

*International workshop*

# Soil+Land Stewardship

Friday 20 April 2018



SAMEN MAKEN WE  
MORGEN MOOIER

**OVAM**



**UHASSELT**

KNOWLEDGE IN ACTION

**shift**<sup>n</sup>

clarity in complexity

# Why is stewardship or care for soil and land important?

- ▶ Soil and land are vital, but vulnerable (i.e. very slow renewable) parts of our natural capital. There is still a lack of awareness about these roles in society.
- ▶ They provide important functions to society and the ecosystem
  - Biomass production (agriculture and forestry)
  - Storing, filtering and transforming nutrients, substances and water
  - Harboring biodiversity (habitats, species, genes) !!! Soil is a living system !!!
  - Forming physical and cultural environment for humans and their activities
  - Providing raw materials
  - Acting as a carbon pool
  - Forming an archive of geological and archeological heritage
  - Give feed to a lot of ecosystem services which contribute to growing societal challenges (such as the SDG's)

# Why is stewardship or care for soil and land important?

- ▶ How to **steward** the soil resources we have, **preserve** and **restore them from degradation** them where necessary, as soils underpin life?
  - Current legislation and policy instruments to tackle “local” contamination (mostly historic contamination), mainly based on the “Polluter pays principle”
- ▶ Searching for new strategies to tackle challenges:
  - How to take care for **diffuse pollution** (source is diffuse/unknown, Polluter pays principle is difficult to implement) or for **residual contamination** after remediation works?
  - How to raise **awareness** and support **engagement and care** for **emerging contaminants** or for risks of pollution linked to **gardening**?
  - How to encourage **circular soil management** (e.g. remediation of brownfields or in urban development) ?

# Why is stewardship or care for soil and land important?

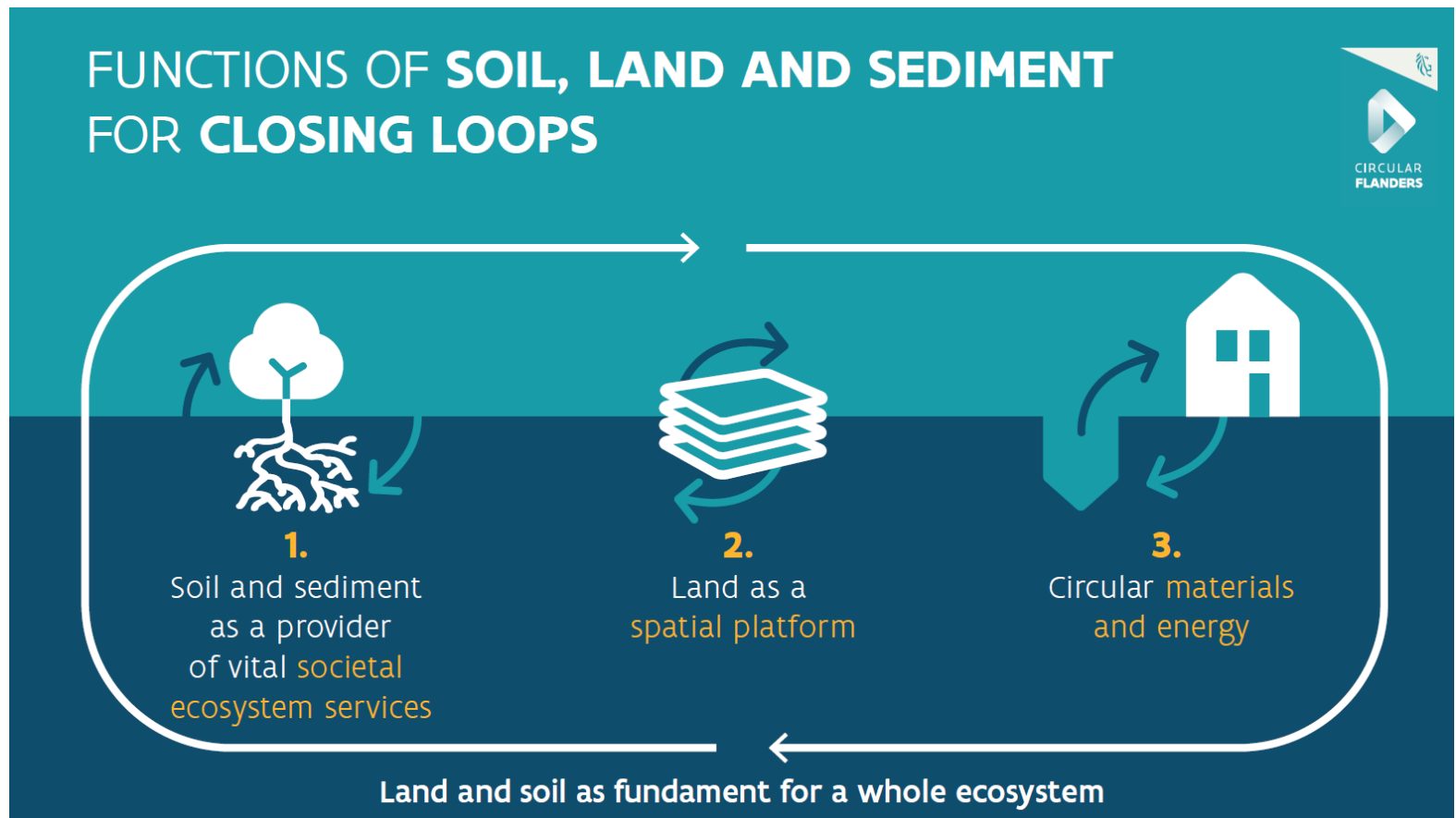
**Ownership of soil and land:  
property rights**

