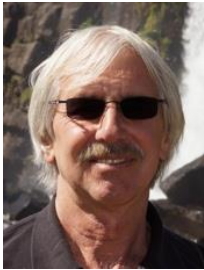


JOHN STEPHEN LANSING

**Visiting Professor in Sociology, Nanyang Technological University and
Professor, School of Anthropology, the University of Arizona**



J. Stephen Lansing is a visiting professor in sociology at NTU, and a professor in the School of Anthropology at the University of Arizona, with a joint appointment in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. He is also an external professor at the Santa Fe Institute, birthplace of complexity theory, and a senior research fellow at the Stockholm Resilience Centre. His recent research has to do with the long-term dynamics of coupled social-ecological systems. Currently he is assisting the Government of Indonesia to create a new UNESCO World Heritage site to help preserve the temple networks. Recent publications and films are available at www.slansing.org.

Wrapping the volcano for the Goddess of the Lakes: the challenge of complexity in Bali's new UNESCO World Heritage

This talk focuses on challenges and opportunities in Bali's new UNESCO World Heritage. Along a typical river in Bali, small groups of farmers meet regularly in water temples to manage their irrigation systems. They have done so for a thousand years. Over the centuries, water temple networks have expanded to manage the ecology of rice terraces at the scale of whole watersheds. In June 2012, this complex adaptive system became a UNESCO Cultural Landscape. An innovative management plan empowers the elected heads of communities to manage the World Heritage as a Governing Assembly. Implementation of the management system has been delayed, but it has been endorsed by UNESCO as a promising model for democratic adaptive management.

With millions of visitors arriving in Bali each year, there is obvious potential for the Governing Assembly to capture revenue from visitors to the sites, and in this way channel benefits from Bali's enormous tourism industry to Balinese communities. The design of visitor facilities also offers an opportunity for communities to decide what they would like to communicate to visitors. Can the World Heritage program help sustain Tri Hita Karana (harmony between nature, spirit and humanity) in a living landscape?