

Conference Abstracts & Biographies

6C – International Marine Social Science Research: Agenda and Compromise

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Session Description:

This interactive session will use Q-sorting to consider how our research can foster more equitable power relationships between funding bodies, institutions, researchers, and research participants working across boundaries and cultures.

Abstract:

International field work is common for marine social scientists, and consideration of its design, practice and outcome is especially important for master's and PhD students undertaking it for the first time. Such work often renders personal and professional challenges related to multifaceted socio-political, cultural, and economic considerations inherent in the research process. These can include often hidden relationships that shape reciprocal positionality of both researchers and research participants, along with global and local power dynamics present in public-private research partnerships. Reflecting on how stakeholders' agendas can shape the research process is key to maximising research impact and reconciling with inevitable compromises. This interactive session will provide a forum for discussing the challenges and intricacies of navigating international research. Using Q-sorting to inspire discussion and debate, we will explore experiences, questions, and reflections on how we engage with institutional agendas affecting the lived experiences of individuals and how our research can ultimately contribute to more equitable power relationships between research institutions, involved private entities, researchers, and participants. Session attendees will be invited to facilitated discussion groups to share experiences, provide community for one another, discuss challenges, and identify better ways to conduct international coastal research.