

**Summer School 2024 in Pakse, Laos,
30 June - 10 July 2024**



Southern Laos, photo by Oliver Brandenburg

**Governance of Natural Resources and Health in Laos:
Managing Social-Ecological Systems for Sustainability Transformations**

**Focus, goals,
and target
groups**

The 2024 Summer School of the International Graduate School (IGS) North-South will focus on the governance of natural resources and health within social-ecological systems. This programme will delve into the specific context of Pakse and the Champasack and Saravane provinces in Laos, offering a perspective on the local challenges and opportunities. The aim is to provide conceptual and methodological insights into integrated approaches to engage in research for sustainability transformations in different contexts.

The goal of the Summer School is to offer an intercultural, inter- and transdisciplinary learning and exchange platform for PhD students from different countries around the world and from different academic disciplines who are involved in interdisciplinary research on transformation towards sustainable development.

The main target group of the course are advanced students from the global South and North to exchange and collaborate on the topic of sustainable development and global change. Please note that the number of participants is limited.

Place

Pakse, Laos

Time

30 June – 10 July 2024 (travelling dates: 28/29 June and 11/12 July)

Organizers

- Lao Tropical and Public Health Institute, Vientiane, Lao PDR
- Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Bern, Switzerland and Lao Country Office
- swisspeace, Swiss TPH and University of Basel, Switzerland

**Lecturers /
Organizers**

Prof. Dr. Thomas Breu, Dr. Michael Epprecht, Prof. Dr. Laurent Goetschel, Dr. Metka Herzog, Dr. Sarah-Lan Mathez, Dr. Vong Nanthavong, Prof. Dr. Peter Odermatt, Dr. Somphou Sayasone, Dr. Lilian Trechsel, Prof. Dr. Jakob Zinsstag

Overall course programme

The course will last 11 days and consist of a mix of lectures, exercises, coaching, interdisciplinary group work, and fieldwork. The programme includes the following blocks:

- **Conceptual seminars** providing insights into concepts of and debates on sustainable development, global change processes, and emerging dynamics, as well as reflections on the methodological implications of research on global change and sustainable development, conducted with an inter- and transdisciplinary research approach.
- **A methodological seminar** with a social science perspective and a focus on fairness, ethics and conflict sensitivity skills.
- **Lectures and exercises to develop** “soft skills” in scientific writing and publishing.
- **Case studies** focusing on the topic of the Summer School. Participants will prepare for the fieldwork in interdisciplinary groups with support from local resource persons (inputs). They will conduct 3 days of fieldwork with transdisciplinary elements, then jointly analyse and present their findings.

Application process

To apply for the IGS North-South Summer School, you must fulfil the following criteria:

- You are a PhD candidate from the global South or North, or a senior researcher from the global South.
- You are interested and engaged in a research partnership project and wish to apply an integrated approach in development research.
- Your English is fluent.

Please note that if the number of applicants exceeds the maximum number of participants, priority will be given to students involved in a research project in the area; and to students who are affiliated with one of the Swiss partner institutions.



IGS North-South Summer School in Nanyuki, Kenya.
Photo by Lilian Trechsel

To apply, please fill in the official online application form on www.igs-north-south.ch and upload the following documents (in English) as PDF files. Submission deadline: **16 February 2024**.

– Curriculum vitae

– A personal letter of interest (maximum 300 words). Please explain why you would like to participate in the IGS North-South Summer School.

Students who are affiliated with an institution or programme that is linked with the IGS North-South (University of Basel: swisspeace and Swiss TPH, University of Bern, University of Lausanne and University of Zurich) have the possibility of applying for financial support. Limited funds are available to support participation of students and senior researchers from the global South; the selection criteria are the same for all groups.

A limited number of places are also available for self-payers; the course fee amounts to CHF 4,000, and includes local transport for field trips, accommodation, and full board for the duration of the whole course, but does not include travel costs to the venue.

Upon sending your application, you will receive a confirmation email containing further information about the timetable.