

Cultural and Political Ecology Newsletter

(CPEN #42 -- Fall 2003)

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Notes from the Chair, January 2004

Hi all,

I just returned from a month in Mexico where the power of work in Cultural and Political Ecology was impressed on me again and again. Whether it was in visiting relict chinampas fields in Xochimilco (whose horticultural production systems are fast being replaced with homes) or considering the situation of Oaxacan coffee growers (whose situation has never been more complicated), the benefits of wide reading across the subdiscipline paid off, even for me, the most barbaric yanqui. And while I was a mere tourist (and an ignorant one at that; thanks to Sarah Moore for all translation and interpretation), a visit to a Monarch Butterfly Preserve couldn't help evoke the wealth of work in the field on forested ejidos and ecotourism. An enormous exhibition on Humboldt in Mexico City emphasized the common history of our many lines of pursuit and held out the ongoing and historically deep promise of politically critical and empirically rigorous investigation of nature/culture. The visit, moreover, reinforced the power of our many methods, including historical demography, archaeology, pedology, participant observation, interview, and textual analysis, among many. Where could an understanding of the region's landscapes be without them all? Now if only I could speak Spanish....

This unity and diversity is of course also in evidence in the range of sessions sponsored for this year's AAG. The 35 sponsored sessions include promising groups of papers on a huge range of topics. Be sure to join us for three special CAPE panel sessions organized to discuss the past, present, and future of our field at the AAG's centenary mark. These have been organized to bring together disparate perspectives,

memories, and generational concerns. Also be sure to make the business meeting, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 3/18/2004 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. We will complete business in our rapid and orderly manner and elect new officers for the next two years of service. I am considering buying some beer....

Finally, I remind everyone that nominations are still open for both the Netting and Blaut awards, the former directed towards the integration of Anthropology and Geography over a CAPE career, the latter towards a single published work of critical importance; each award in the spirit of its namesake. So too, student competitions for papers and field study awards are also open until just prior to the meeting. Details, as always, at: <http://www.stetson.edu/cape/>
A happy New Year to everyone. See you in Philadelphia!

Paul Robbins robbins.30@osu.edu

Winners of Netting and Blaut awards

The winner of the 2004 Robert McC. Netting Award - in recognition of distinguished research and professional activities that bridge geography and anthropology - is Prof. **Lawrence Grossman**. A testimonial will be ready shortly after the Philadelphia meeting.

Winner of the 2003 James M. Blaut Award in recognition of innovative scholarship in cultural and political ecology, as demonstrated by publication of "Colonialism and Landscape" (2002, Rowman & Littlefield) is Prof. **Andrew Sluyter**. The forthcoming testimonial review will be ready shortly after the Philadelphia meeting (see cen#44).

Thanks to all the members for their nominations and to the executive for their thoughtful deliberation.

Calls; conferences, meetings, publications *Conservation Ecology* journal has been renamed *Ecology and Society*. Go [here](#).

Participatory Mapping of Indigenous Lands in Latin America is a special Issue of *Human Organization*, Volume 62, Number 4, Winter 2003. Copies are available for \$15.00/copy. Add \$3.50 for postage and handling (domestic). Contact Tom May for international postage rates. There is a 20% discount for orders of 5 copies or more (for classroom use, for example). Send requests for orders to: Tom May, Executive Director, Society for Applied Anthropology, PO Box 2436, Oklahoma

City, Oklahoma 73101-2436. <tom@sfaa.net>. Guest Editors are Peter H. Herlihy and Gregory Knapp.

- Maps of, by, and for the Peoples of Latin America. Peter H Herlihy and Gregory Knapp
- Participatory Research Mapping of Indigenous Lands in Darien, Panama. Peter H Herlihy
- Participatory Mapping of Community Lands and Hunting Yields Among the Bugle of Western Panama. Derek A. Smith
- Mapping Dreams in Nicaragua's Bosawas Reserve. Anthony Stocks
- Mapping the Past and Future: Geomatics and Indigenous Territories in the Peruvian Amazon. Richard Chase Smith, Margarita Benavides, Mario Pariona, and Ernesto Tuesta
- Rights, Resources, and the Social Memory of Struggle: Reflections on the Study of Indigenous and Black Community Land Rights on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. Edmund T Gordon, Galio C Gurdian, and Charles R Hale
- Narrating Place and Identity, or Mapping Miskitu Land Claims in Northeastern Nicaragua. Karl Offen

Members' (or those who should be..) News

The 31 October 2003 issue of *Science* announces the new Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and among them is Kent Mathewson of the Department of Geography and Anthropology of Louisiana State University. Kent joins a handful of geographers who are AAAS Fellows, and LSU Geography and Anthropology are real proud of him. The only other of the LSU faculty who is an AAAS Fellow is the distinguished geomorphologist Jes Walker. Kent, as many CAPE members know, has been very active in the specialty group since the CESG days, serving as Chair and in various other board capacities over the years and as newsletter editor for an unprecedented dozen issues.

