

# Understanding the Technical Framing and Practice of Participatory Forest Management in Tanzania

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# Research Objectives

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- General objective: To explain the framing of the participatory forest management in scientific forestry terms.
- Specific objectives:
  - To examine forestry training.
  - To examine activities of forestry activities.
  - To examine practices of professional foresters in the forest management field (political economy of forest management field).
  - The meaning of participation to professional foresters.

# Theory

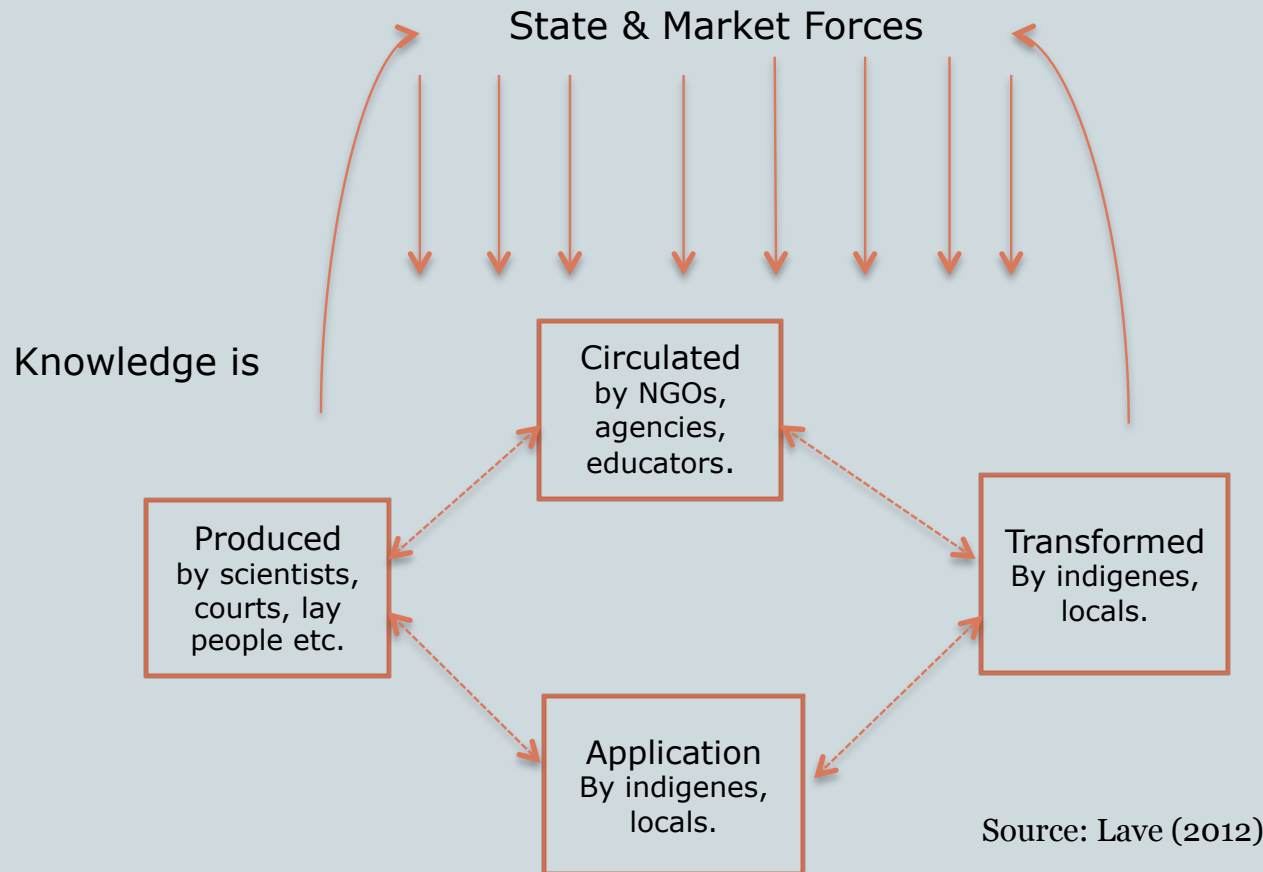
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- Bourdieu's specificity of scientific field (STS): scientific authority.
- Field, Habitus, Capital, Doxa.
- Field not autonomous: neoliberalism, political-economic forces affecting the application of knowledge (Lave, 2012).

