

Conference Abstracts & Biographies

1D – Small-scale Fisheries

Chair: Lydia Martens, Keele University

Never mind the environment, all they want is fish: The changing landscape of marine resource-use on the Batanes Archipelago, Philippines

Timur Jack-Kadioglu, University of Exeter, UK

Abstract:

The sea and the natural resources it holds plays an important role for coastal communities in Southeast Asia through a diverse range of ecosystem services, providing livelihoods, food security and supporting health and well-being. For many of these populations, these ecosystem services include cultural and spiritual benefits, which have played a major role in the formation of social processes deeply embedded in maritime identities. These cultural identities and the associated unique local knowledge systems have contributed to the development of traditional resource-use patterns that sustainably regulate small-scale fisheries.

In some cases, a multifaceted combination of socio-political, cultural and economic pressures is contributing to the degradation of marine resources. In the context of small island developing states (SIDS) and island communities in Southeast Asia, the high dependence of small-scale fishers on declining stocks in coastal fishing grounds is contributing to overfishing, increased occurrence of poaching and the use of destructive and highly-efficient fishing practices.

Building upon existing research on the political ecology of marine resource-use and increased resource-user conflict in Southeast Asia – in particular through complex power relations between a range of local, regional and global actors – fieldwork was conducted in the Batanes Archipelago in the extreme north of the Philippines. The isolated geographical nature of these islands and the indigenous Ivatan population provides an interesting case-study of a coastal community with a strong adherence to indigenous resource-use traditions, particularly when compared with other areas in the Philippines and the wider Southeast Asia region.

However, pressures such as the current rapid growth in tourism, increasing interaction with other parts of the Philippines, and poaching by foreign fishers for the luxury seafood industry are leading to a growing cycle of competition and conflict over resources, degradation of the marine environment and a decline in indigenous resource-use patterns.

Keywords: Political ecology, indigenous knowledge, small-scale fisheries, coastal communities, Philippines

Biography:

Timur is a PhD student whose research is investigating the intersections between marine ecosystems, gender, health and wellbeing among coastal communities in the Philippines, under the supervision of Dr Ruth Garside, Dr Karyn Morrissey and Dr Felicity Thomas, as part of the GCRF-funded Blue Communities programme. Prior to joining the University of Exeter, Timur spent two years working for a grassroots NGO on Zanzibar, Tanzania, with a focus on collaborative fisheries management, community-based natural resource management and participatory methods. Through his work he was involved in a range of activities including project

design, monitoring and evaluation, participatory resource mapping and fishery profiling, biodiversity monitoring, communications and grant-writing.

This followed a master's degree in Environment and Development at the School of Geosciences of the University of Edinburgh, which included dissertation fieldwork researching changing marine resource-use patterns of the indigenous Ivatan population of the Batanes Archipelago in the northern Philippines

He has an interest in the role that coastal communities can play in the management of their natural resources, including the integration of local knowledge and traditional governance systems within the wider science-policy-society interface.

Fishy Relations: Multi-species intergenerational (dis)continuities and anthropogenic maritime change in the North Atlantic

Lydia Martens, Keele University, UK

Abstract:

This paper offers a reflection on the entanglement of fishing and multi-species intergenerational (dis)continuities in the North Atlantic marine environment. Working with van Dooren's (2014) notion of flightways, I trace the intergenerational (dis)continuities that are suggestive of human-fish-bird entanglement during the great acceleration. The presented analysis draws on multi-species ethnography/ethography (van Dooren 2014; van Dooren and Bird Rose 2016; Pacini-Ketchabaw et al 2016), as it offers opportunities for analyses that connect the particular with the global. At the local/particular level, I focus on the salience of fish and fishing in and around a coastal holidaying community in North Scotland, in what may best be described as a more-than-human marine nursery, and where multi-species childhoods are co-realised in and through their intra-active becoming (Barad 2003). I present a detailed meditation on fishing and its decline through the memories of an intergenerational human family, who has visited the site since the early 1970s, seeing two generations of human children grow up there. The North Atlantic marine environment and debate about the decline in fish stocks - due to over fishing and the warming of Atlantic seawater - form the contextual global level narrative (Probyn 2016). In addition to the transformation of human livelihoods in this region (Nadel-Klein 2003), leading to discontinuities in intergenerational practices and learning, the problematic of human-induced depletion of fish stocks is explored for its more-than-human implications, including the decline in the population of species of sea birds and the consequent threat of extinction.

Keywords: fish; fishing; multi-species intergenerational (dis)continuities; North Atlantic; anthropogenic maritime change

Biography:

Lydia Martens is Senior Lecturer in Sociology at Keele University (UK). She has a longstanding interest in intergenerational relations and learning in family life. She is currently developing an agenda of research on careful intergenerational becoming, in which she addresses questions on human and more-than-human entanglements and relations with a view towards global warming and climate change. Her most recent and relevant publication is an article in the special issue on Families and the Environment in the journal *Families, Relationships and Societies*. Lydia has published in *The British Journal of the Sociology of Education*, *The Journal of Consumer Culture*, *Sociology*, *Sociological Research Online*, and the *International Journal of Social*

Research Methodology, and is author of a forthcoming book (2018, Palgrave MacMillan) on Childhood and Markets.

