



ICARRD+20

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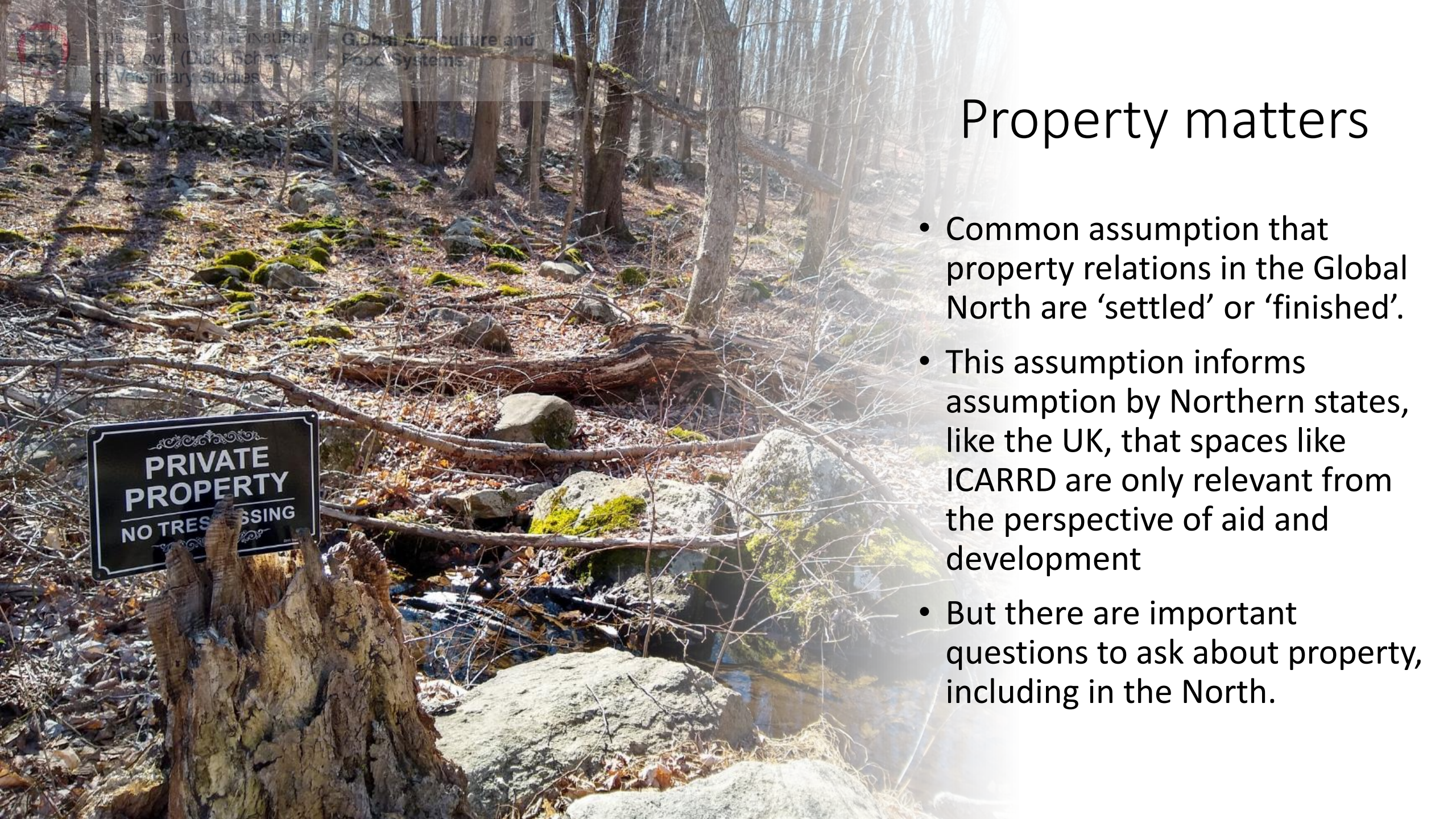


THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
The Royal (Dick) School
of Veterinary Studies

Global Agriculture and
Food Systems

ICARRD+20: What can Scotland offer and what can Scotland learn?

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Property matters

- Common assumption that property relations in the Global North are 'settled' or 'finished'.
- This assumption informs assumption by Northern states, like the UK, that spaces like ICARRD are only relevant from the perspective of aid and development
- But there are important questions to ask about property, including in the North.

ICARRD+20 is an opportunity for Scotland to share

- To show that:
 - property in the North is *not* settled but always in the making.
 - the right to property is *not* absolute, but can be limited in the public interest (Shields, 2024)

Shields, K. (2024). *Dances with Lairds: Lessons from Scottish Land Reform* in Welford, W., Peluso N. and Goldman M. (eds), *The Social Lives of Land*, 336-364.



ICARRD+20 is an opportunity for Scotland to learn

- The *social function* of property
- The role of land reform as a part of broader *agrarian reform*
- The importance of land redistribution *beyond market-based* reform



Going beyond redistribution

- “Land distribution cannot focus narrowly on individual private property or it will fail; a wider range of property relations must be acknowledged.”
 - Cape Town Declaration on Land, Life and Society, 2025
- “[t]he limited commons is a recognizable version of a bounded and exclusive property, even if the boundaries encompass an entire community rather than a single individual... [T]hey are commons on the inside, but [private] property on the outside.”
 - Rose, C. (2020). *Thinking about the Commons*. International Journal of the Commons, 14(1), 557-566.

Questions for discussion

- What is special about Scotland's land reforms, which could support other countries and movements looking to challenge property in their countries?
- Does Scotland need agrarian reform as well as land reform? What might this look like?
- How could Scottish land reform better enable redistribution and limit land concentration? Do non-market-based measures have a role to play?
- What might it look like for Scottish land reform to go beyond redistribution? How could this build on Scotland's unique geography, history and culture?



Thank you!

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