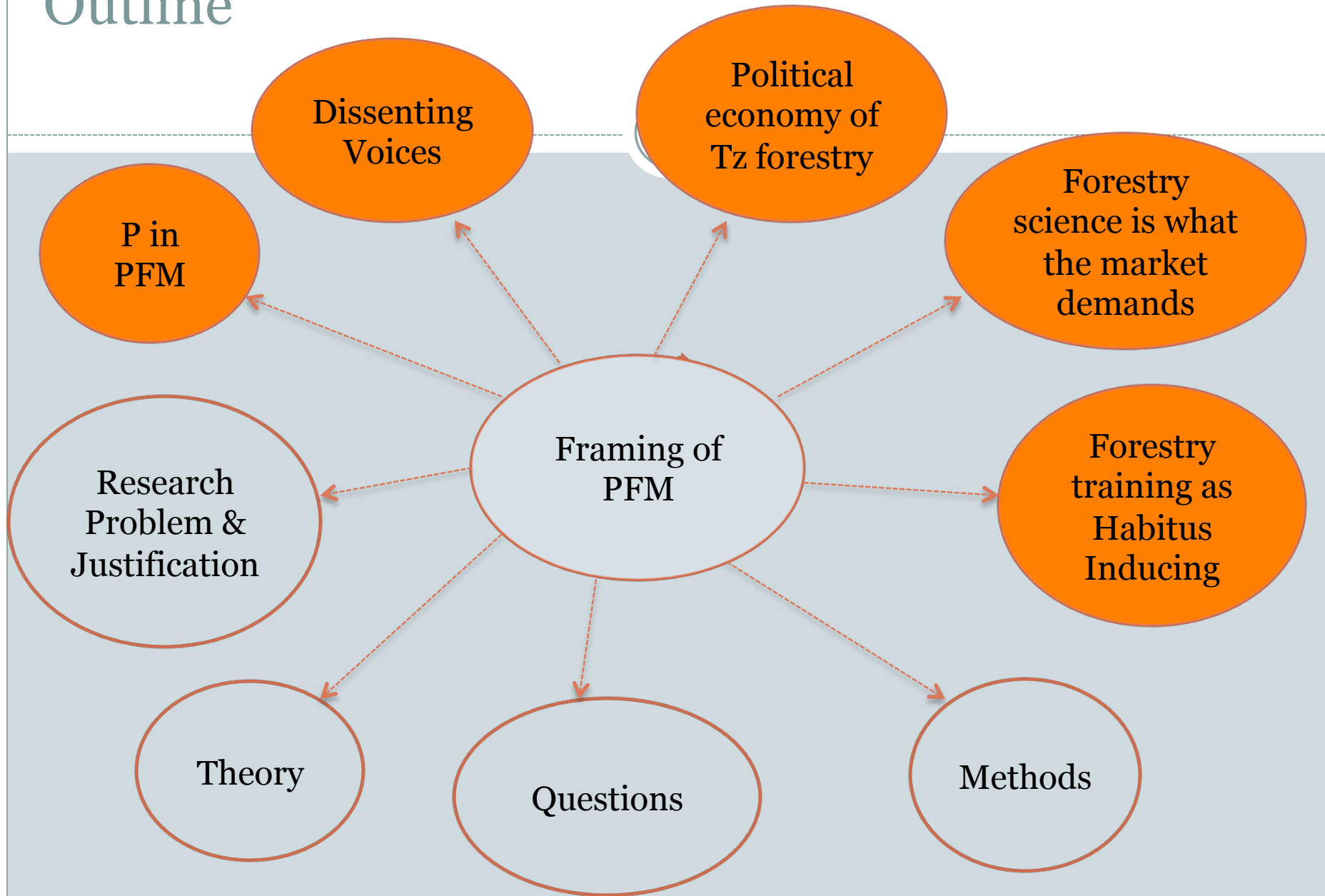
# Theory

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- Production of forestry science dovetails with circulation and application:



# Outline



- **Scientific Field 1: Examining forestry training**

# Research questions and methods

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- **Questions:**

- Is forestry training habitus producing?
- Does this training have the intellectual and somatic reach of habitus?
- Is habitus uniformly internalized?

- **Methods:**

- Examine students' pool – characteristics.
- Review curriculum.
- Observations in classrooms.
- Interviews.
- Survey: quasi experimental design.
- Attend seminars.





# Findings

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- Students inclined to favor scientific solutions even before training.
- Targeted materials – to create a professional forester.
- Overwhelming materials – semester system.
- Absence of contrasting opinions.
- Teaching science as a rule and not as contested knowledge.
- Dispositions towards scientific forestry not uniformly internalized.
- Forestry education is increasingly market based.





- **Scientific field 2: Activities of Forestry academics**

# Questions and Methods

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- **Questions:**

- What kinds of research SUA forestry academics undertake? How is it funded?
- What kinds of consultancies SUA forestry academics are involved in? Who are the clients?
- How do research priorities and consultancies forestry academics undertake evolve with shifting priorities of funders?
- How does the work of forestry academics as experts shape what they teach in classrooms?

