

<b>Jens Lund</b>		
Affiliation	University of Copenhagen	
Session Chair		
Presentations	Session 1.3	<i>Individual presentations: Forest and Climate.</i>

*Abstract Session 1.3 – The past, present and future in Natural Climate Solutions.*

Ideas about past and present shape the contours of what is seen as possible futures. This is acutely visible in debates about the possible solutions to climate change mitigation. In the wake of the recent surge in climate urgency in the global public imaginary, researchers, politicians, and carbon intensive industries have once again embraced "nature" as a prominent mitigation solution. Rolled up in these promises of an improved nature as climate solution are imaginaries about past, present and future. The past is problematized in terms of wastefulness and ignorance to chart out the potential and direction for projects of investment and improvement. The present is framed as a moment of possibility, of underutilized, vast empty spaces and improvement potentials to put nature to work for a greater good and multiple win-wins. And the future is enrolled as a carefully curated blend of dramatic transformations in that which must change, and continuities in that which cannot change. This exercise in conjuring up a problematic past, present potentiality and promising future to render possible and plausible some transformations, while obscuring others, is, of course, deeply political. Here I examine the imaginaries of past, present and future that underlie the promises of Natural Climate Solutions, seeking to write back in the politics that has been carefully edited out, or simply never made it into, the formulation of this concept.