

Wednesday, 8 January / Miércoles 8 de enero

09:00-10:30: Salón Zafiro

Hazards II / Riesgos II

Chair: María Teresa Sánchez

Measuring Household Resilience to Food Insecurity: The Case of the 2009 Earthquake in Costa Rica

Laura Cano Amaya
Texas State University
E-mail: Lc16@txstate.edu

Natural disasters frequently lead to food insecurities among vulnerable populations. There is a need to continue developing indicators to test in real-world applications and empirical evidence that illustrates what factors consistently contribute to resilience, to what types of shocks and in what context. In 2009, an earthquake of 6.1 struck Costa Rica with an epicenter in the area of the Poás volcano. I conducted an empirical study in this area, in collaboration with the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (UNA), to find out which are the most significant factors that contribute to households' resilience to food insecurity. My research shows that much has been accomplished by the affected communities in the recovery phase after the earthquake. Nonetheless after four years, the tourist industry is just starting to recover, some of the reconstruction housing projects are on hold, and families are struggling to keep their connection to the land.

Keywords: resilience, food security, natural hazards

Riparian Resilience or Riparian Risk? Uneven Productions of Water Scarcity and Water Abundance in the Sonoran borderlands, Mexico

Lily House-Peters
University of Arizona
E-mail: lilyhp@email.arizona.edu

In the Sonoran borderlands of Northern Mexico, water scarcity, drought, and aridity commonly characterize the regional landscape. However, viewing the uneven and varied topography of access to water resources through a regional, macro-lens obscures the local socio-ecological relations that produce water scarcity for some and water abundance for others. Critical scholarship in water resources geography rejects that water scarcity and water abundance are physical, natural, and inevitable, instead positing that resource scarcity and abundance are historically contingent and socially constructed. Inextricably embedded within regimes of capital accumulation and expansion, scarcity and abundance are produced through human relations with nature that disproportionately expose certain subjects to conditions of scarcity while making abundance available to others. Drawing on empirical evidence gathered in two riparian communities in northern Sonora, this paper argues that

traditional interpretations of both risk and resilience elide the historical processes of accumulation and dispossession through which environments and subjects are produced and differentiated. Instead, narrative tropes of risk and resilience serve to transform the subjective, embodied characteristics of human-nature interactions with 'objective,' disembodied management via probability curves, and systems modeling.

Keywords: Mexico, water scarcity, riparian, production of nature, subjectivity

Is Resource Extraction a Curse or Bonanza for Local Communities? Mining Case Study: Quiruvilca, Peru

Giulliana Tamblyn and Catherine Nolin
University of Northern British Columbia
E-mail: Tamblyn@unbc.ca

Mining keeps making the news around the world due to its social and environmental impacts on local communities. Peru is no stranger to these types of social conflicts. In order to address my research question: 'Is mining a curse or bonanza for local communities in Peru?' We explored this dichotomy from the perspective of a local indigenous community. In 2012, fieldwork was conducted for a case study on the mining town of Quiruvilca in the central Andes of Peru, surrounded by two large mines owned, until recently, by Canadian mining companies. Exploratory mixed research method was used to conduct and analyze 100 semi-structured interviews with local indigenous residents in the urban area of Quiruvilca. In spite of scarce evidence of socio-economic development and limited employment opportunities, our findings suggest that the majority of residents support mining in their community, mainly because of employment opportunities where few other options exist.

Keywords: Mining, resource, communities, curse, bonanza

La megaminería de metales preciosos en México: Impacto territorial y socioeconómico y conflictividad social, 1990-2013

María Teresa Sánchez Salazar y José María Casado Izquierdo
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Correo electrónico: mtss@igg.unam.mx

El objetivo del trabajo es mostrar el incremento en la presencia de grandes empresas mineras canadienses en México, enfocadas en la extracción de metales preciosos a partir del decenio de 1990 en el marco de las políticas neoliberales del gobierno federal. La nueva minería a cielo abierto se caracteriza por la gran ocupación de espacios y el beneficio mediante procesos de lixiviación/cianuración, que implican el movimiento de grandes volúmenes de material rocoso con mineral de baja ley y elevados volúmenes de producción. Si bien la megaminería ha cobrado gran importancia en el contexto minero nacional y regional, se cuestiona su papel en la generación de empleos y el desarrollo local, por establecer una relación conflictiva con las comunidades locales por la apropiación del territorio, los recursos naturales y el impacto ambiental que ocasionan "acumulación por desposesión"; Harvey, 2004. El trabajo se sustenta en investigación documental, análisis estadístico, cartográfico y hemerográfico.

Palabras clave: megaminería, metales preciosos, conflictos sociales, territorio