Andrew Shuyter, Louisiana State University

Hires

David Cochran (PhD student, Kansas University) has been appointed assistant professor, University of Southern Mississippi.

Simon Batterbury (Assistant Professor, University of Arizona and nomad political ecologist) has been appointed lecturer, School of Geography, Anthropology and Environmental Sciences, University of Melbourne, Australia from July 2004.

Emma Mawdsley (lecturer, University of Durham) has been appointed lecturer, Birkbeck College, University of London from July 2003.

Christian Kull (Assistant Professor, McGill University) has been appointed senior lecturer, Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia from July 2003.

Michael Steinberg (Assistant Professor, University of Southern Maine) has been appointed cultural biogeographer at the US Department of Agriculture's National Plant Data Center in Baton Rouge, LA. In addition to his current research duties with the USDA, he has also been hired as acquisitions editor for geography and environmental studies at LSU Press. His new email address is mstein5@lsu.edu

Craig Thorburn (PhD, UCLA) has been appointed senior lecturer and coordinator of the Masters Program in International Development and Environmental Analysis, Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia from July 2003.

Book reviews & book announcements All CPESG members, and others, are invited to submit reviews of books that would be of interest to our Specialty Group. Publishers are invited to send books to the Editor, and willing reviewers are sought.

Moseley, W.G. and B.I. Logan. (eds.) 2003. *African Environment and Development: Rhetoric, Programs, Realities*. Aldershot, UK: Ashgate Publishing Limited. (ISBN 0-7546-3904-5). 256 pgs.

This edited volume explores the connections between African rural livelihoods, environmental integrity and broader scale political economy. Including case studies from Southern, West and East Africa, the book examines a wide range of livelihood activities (pastoralism, farming, gardening and hunting) and environmental issues (e.g., dam projects, cash cropping, burning practices, civil war, pesticide use, oil exploitation, community-based natural resources management and transnational parks). The studies demonstrate the necessity of grounding environment and development policy discussions within a broader understanding of the economy, history, politics and power.

Contents

African environment and development: an introduction, B. Ikubolajeh Logan and William G. Moseley. *Environmental Narratives and African Realities*: Ideology and power in resource management: from sustainable development to environmental security in Africa, B. Ikubolajeh Logan; Environmental degradation and 'Poor' smallholders in the West African Sudano-Sahel: global discourses and local realities, William G. Moseley; Grounding environmental narratives: the impact of a century of

fighting against fire in Mali, Paul Laris. *Political Economy, Rural Livelihoods and the Environment: War and the environmental effects of displacement in Southern Africa (1970s-1990s)*, Emmanuel Kreike; Pesticides, politics and pest management: toward a political ecology of cotton in Sub-Saharan Africa, Jim Bingen; A local graft takes hold: the political ecology of commercial horticultural production in rural Mali, Stephen R. Wooten; Risk positions and local politics in a Sahelian society: the Fulbe of the Hayre in central Mali, Mirjam de Bruijn and Han van Dijk. *Global Environmental Politics and Conservation in Africa: Buying (into) and selling conservation among Maasai in Southern Kenya*, Jennifer E. Coffman; Placing the local in the transnational? Communities and conservation across borders in Southern Africa, Rachel B. DeMotts; '(S)hell in Nigeria': the environmental impact of oil politics in Ogoniland on Shell International, Phia Steyn; Whither African environment and development?, William G. Moseley; Index.

Moseley, W.G. (ed.) 2003. *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial African Issues*. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin. (ISBN 0-07-284517-1).

This is a debate-style reader designed to introduce students to controversies in African Studies. The readings, representing the arguments of historians, political scientists, geographers, anthropologists, educators and economists, reflect a variety of viewpoints and are organized around 20 key issues facing the African continent today. By requiring students to analyze opposing viewpoints and reach considered judgments, "Taking Sides" actively seeks to develop critical thinking skills. You may examine the book's table of contents and order an examination copy

at: <http://www.dushkin.com/text-data/catalog/0072845171.mhtml?SECTION=TOC#toc>