Welcome to the project launch of BIOrdinary: Biodiversity Dilemmas in Ordinary Places

You are cordially invited to the project launch of BIOrdinary. The launch will begin with a presentation of the project, research team and the expert committee, followed by a reception with drinks and snacks.

Time
Thursday 16th Feb, 15.00-17.00

Place
Room 458 (Flex-sal) @ Stockholm University Library

Zoom
http://stockholmuniversity.zoom.us/j/68442242588

Home
Department of Social Anthropology

Period
2023-2026

PI:s
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Financed by
Formas

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RESERCH PROJECT
BIOrdinary
BIODIVERSITY DILEMMAS IN ORDINARY PLACES

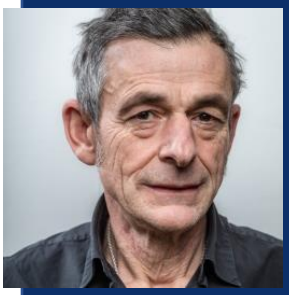
BIOrdinary expands our understanding of biodiversity by focusing on places marked by habitation, trade, agriculture, and domestication. These ordinary places are essential to our needs for food, shelter, and resources but surprisingly, they fall outside global biodiversity agendas.

To complicate the current vision of biodiversity, we explore "biodiversity dilemmas" in five ordinary places that involve migrant species – tea plants, mosquitos, fish, oysters, and mink. By researching the intertwined social and biological histories leading up to these dilemmas and local communities' understandings and responses to these crises, BIOrdinary asks: how can we learn to live with migrant species in emergent ecologies?

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Stockholm University

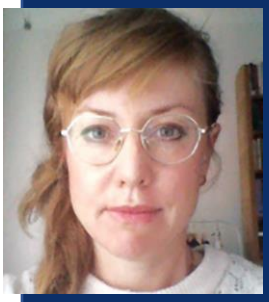
RESEARCH TEAM



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Case 1: Traveling tea plants

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Case 3: 'Invasive' Mosquitos

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Case 4: Migrant Pacific Oysters

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Case 5: Runaway Mink

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CASE STUDIES

Case 1: Traveling Tea Plants in East Africa.
British settlers brought the Assam tea plant from India to East Africa, turning dense forests into monocultural plantations. Climate change and plant breeding reducing the tea species' genetic diversity have now made these plantations highly vulnerable. Tea plants have also escaped into nearby forest and become "invasive".



Case 2. Emergent Ecologies in the Mediterranean Sea
The Mediterranean Sea is undergoing one of the world's largest marine transformation. The Suez Canal, dug to shorten the route between East and West, has become a "highway" for tropical marine species (jellyfish, rabbitfish, crustacea and algae), in search of new habitats.



Case 3: 'Invasive' Mosquitos in Southeast Asia.
Aedes aegypti mosquitos, originally from Africa, are a highly effective vector of dengue and zika that are increasingly making urban Singapore their home. However, large-scale technoscientific projects to eradicate this 'invader' in the name of public health run the risk of also catastrophically reducing biodiversity.



Case 4. Migrant Pacific Oysters on the West Coast of Sweden
These molluscs, imported from Pacific Ocean to aquafarms in Europe, escaped these facilities hitchhiking on warmer sea-currents to Western shores of Sweden. Accused of outcompeting local species and being a nuisance to the leisure industry, they are also a potential new marine nutrient.



Case 5. Runaway Mink in the Stockholm Archipelago
Mink was first brought to Sweden from North America for the commercial exploitation of their fur in the 1920s, before they absconded from captivity or were released by people. Mink now threaten the diversity of several native species, particularly birds, in the Swedish archipelago.