**Soil and land as a common:  
duties towards society**

# Why stewardship of soil and land?

Actual situation: unbalance in soil and land management, overexploitation resulting in damage

Desirable situation: balance in meeting societal challenges and preservation natural capital



# Interactive session: exploring the notion of soil/land stewardship

- **Question:** *which 3 words or concepts do you associate with the theory and practice of soil stewardship?*
- Please write down.
- We'll share after the presented examples.

# Soil+Land stewardship conceptual guide to new instruments for soil policy?

## Needs:

- ▶ **Change in mindset** (awareness) resulting in **more care about soil**
- ▶ **Change in relationship** between soil and society with a focus on reciprocity
- ▶ **Involvement and engagement** of stakeholders to **care for soil in practice**
- ▶ **Framework** with guidelines, tools, ... for “**shared responsibility**” for soil
- ▶ **Evaluation of property rights**

# Soil+Land stewardship conceptual guide to new instruments for soil policy?

- ▶ **Multiple axes (sectors): agriculture/industry/urbanisation**
- ▶ **Multiple scales: spatial planning to gardening**
- ▶ **Clear targets (no net degradation..) without specific objectives**
- ▶ How?
- ▶ New directive?
- ▶ Updating Soil Thematic Strategy with recent policy on climate, biodiversity, SDGs, ..., focus on transversal strategy



## **Interactive session: Examples of soil/land stewardship practice**

- Dr Beth Dooley, Centre for Rural Policy Research, University of Exeter, UK
- Dr Deema Kaneff, Centre for Russian, European and Eurasian Studies, University of Birmingham, UK
- Cristian Olmos Herrera, Development Planning Unit, The Bartlett, UCL, UK

