight of a Manual: actors and norms at play around the development and implementations of offsetting guidelines in Colombia’*.

#### Collective text on the Coronavirus crisis (not yet submitted):

F. Chateauraynaud, J. Debaz, M. Denoun, R. Dianoux, J. Gaillaguet, M. Noël & S. Taveneau : *‘De l’alerte ratée à la crise totale : expériences sensibles, incertitudes et enquêtes collectives lors de la pandémie de Covid-19, 2020-2022 [From failed warning to full-blown crisis: sensitive experiences, uncertainties and collective enquiries during the Covid-19 pandemic, 2020-2022]’*.

## Previous education

- **Master's Degree "Image and Society", combining Documentary Filmmaking and Sociology. 2008 – 2009.** University of Evry - Val d'Essonne, France.  
Master providing training in documentary film production, writing, shooting and editing with a sociological focus. It led to the making of various collective short films and a personal short documentary film interrogating the notion of 'stranger' through the portrait of a multicultural neighbourhood of Paris.
- **Master's Degree in Social Sciences, Specialty Ethnology and Social Anthropology. 2006 – 2007.** School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS), Paris, France.  
Master in anthropology focusing on urban and visual studies. It led to the redaction of a thesis entitled "*Perception and social ties in the public space: The case of the Belleville neighborhood in Paris*" which addressed the issue of interactions between individuals in an urban public space and examines the use and meaning of the writings that are present in this area. Photography is used as a research method.
- **Master 1's Degree in Social Sciences, Specialty Ethnology and Social Anthropology. 2004 – 2006.** University Paris VII, Paris, France.  
Master in anthropology focusing on indigenous and visual studies. It led to doing eight months of fieldwork in Peru for a dissertation entitled "*The Yagua village of Urco Mirano: a cultural globality in transformation*", analyzing the circumstances of the foundation of a Yagua indigenous village in the Peruvian Amazon, where the traditionally nomadic people eventually settled, and of the implications for their culture and social organization. This work also led to the production of a documentary film about the village.

## Previous Work Experience

### Freelance photojournalist, videographer and editor – 2010 - 2017

- Numerous assignments and projects for medias in various countries, including the coverage of protests, political and cultural events, as well as various issues in Canada, USA, Kenya, Spain, France, Argentina and New-Zealand.
- Co-organization of a Panel on the Mining Industry and the Plan Nord for the radio CKUT 90.3fm (Montreal, Canada), discussing video interviews of participants of the Natural Resources Fair.
- Shooting and editing of short videos for various shops, bands, organizations, restaurants, weddings, websites and exhibitions.
- I attended numerous photography online courses as well as a week-long course of the Arles photography festival led by the photographer Eric Bouvier and benefited from a mentorship by an association promoting photography in Montreal, Canada. I also gave photographic workshops to youth while living in Dunedin, New-Zealand.

### Personal photography and documentary film projects (selection):

- 'The Armchair and the Divan', photo essay with dyptics about the organization of the consulting rooms of psychoanalysts in three countries.
- '6,431 - Argentina's ongoing struggle against human trafficking', photo essay produced over a five-month period about human trafficking in Argentina, where I also volunteered at the local NGO ACCT-Acciones Coordinadas contra la Trata de Personas to document their forensic investigations on disappeared victims of trafficking (collaboration which led to the publication 'Arqueología de lo invisible: Un recorte de la trata en Argentina [Archaeology of the Invisible: A look at trafficking in Argentina]').
- 'BsAsFramework', photo essay about the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

- 'I love my alleyway', photo essay about the alleyways of Montreal, Canada.
- 'DetroitCountershots', medium format photo essay about the ambivalences of the city of Detroit, USA.
- 'Indigenous Montreal', photo essay about indigenous youth living in Montreal, Canada.
- 'This is not a crisis, this is a theft', photo essay on the consequences of the economic crisis in Madrid, Spain.
- 'Steve's Dream', short experimental documentary film about the dream of a Kenyan friend.
- Photographic portraits in collaboration with homeless people in Montreal, Canada.
- 'Kibera's Paradox', photo essay about the living conditions in the Kibera slum, Kenya (Public Prize at the Paris-Match Photojournalism Contest 2010).
- 'Strange indigenous', short documentary film about the notion of 'stranger' in relation to the life in a multicultural neighbourhood of Paris.
- 'The Village of Artemio', full-length documentary film about a Yagua indigenous village in the Peruvian Amazon.

### **Documentary films Editor and Production Assistant – 2009 - 2012**

I did a three-months internship with Program33 (Paris, France, worked for two years with the production company EyeSteelFilm and collaborated occasionally with GSM Project (both in Montreal, Canada):

- General office assistant for the production of documentary films including research
- Preparation of shootings
- Editor of two 50-min documentaries and various short videos and trailers, Assistant Editor on numerous projects
- Post-production supervisor, including management of files, coordination with technicians and external laboratories working on the various stages of the projects.
- DOP and Soundman on various documentary films.
- Research of locations, archives and music
- Film distribution assistant, including contacts with festivals and TV channels

### **Market Research Manager – 2005 – 2009 (part-time/assignment-based)**

I worked on numerous occasions for two companies specialised in social science applied to marketing research: EAEQ Ethnologie Appliquée and AREA Terrains et Recherches, both based in Paris, France.

- I contributed to all stages of the studies, including the preparation, research of possible targets, database construction and analysis, interviews and focus groups, for clients including TV and Radio channels, public museums, and companies in various sectors (including energy, health and communication), and with fieldworks in France as well as in Kenya.

### **Interests**

Social consequences and justifications of economic inequalities, commons and commoning, museography of human and natural history museums, mindfulness, meditation and Buddhism, environmental controversies and their relations to ethics, quantum theories and black holes, vegetarian cooking, trekking and camping, open-source initiatives, vegetarian Asian cooking, science-fiction, history and purpose of measurements, psychedelic arts.