

Tuesday, 7 January / Martes 7 de enero

14:00-15:30: Salón Topacio

Social Justice / Justicia Social

Chair: María Adames de Newbill

Murder, Migration, Manifestación and Environmental Change in Highland Guatemala

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In this paper I explore some of the different geographic approaches to understanding the relationship between cultural change and environmental change. Specifically, I highlight some of the contrasting ways that cultural processes are represented in the political ecology literature, especially as it pertains to rural development and social movements, grounding this theoretical discussion in ethnographic field data gathered in highland Guatemala. I focus in particular on the changing consumption patterns associated with transnational migration and financial remittances, and juxtapose these with the increasing influence of Guatemala's indigenous pan-Maya Movement and its local expressions in the highland *municipio* of Totonicapán. I conclude with an assessment of the potential theoretical implications of my analyses, as well as an appraisal of the implications and future directions for the people, forests, pastures and waters of Totonicapán.

Keywords: political ecology, rural development, social movements, migration

Situación, sexualidad y producción de espacio en el Metro de la Ciudad México: reflexiones alrededor de la geografía cultural en el transporte público

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El objetivo de esta presentación es reflexionar acerca de las interacciones sociales que, alrededor de la sexualidad, producen espacio dentro de otro espacio: el metro de la ciudad de México. Partiendo de las perspectivas teóricas y metodológicas derivadas de los comentarios recientes a la obra de Erving Goffman, entre las que se encuentra la microsociología "radical" de Randall Collins y la geografía cultural de Guy Di Meó, se busca dar cuenta del proceso mediante el cual en vagones y andenes del metro se imponen fronteras constituidas por actuaciones y comunicaciones corporales de los usuarios. Comunicaciones corporales que marcan, por ejemplo, aunque de manera efímera, en el último vagón, el territorio del coqueteo entre hombres homosexuales, o, en el resto de los vagones, el territorio masculino en el que la mujer se convierte en objeto de acoso, disputa y protección.

Palabras clave: interacción social, cuerpo, espacio, transporte público, territorio.

Landscapes of Resistance: Community Opposition to Canadian Mining Operations in Guatemala

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The objective of this paper is to comprehend individual and communal notions of space, place and landscape as these concepts are altered by power, violence and resistance to Canadian mining companies. Preliminary findings are presented documenting the actions and discourses of resistance in the community of La Puya, Guatemala. For two years, community members of La Puya have peacefully blocked the entrance to the El Tambor mine site owned by two successive foreign-owned mining companies. At present, Canadian mining companies and the Guatemala government are reliant on natural resources in order to fuel economic development. Critical development theory serves as a framework to contextualize and situate impacts on communities in Guatemala who resist resource extraction as a form of development. Feminist and activist methodologies allow situated knowledge to emerge in this research. This paper highlights the lived-experiences of communities who request respect for constitutional, human and environmental rights.

Keywords: resistance, power, violence, mining, development

Hyper-development and Environmental Injustice in Panama City

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Panama City is experiencing unprecedented urban development, particular in terms of elite real estate and growth associated with the widening of the canal. Not surprisingly, this hyper-growth is exacerbating environmental hazards whose costs are unevenly borne by residents. A case in point is the 2013 Cerro Patacón Landfill fire and subsequent air quality crisis. Using Swyngedouw's (2006) social metabolism framework, I will trace how the landfill expresses the costs of growth and illuminates how environmental injustice is intensified under conditions of hyper-development. Panama City offers a particularly interesting site to explore social metabolism because it is a context dominated less by material production and more by geo-economic flows, including narco-capital and canal traffic. Drawing from urban political ecology and historical-geographical materialism, the talk will review the Cerro Patacón case in light of these literatures and explore the ways that Panama City's distinct status as a global hub reinforces its metabolism and associated environmental ills.

Keywords: Panama City, social metabolism, urban development, urban political ecology, environmental justice