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Presentations	Session 6.1	<i>Politics of knowledge in forest management.</i>

Abstract Session 6.1 – Knowledge and forest discourses in changing environments.

Drought, heat, and related bark beetle outbreaks have impacted the state of German forests in recent years, resulting in challenges for forest management as it is confronted with a variety of ecological changes and societal demands. This situation has led to an increase in forest-related debates in public media and the political domain, illustrating conflicting understandings and interests. Applying a discourse analysis on newspaper articles, my work aims to explore the politicization of natural phenomena through struggles over meanings and ideas. In this context, different systems of knowledge are an important factor influencing the way meaning is ascribed to forests, which in turn, affects the proposed solutions. The analysis, therefore, elaborates on forms of knowledge, among other things, to contextualize the storylines applied by actors in order to display a credible and consistent argumentation. Doing so, it reveals which knowledge is represented as valid and legitimate in the discourse on German forests. Due to the influence of discourses on political decision-making processes and public opinion, understanding their underlying meanings and ideas is important to address the complexity of dealing with the current challenges.