*Soil and and Stewardship:  
past and current research*  
*Beth Dooley*



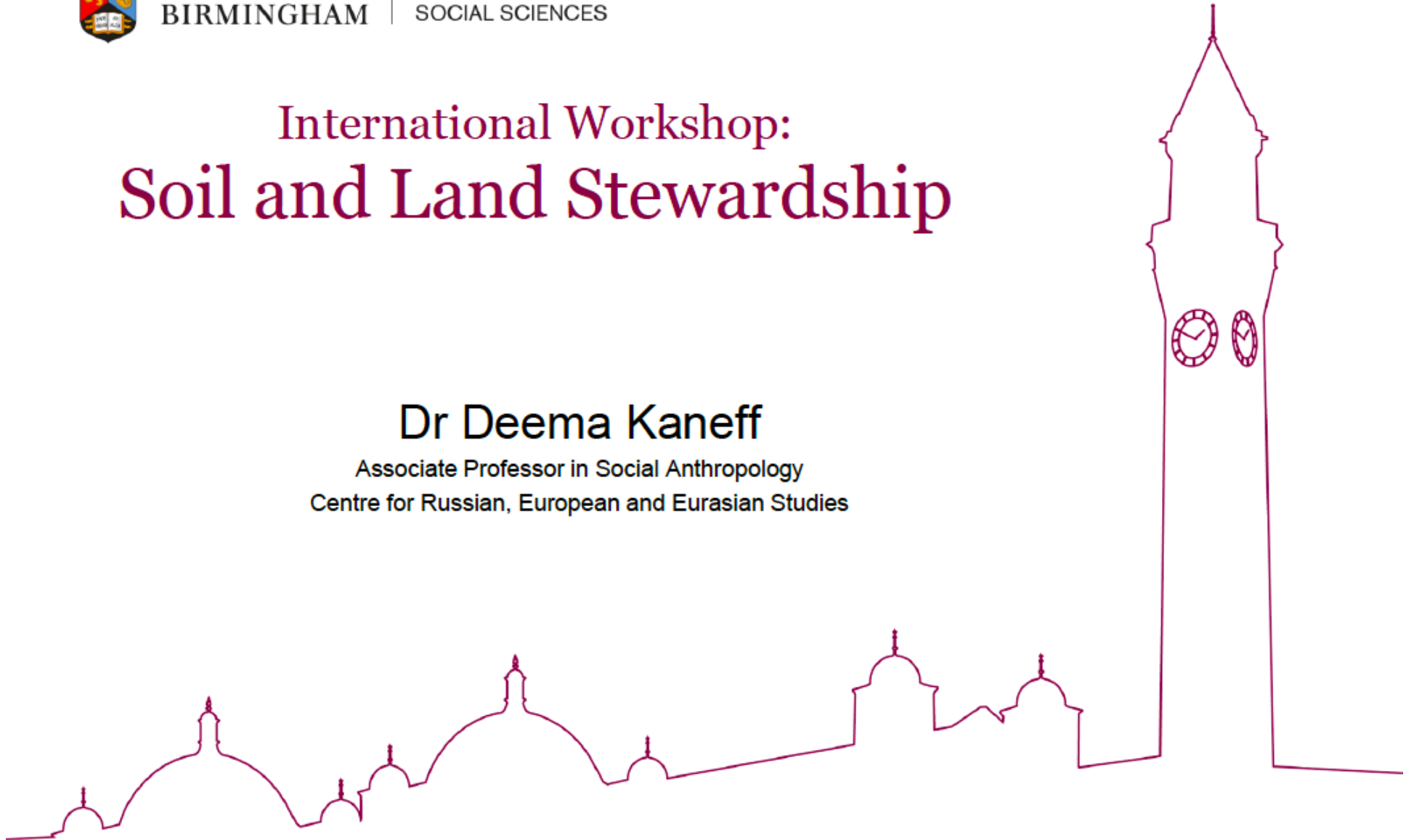
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SOCIAL SCIENCES

# International Workshop: Soil and Land Stewardship

**Dr Deema Kaneff**

Associate Professor in Social Anthropology  
Centre for Russian, European and Eurasian Studies



# Land Stewardship - considerations

Need to take into account:

- Local conditions: geo-political, historical, social etc.
  - Multiple meanings of land: legal, cultural, religious, economic, political
  - Forms of land ownership: rarely absolute or exclusive; use (customary) vs legal rights
  - The interdependency between land and other resources
  - How land relations are: shaped by (and shape) political-economies; ideologically informed
- 
- The study of property relations (and land): is not only a relationship between people and land; it is also a relationship ***between*** people ***about*** land.



# Interactive session: Formulating aspirations for future soil/land stewardship practices

## *Questions:*

- What is the potential of soil/land stewardship?
- What needs to happen to realise that potential?
- What have we learned with respect to the key questions formulated in the introduction?
- How to take this forward? What are opportunities for collaboration?

# Upcoming opportunities for collaboration

- **[www.aquaconsoil.org](http://www.aquaconsoil.org) Antwerp - May 2019**
  - Sustainable use and management of soil, sediment and Water resource
- **WRF World Resource Forum 2019 Antwerp – 24-27 Feb 2019**
  - Closing Loops
- **IABR 2018-2020**
  - The Missing Link



<http://www.ovamenglish.be/world-resources-forum-2019>

#### Design your own deep-dive workshop at the World Resources Forum 2019

WRF 2019 will host a series of 'deep-dive' workshops as part of the conference program and invites interested organisations to **design and submit a workshop proposal now**. Under the Title 'Closing Loops - Transitions at work', WRF 2019 wants to show systemic drivers, as well as concrete solutions to make the transition to circular economy work in practice. [Read more >](#)