Ethnographic insights into conceptualisations of marine and coastal spaces in small-scale fishing communities

Ruth Brennan, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

Abstract:

European fisheries and coastal communities are facing significant challenges that call for innovative, sustainable and inclusive responses. The recently reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) recognises that [s]mall offshore islands which are dependent on fishing should be especially recognised and supported in order to enable them to survive and prosper. In July 2017, the Island Fisheries (Heritage Licence) Bill 2017 was introduced to the (Irish Parliament). It envisages issuing heritage licences to rural coastal and island communities to allow for traditional and seasonal fishing practices on offshore islands. As an island nation, fishing has always been economically and socially important to Ireland. Key questions are whether, and how, the small-scale fishing industry can develop low-impact, sustainable fishing models for a new high-value niche sector through innovations that promote good governance, foster marine stewardship, meet the environmental objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and contribute to climate change goals while meeting the need of fisheries-dependent coastal communities to flourish and thrive. The Irish Islands Marine Resources Organisation (IIMRO) is a national organisation made up of Irish islanders fighting to bring to the attention of decision makers the needs of island communities across the country on marine related matters. This talk will introduce new research to co-design and test innovative governance approaches with a strong community, heritage and sustainability focus that address the needs of fisheries-dependent island communities while meeting national and European marine planning and conservation objectives. This research is being carried out against the policy backdrop of a new network of Irish marine protected areas (MPAs). It builds on the authors previous participatory and ethnographic research that examined how the articulation of culturally-embedded relationships between people and place can facilitate engagement with the related policy environment by challenging the dominant narrative of conservation through the visual articulation of competing realities.

Keywords: Environmental governance, maritime perceptions, small-scale fisheries, coastal cultural heritage, bio-cultural diversity

Biography:

I am a marine social scientist specialising in marine environmental governance. I am currently a Marie Skodowska-Curie Individual Fellow at the Trinity Centre for Environmental Humanities, Trinity College Dublin. Positioned at the interface of science, policy and the arts, my work is highly interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary. My doctoral research examined how the articulation of culturally-embedded relationships between people and place can facilitate engagement with the related policy environment. It considered how challenging the dominant narrative of conservation through the visual articulation of competing realities can create space for different narratives to emerge. It provided insights into the role played by competing value systems in natural resource management and conservation conflicts. I am an experienced facilitator and communicator both through my research and former career as a solicitor with a leading international law firm in London and Paris. From 2011-2016, I collaborated with Glasgow-based visual artist Stephen Hurrell. Our art-science work has been widely exhibited in Scotland. Our short film Clyde Reflections (33 mins, 2014) was installed at the Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, Scotland from 28 May to 5 July 2015. During 2016, I was a research fellow at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology where I led a pilot project on situating Arab-Israeli artisanal fishermen's perceptions of marine litter in a socio-cultural and socio-institutional

context. I participate in the Humanities for the Environment network, ISSMER (International network for Social Studies of Marine Energy) and 3 COST Actions: Oceans Past Platform (Gendered Seas Working Group), MarCons (Marine Protected Area Governance Working Group) and Ocean Governance for Sustainability (Fisheries Governance). I am an Honorary Fellow of the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) and an Associate of the interdisciplinary Laurence Mee Centre for Society and the Sea, where I worked as a Research Associate for 7 years.

Using value chain analysis to explore wellbeing and benefit distribution in seasonal small-scale fisheries in Liberia

Robert Arthur, MRAG Ltd

Abstract:

Small-scale fisheries play an important role in sustaining the livelihoods and food security of coastal communities across Liberia. This role extends beyond the fishers and includes fish mongers, traders and those with roles in landing and transporting fish. This paper uses value chain analysis to examine post-harvest utilisation of fish from small-scale fisheries and to explore well-being aspects associated with utilisation. While value chains are often used to describe how materials flow from producer to buyer, but focusing on the transactions that take place within them highlights the relational dimension of wellbeing and importance of understanding relationships and power within value chains and how these are shaped by wider social institutions. The findings from Liberia demonstrate how in highly seasonal fisheries, the relations within the value chain, particularly between fishers and fish mongers, are complex and dynamic.

This paper considers the implications of the findings for small-scale fisheries value chains, and for interventions in the sector. Without attention to the full range of actors and the nature of relationships within the value chain, there is a risk that socially deleterious outcomes may result, undermining, however unintentionally, the individual and collective wellbeing of coastal communities that depend on small-scale fisheries. This paper concludes by identifying future research objectives related to the economics and power dynamics of small-scale fisheries value chains.

Keywords: Value chain; Small-scale; Wellbeing; Seasonal.

Biography:

Dr Arthur leads and contributes to a range of projects related to marine and inland fisheries and aquaculture. His work is often interdisciplinary and focused on the management and the governance aquatic resources, with an emphasis on social science analysis and the human dimensions of fishing and fisheries. Robert has led projects for a diverse range of clients including World Bank, EU, DFID and FAO.