

Understanding the forest ownership in different forest owning cultures

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The content of the presentation



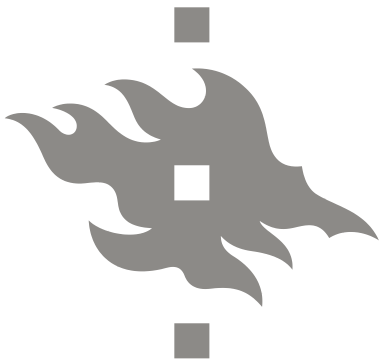
- Background and the aim of the study
- Forest owning cultures
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Background



- The non-industrial private forest owners (NIPF) possess a major part of Europe's forests.
- Forest owners, their values and motivations are becoming more versatile → “movement” away from traditional forestry.
- Need to understand more in depth these new forest owners.
- Pride-in-ownership/land stewardship as such has found to be important “objective” of forest owning (e.g. Wigley & Sweeney, 1993; Sime et al.; Potter-Witter 2005; Lähdesmäki & Matilainen 2014) → studying ownership feelings, construction of forest ownership provides new approaches?
- Cultural context impacts (Canadas and Novais, 2014)



Theoretical framework: Psychological ownership



- The feelings of ownership is approached through the theoretical concept of psychological ownership.
- Ownership is understood as a multidimensional phenomenon with legal (objective) and psychological aspects (Rogers and Pierce 2004).
- Psychological ownership is a sense of possession - a state in which individuals perceive the target as their own (Furby 1978, Pierce et al. 2003).
 - Attitude with both affective and cognitive elements: reflects motivations, commitment and responsibilities regarding the object of ownership.
- According to Pierce et al. (2001;2003), psychological ownership can be divided into three somewhat overlapping dimensions: control, self-identity and “having a place”. Later the fourth dimension, stimulation (dynamics of PO) was added (Pierce & Jussila 2011).



Theoretical framework: Psychological ownership



- Three routes identified that "lead" a person to experience psychological ownership:
 - 1) Controlling the object of ownership.
 - 2) Gaining knowledge of/being familiar with the object of ownership.
 - 3) Investing oneself (time, effort, money) to the object of ownership.

- Interrelated, complementary and/or additive in nature

(Pierce et al 2003)



The aim of the paper



- To contribute to the understanding the construction of psychological forest ownership of new NIPF owners from three different contextual settings in Europe, namely Northern European, Central European and Eastern European forest owning cultures. →
- It may be possible to better perceive the ongoing changes
 - Deepen the understanding of the reasons of new forest owners' forest management behaviour.



The forest owning cultures



- 3 dimensions used to analyse the forest owning cultures:
 - 1) the history of land ownership,
 - 2) the role of forests in national economics
 - 3) the urbanization (rural-urban) and socio-economic changes in rural areas.



Northern forest owning culture (FIN, SWE)



- Private forest ownership dominant.
- Family forests, mainly change owners by inheritance.
- Forest sector important to national economics.
- Relatively large forest holdings (compared to some other European countries).
- Urbanization process relatively later than in other European countries. Lately largely centralised to big cities → the increasing number of absentee forest owners.



Central European forest owning culture (BE, FR, GER)



- Private forest ownership, net income for the owners relatively small
- Forestry does not play a big role in the economies of the countries.
- Largely urbanized countries →
Increasingly urban owners, urban lifestyles make the behaviour of the owners more and more unpredictable



Eastern European forest owning culture (CZ, EE, RO, SL SR)



- During the previous communist regime at least parts of forest land was nationalized and centrally-managed by the State, with the main aim of economic exploitation → restitution process
- An increased number of small private owners, lack of experience and tradition of forest management, and various level of interest.
- In some countries strict new forest policies
- In some countries forestry still important to national economics as well as for owners (as own use).



Material and methods



- The data : 23 theme interviews from 10 different countries (Belgium (BE), Czech (CZ), Estonia (EE), Finland (FI), France (FRA), Germany (GER), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SL), Serbia (SR) and Sweden (SWE)).
- Purposive sampling approach.
- Forest owners who have owned their forest less than 5 years and owned the forest holding with typical size of the region in question
- Qualitative approach, thematic analysis based on a common analysis framework.



Results



- Construction of forest ownership was a complex process, in which several elements (legal and political context, family ties and tradition, economical situation etc.) influenced to the dimensions of psychological ownership.
- The existence of different routes in generating psychological ownership were important.
- Certain differences between the forest owning cultures were identified.

Dimension of psychological ownership	Northern Europe (FIN, SWE)	Western Europe (BE, FRA, GER)	Eastern European countries (CZ, EE, RO, SL, SR)
Control	<p>Respect towards private property rights, but on the other hand the expectations to provide benefits for national economy accepted as granted.</p> <p>Tradition of forest management within family affects the management decisions and limits the autonomous control of the owner.</p>	<p>Respect towards private property rights expected.</p> <p>The forest owners feel mentally free to implement their own individual objectives for the use of forest</p> <p>Expectations to provide with nature conservation and environmental benefits globally more accepted</p>	<p>Respect towards private property rights valued, but seen to be violated by the illegal activities and/or authorities.</p> <p>Tradition of forest management within family affect the management decisions and limits the autonomous control of the owner.</p> <p>Traditional gender roles may limit the control of the female forest owners</p>
Identity	<p>Forest used to build the link between self, family and rural heritage</p> <p>Traditional forest owning values visible.</p>	<p>Forest used to build the link between self and family and rural heritage, but the forest owning is not a joint family project.</p> <p>Forest used to build the link between self and nature</p>	<p>Forest used to build the link between self, family and heritage.</p> <p>Forests used to build the landowner identity</p> <p>Traditional forest owning values sometimes visible.</p>



Concluding remarks



- The forest owning culture seemed to have an influence on the perceived ownership feelings, esp. through the identity dimension.
- Especially in Northern and Eastern cultures, the family history matters.
- Transition from the collective tendency towards individualistic tendency along with the urbanization?
- Challenge to the policy makers?
- The forests as a link to the family or heritage was very important.
- The role of own control was especially highlighted in Eastern European countries.
- Gender roles more visible in the Northern and Eastern European forest owning cultures.

The work group

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Thank you for your interest!

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