



Constructing Amenities, Erasing Resources? A Comparative Political Ecology of Displaced Gathering in Coastal South Carolina (USA) and the Edremit Bay Coast (Turkey)

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Landscape and planning scholars, environmental historians, and historical geographers have long examined links between urbanization and natural resource extraction. For example, these scholars have pointed to the creation of recreational landscapes in areas surrounding expanding and industrializing cities of the late 19th and early 20th Century. More recently, scholars have begun to examine the impacts of amenity migration on communities that are characterized by cultural and economic ties to, and landscapes that have been shaped by, diverse natural resources and practices. Yet, less attention has been paid to ways that rapid urbanization has transformed the landscapes and spaces that support non-farming gathering practices and associated human-forest interactions. Simultaneously, there is a need to further explore the diverse types of urbanization associated with the rise of a global countryside. In this paper, we explore the diverse ways in which distinctive urbanization patterns associated with amenity migration transform the gathering practices and (rural) livelihoods of long-time locals in formerly rural places. We draw on two case studies that highlight the complex ways in which amenity urbanization reconfigures social-ecological systems. First, we examine the case of African American sweet grass basket-makers in Low country South Carolina (U.S.A East Coast). Second, we explore wild edible and medicinal plant gathering by local villagers living in the Edremit Bay Region (western Turkey). Both sweet grass basket-making in South Carolina and wild plant gathering in the Edremit Bay Region are economically and culturally important practices tied to specific landscape characteristics, which have been dramatically transformed by rapid residential development and governance that is contested by long-time locals. In examining these cases, we analyze the diverse changes to resource sites and access that characterize these urbanizing places and that are underpinned by a historical tradition in planning theory, and its 'urban imaginaries,' that discursively and materially reconfigures the landscape and key spaces associated with gathering. Drawing on these cases, we develop a typology of amenity-resource transformations that reveal the hidden ruralities and spaces that permeate landscapes associated with rapid urbanization in areas where amenity migration is prevalent. This work challenges planning and landscape historians to re-examine the production of urban space.

KEY WORDS: Landscape history, peri-urban fringe, urban ecology, urban political ecology, green urbanism, NTFPs.