

Conference Abstracts & Biographies

4D – Maritime Human Health, Wellbeing and Identity

Chair: Catherine Kelly, University of Greenwich

Mangrove Ecosystem Services: Contributions to the Well-being of Coastal Communities in the Klang Islands

Nur Fatin Nabilah Ruslan, University of Malaya, Malaysia

Abstract:

Mangrove habitats continue to be extensively harvested for economic gains despite global recognition of their importance and value. Development and well-being are commonly associated with economic and social aspects, often excluding environmental factors that also play a critical role. While much research has assessed the value of ecosystem services (ES) globally, less effort has been directed into understanding how changes in ecosystems affect well-being, especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Studies also frequently consider just one stakeholder group (e.g. local communities generally).

This research explores the relationship between mangrove ES and human well-being, both tangible and intangible. A human well-being framework (Summers et. al, 2012) is combined with the TEEB-conceptual framework (TEEB, 2010) and a Cultural ES framework (Fish et. al, 2016) to explain the relationship and their complexity. Three inhabited islands from the Klang Islands, known to be one of the largest mangrove areas in Peninsular Malaysia, were selected as a case study. Each have different majority ethnic groups, reflecting contrasting lifestyles with distinct mangrove and economic situations. Interviews and focus group discussions allowed exploration of the contribution of mangroves to local well-being and were assessed by ethnicity and gender. The results indicate that provisioning and regulating ES contribute more to tangible benefits while cultural ES impact more highly on intangible domains. Communities from all islands identified: ecotourism as a potential future use of mangroves despite loss of this habitat to rapid development; the continued significance of mangrove dependent fisheries; and that the declining state of the mangroves must lead to reduced dependence upon them for basic human needs. Some ethnic communities have a stronger appreciation of mangroves with respect to subjective well-being than others. These findings should support better recognition of the mangrove ecosystem and help to practically shape sustainable mangrove management through more inclusive practices.

Keywords: Environmental conservation, sustainable development, natural resource management, environmental economics, interdisciplinary

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Families by the Sea: Holidays, Leisure, Psycho-Social Wellbeing and Memory-Making

Catherine Kelly, University of Greenwich, UK

Abstract:

This paper explores the role of sea(side) holidays and leisure in family wellbeing. Plentiful research exists within the field of tourism about family holiday preferences, types, locations and expenditure- but little has been written about how family wellbeing is affected by trips to

and/or leisure engagement with the sea. Here, wellbeing refers to both the positive *psychological* effects of collective time out in nature and participation in coastal actions and activities, and the *social* wellbeing effects of bonding, quality time and other connections. The sea or coast itself is an important agent in this investigation, building upon prior research (Kelly, 2018) that advocates for the importance of Bluespace in overall human wellbeing. Environmental connectedness is used as a framework through which calls for social sustainability of the coast may be furthered. In addition, the role of the sea and coast in family memory-making and childhood is examined, adding to existing emerging research (Bell et al, 2015). Creating family based sea-memories is an important role of both the coast itself but also, arguably, in the social construction of family values and legacy. The research uses the unit of the whole family for its investigation, but also scrutinises individual roles in the family (parent/grandparent/children) in experiential coastal wellbeing. Community connections and activities at the coast add a further element to this research (via a families living by the sea-survey). Thus, 'society and the sea' is deconstructed through the narrative of the family and its relationship to the coast.

A comparison of two approaches to measuring well-being benefits from marine and coastal environments

Rebecca J Shellock, Plymouth Marine Laboratory and the University of Exeter, UK

Abstract:

There is increasing recognition that marine and coastal environments have an important role in the maintenance and promotion of human well-being. Human well-being is becoming an integral part of policies to better protect marine and coastal environments and their benefits. Decades of research have valued marine and coastal goods and services using the preference-based approach, associated with revealed and stated preference methods (e.g. the Contingent Valuation Method). Despite this, there has been criticism of the approach and limited percolation of evidence into decision-making and cost benefit analyses for marine and coastal policy. There are growing calls for an exploration of alternative valuation methods that could be used instead of, or at least alongside, preference-based approaches. The paper will compare the Contingent Valuation Method to a new approach of non-market valuation that relies on psychological states and 'ex post' experiences (the so called 'Life Satisfaction Approach'). Overall, this presentation will (i) provide an overview of the two approaches, drawing on examples from the marine environment, (ii) critique the two approaches, examining their validity and reliability, and (iii) discuss how the two methods could be used to provide more accurate and robust estimates of marine goods and services, providing recommendations for future researchers in the field.

Keywords: Contingent valuation, life satisfaction, subjective well-being, sea, ocean.