- **Methods:**

- Interviews with forestry academics.
- Examine completed and ongoing consultancies.
- Examine researches.

# Findings

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- Forestry academics as experts (Stehr & Grundman, 2011).
  - Mediators btm production & application.
  - Create certainty.
- Forestry academics and power struggles within the scientific field.
  - Forest inventory debate.
- Forestry academics as bureaucrats.
- Applied research.

# Political Economy of Tz's Professional Forestry



# Questions and Methods

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- **What:**
  - The influence of internalized dispositions (habitus) on practices.
  - The influence of the framing of policy & practices on the creation of the habitus.
- **Questions:**
  - How much influence do broader political-economic relations in the professional forestry field (forest bureaucracy) have in the success of habitus?
  - Relative autonomy of the field?
- **Methods:**
  - Hang out at TFS/FBD + Attend meetings.
  - Hang out at Rufiji District Council.
  - Interviews.
  - Review of documentary sources.



# Findings

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- Policy framed in terms of scientific forestry habitus and enables the creation of the habitus:
  - Possible to manage and estimate sustainable harvesting levels for all types of forests including miombo.
  - Villagers as forest managers but only if using principles of scientific forestry.
  - The old growth forests we see today are a climax community, otherwise it is primary or secondary succession.
  - The insistence of market-based solutions –
- No Harvesting in VLFRs without a management/harvesting plan:
  - Even with a harvesting plan, some villages e.g. Tawi & Nyamwage struggle to harvest.
- But harvesting on general land proceeds without a plan: Double standard.
  - Professional foresters can gamble but not villagers.
  - Villagers with their local knowledge are a lower level 'foresters'.



# Findings

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- Strong indication that scientific forestry is being applied subconsciously:
  - Eviction – ‘taken for granted that human activities not allowed in reserves’.
  - Challenge from non-equilibrium ecology.
  - It is possible to sustainably and profitably manage miombo woodland.
  - NAFORMA.





# Findings

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- **Donors/NGOs/funding influence:**
  - Technical advisers.
  - NGO staff – innovations as they attract funding.
  - Innovations in PFM – value chain analysis/value addition.
  
- **Propensity for market-based solutions.**
  - A financially self-sufficient forest agency – re-surveying, inventorying.
  - The question of cubic meters & carbon credits (PFM & REDD+).
  
- **Scientific forestry as a resource:**
  - Put professional foresters on the driver's seat.
  - Namatunu case – scientific harvesting plan without science.
  - Even when the science is correct, some important variables are omitted – rotten trees case in Namatunu.
  - Inventory method debate.

# Findings

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- For a long time, professional foresters have not been in control:
  - Eviction as a result of weak management prior to TFS.
  - In 2010/2011, out of about 455 forest reserves, only 13 had a management plan.
  
- Construed meaning of the law: TFS vs DFO/VLFRs/NGOs
  - The meaning of general land.
  - Selling standing tree volume vs actual log, slipper, or sawn timber volume.
  
- Production of certainty:
  - Reliance on consultants advises.
  - Inextricable production, circulation, and application of knowledge.

- **Dissenting voices**

- ***"When we crafted the first CBFM guidelines, we made sure it was as simple as possible because our goal was to promote participation. But then experts came in with their academic mindset and they claimed that the first CBFM guidelines had nothing in it to guarantee sustainable forest management. But I think a simple forest assessment to know what is in the forest to achieve sustainable forest management. No need for complex, detailed, and technical inventories and management procedures"*** Senior Officer at TFS
- ***"Who says villages with VLFRs need detailed forest inventory before they are allowed to harvest? In the government forest reserves and general lands, we are harvesting everyday. Do we have harvesting plans based on detailed inventories for these areas? Is it possible to do detailed inventories for all these areas? We only need something to verify that harvesting is sustainable. And this is why we make sure there is a decent management plans to give us some confidence that at least there is some management going on."*** Director, FBD.

- ***"Forest regulations, volume tables, and requirements for selling standing tree volume are meant for government forest reserves, and especially plantations. The recovery rates were developed purposely for plantations and not for natural forests, let alone VLFRs. VLFRs should devise their own harvesting procedures and they are not compelled by the law to adopt government procedures for forest reserves. We do not know why people think VLFRs must follow everything the government is doing in its forest reserves. We think this has to do with misinterpretation of the law furthered by officers either because they don't know or for their own interests." ( Three Senior Foresters at TFS at the NFBKP wrap up workshop).***

- **The Meaning of Participation**

- The stated meaning of participation.
- The implied meaning of participation.
- As a strategy – taking villagers for a ride.
- As an end itself – empowering villagers to take control.



Thank you for your attention!