

Small-scale and Industrial Fisheries in the Pacific Ocean: Water Spaces of Inequality?

Desigualdad en el mar: pesca industrial y de pequeña escala en el Océano Pacífico

Hosted by the Center for Asian and African Studies (CEAA) at El Colegio de México

March 1st, 2021, 4:00pm – 6:00pm (Central Time)

Abstract

This panel will generate discussions around a number of small-scale and industrial fisheries found in various geographical locations within the Pacific. The discussions will focus on the current social and economic configuration of these fisheries, including their methods of operation and their labour dynamics as they relate to social class, ethnicity, and nationality. Panel members will consider some of the transformations these fisheries have experienced in terms of their organization, their governance and their access to marine resources, and the effects these transformations have had on fishers' jobs and livelihoods. The panel will further explore how political-economic processes at various scales, as they intersect with technological innovations, longstanding ecologies, ecological knowledges, and environmental change, have contributed to shape the ways particular fisheries are organized, their methods of operation, and fisher working conditions. The aim of this panel is to shed light on the inequalities present in and around small-scale and industrial fisheries that share the Pacific, their causes, and possible ways of addressing them.

Panel members & Presentations' titles:

- ❖ *The Price of Paradise: Vulnerabilities to Forced Labor in the Hawaiian Longline Fishing Industry*

Larson E. Binzer (Georgetown University, Legal Fellow for the U.S. House Judiciary Committee) is a lawyer and graduate of Georgetown University Law Center focused on human rights and government. She holds a certificate from Georgetown University in Refugees and Humanitarian Emergencies, and her career has largely focused on combatting gender-based violence and labor and sex trafficking. Her research includes studying the vulnerability of incarcerated women to sex trafficking, the prosecution of child victims for sex crimes and prostitution, and most recently, the vulnerabilities of foreign workers in the U.S. fishing industry to labor abuses and forced labor. Larson is a former staff member of Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney and is currently serving as a Legal Fellow for the U.S. House Judiciary Committee.

- ❖ *COVID-19, instability and migrant fish workers in Asia*

Melissa Marschke (University of Ottawa) is an Associate Professor at the School of International Development and Global Studies at the University of Ottawa. Her training is in human-environment relations, with an emphasis on livelihoods, natural resources and environmental governance. Melissa began fieldwork in Cambodia in the 1990s, and has continued to work in the region ever since. She is currently involved in research projects examining (a) working conditions across the seafood sector in Asia, and (b) sand livelihoods.

- ❖ *Māori fisheries and labour dynamics in New Zealand's ITQ system*

Fiona McCormack (The University of Waikato) is an economic and environmental anthropologist whose research focuses on the generation of inequalities in marine spaces as well as resistance to this. She has conducted long-term, ethnographic field work on Māori fisheries and ecologies in the context of Indigenous Treaty claims and settlements as well as comparative research on Hawaiian, Icelandic and Irish fisheries. Her book, "Private Oceans: the Enclosure and Marketisation of the Seas" (Pluto Press, 2017), is a critical analysis of the socio-economic and socio-ecological impact of Individual Transferable Quota systems.

❖ *An ethnographic and longitudinal approach to the industrial shrimp fishery in Sinaloa, Mexico*

Carolina Peláez González (UAM Xochimilco) is Professor-Research at the Department of Social Relations at Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, campus Xochimilco (UAM-X) in Mexico City. She studied Gender Studies (MA, Programa Interdisciplinario de Estudios de Género, El Colegio de México) and Social Sciences (Phd, Centro de Estudios Sociológicos, El Colegio de México). She is a member of the National Researchers System, Candidate level, since 2018. Her research has mainly focused on the sociocultural, technological and economic conditions in fishing industrial communities from the perspective of Actor- Network Theory and a longitudinal approach. She is currently researching the role of gender relations in the constitution of maritime culture in Pacific Northwestern Mexico with a particular emphasis on artifacts and the relation between body, emotion and sense in the processes of knowledge acquisition in everyday work. The following are some of her most recent publications:

- Peláez, Carolina. “Living between the sea and the land: maritime geographies from the perspective of haptic knowledge”. *Digithum*, [online], 2020, Num. 25, <https://doi.org/10.7238/d.v0i25.3207>
- Peláez, Carolina (2020). “Saberes y cambio climático: controversias intergeneracionales en torno al uso del dispositivo excluidor de tortugas (DET) en pescadores industriales”. *Pescadores en México y Cuba: Retos y oportunidades ante el cambio climático*. Ulsía Urrea y Graciela Alcalá (edit.). México: Instituto Politécnico Nacional y Unas Letras Editorial. pp. 175-202. Acceso abierto: <https://bit.ly/37gOB9m>

❖ *Problems and new initiatives for governing work in Asia-based industrial fisheries*

Peter Vandergeest (York University) is Professor of Geography at York University in Toronto, and has been conducting research on the making of Southeast Asian forests, food systems, and fisheries for three decades. He works with a political ecology approach that starts with the direct resource user—farmers, fishers, gatherers, and labourers--and locates what they do in multi-scale transformations in how these resources are re-made and governed. In his current research on work in fishing, he aims to build an approach to the study of labour relations and working conditions that starts with workers and their aspirations and experiences, and with relationships with migrant worker support groups across the region.

Moderator:

- ❖ **John Marston** (CEAA, El Colegio de México)

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