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Biography:

Rebecca Shellock is a marine social scientist undertaking a PhD at Plymouth Marine Laboratory and the University of Exeter. The aim of the PhD is to compare and contrast estimates of the well-being properties of marine and coastal environments using both the preference-based and experiential approaches to measuring well-being and two of

their respective methods (Contingent Valuation Method and the Life Satisfaction Approach). Prior to her PhD, Rebecca worked as a Research Assistant for the Centre for Marine and Coastal Policy Research at Plymouth University. Her research encompassed a range of topics including ecosystem services, marine governance, Marine Protected Areas and public perceptions and attitudes towards the marine environment. Rebecca has also worked as an Environmental Consultant and has undertaken a Policy Internship at the British Ecological Society (BES).

Maritime Masculinities

Edward Allison, University of Washington and Liliana Bastian, University of Exeter

Abstract:

Normative work on gender and development in fishing communities seldom engages with men and masculinities. Here, we complement scholarship on women in fisheries by exploring relationships between masculine identities and fishermen's interactions with the sea and with the seaside communities that they call home. We draw on our experiences of working in and with fishing communities from the Bering Sea to the African Great Lakes and synthesize the body of literature interpreting the construction of masculinities in fishing communities as sites of environmental, technological, economic, and social change. We find that these often fluctuating occupational environments and social and economic contexts create social tensions that exert influences on men's gender identities, such that there are distinct elements of 'maritime masculinities' common across different cultural settings. We explore the ways in which these contexts shape masculinities as hegemonic yet multidimensional, and the feedbacks by which these identities impact on the marine environment, resource management, gender equity, and human health. We argue that robust engagement with men and masculinities is necessary for fisheries scholarship and practice to lead to sustainable, positive development and gender equity outcomes.

Keywords: identity, masculinities, gender equity, fisheries, development

International Seafarers Clubs in China: History, Change, and Prospect for Future

Minghua Zhao, Southampton Solent University, UK

Port-based welfare services (PBWS) for seafarers are vital to seafarers' health and wellbeing with important implications for the safety of life and property at sea. This is highlighted for implementation in recent ILO Maritime Labour Convention 2006. Traditionally, seafarers' centres have been key providers of the PBWS for ocean-going seafarers throughout the world. In the West, these centres are run primarily by faith institutions, such as Christian seafarers' missions, as well as by trade unions, governments and NGOs. There are now over 400 such centres around the world, except in Chinese mainland. In China, the International Seafarers Clubs (ISC) were set up in major port cities in the 1950s. They were intended to showcase the 'Socialist New China' for visiting 'foreign seafarers' but in effect became providers of PBWS for visiting seafarers. These ISCs seem dwindling in recent 20 years and the PBWS has been affected as a result. This paper uses data drawn on a research project (2017-2018) which examines the history and impact of the structural changes in world shipping and the social economic reform in China on the ISCs and on the level of PBWS for seafarers in Chinese ports, as associated immediately with seafarers' health and well-being. The paper aims to answer these questions: What has happened to Chinese ISCs? Why has China, while rising as an

economic power, does not present itself as an effective provider of welfare services for seafarers on ships that carry most of its international trade in and out of its ports, to and from the seas and oceans? What is the PBWS (or non) for seafarers in China in the 21stC?

Keywords: Seafarers, Welfare, China, Ports, Governance

Biography:

Professor Minghua Zhao is the Director of the China Centre (Maritime), a research centre launched at the International Maritime Organisation in London, 2015. The Centre aims to promote research and disseminate the studies of the role of China as a world major maritime power in the 21C.

Before this appointment, Minghua's employment experiences included: Deputy Director, Greenwich Maritime Institute, University of Greenwich (2004-2014), Deputy Director, Seafarers International Research Centre, Cardiff University (1998-2004) and Research Associate with Women Studies Programme, University of Hawaii (1995-1998).

She was also appointed as a Visiting Professor and as Director of China Labour Studies Centre, Beijing Normal University, 2006-2012.

Having studied in the UK (PhD, Bristol), the US (MSc, Connecticut) and China (MA & BA, Henan), Minghua is an established maritime sociologist with an excellent international reputation in specialist research on maritime policy, especially policies concerning human factors in shipping and fisheries, in particular on issues concerning gender and China.

Minghua publishes widely on maritime labour issues including, seafarers' labour market, their welfare and work and living conditions, employment policy and practice for women seafarers in commercial shipping, women's participation in fisheries in European and Chinese coastal communities. The research she has led and/or conducted has generated significant impact on maritime policy making particularly at the international level. Her research achievements is also well reflected in her postgraduate teaching and PhD students supervision.