



*Sir Duncan Rice Library*

# The Politics and Pitfalls of Maritime Governance 17-19 June 2019

An international seminar by the UK-Japan Network on the Political Ecology of Coastal Societies

With funding from the ESRC, an international network has been established to look at the challenges that local coastal communities face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our second international seminar focussed on local, often small scale, protests against the



restructuring of coastal landscapes and the regulation of coastal livelihoods. The seminar consisted of short 10 minute presentations of research in progress, a field trip to Aberdeen Harbour and Newburgh beach and a series of round-table sessions helped design a collective research project.

Our three student ambassadors; Sarah, Anastasia and Laura (pictured on photograph), ensured the smooth running of the academic seminar and were on hand to assist the delegates with information.

## Monday 17 June

### Formal welcome and reception - Seminar Room 224, 2nd floor, Sir Duncan Rice Library

Opening remarks by Professor Hiroki Takakura and Professor David G. Anderson Principal Investigators.

**Conference dinner** A multi-course dinner at MacDonald Pittodrie House Hotel.



*Lobby of Sir Duncan Rice Library*

## **Tuesday 18 June**

### **10.00 Introduction – Session 1: Theoretical perspectives on Political Ecology**

In this panel we discussed how political ecology can be used to describe coastal relationships.

1. Prof. David G. Anderson (Aberdeen)

#### **The Political Ecology of Coastal Societies**

Coastal regions lie at the intersection of multiple ecological zones, legal regimes, and often lie within the zones of influence of multiple political institutions and states. In this opening talk we will discuss how the broad literature on political ecology can invigorate research in coastal communities.

2. Prof. Hiroki Takakura (Tohoku)

#### **Disaster Studies from the Perspective of Political Ecology**

By reviewing selected case studies of the coastal regions affected by the 2011 Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, I consider the connection of disaster anthropology to political ecology. I may deal with some of these from the issues of the local resource management, infrastructure building, the relocation and reorganization of community, environmental destruction including nuclear radiation

### **Session 2: The Foreshore – Tenure Rights between Land and Sea**

This panel explored how communities in Scotland, and world-wide, understand their access rights to the foreshore and their responsibilities to sea-bound resources such as algae, fish, shellfish and waterfowl. The panel in particular focussed on allodial tenure systems such as Udal law, or indigenous non-Western tenure systems.

1. Prof. Hiroki Takakura (Tohoku)

#### **The local perception of coast on/off disaster among Iso fishermen in Miyagi**

Fishermen develop a unique way of perceiving the coast. While presenting ethnographical data of Iso fishermen in Miyagi, I consider how their perception came into play at the time of Tsunami and in the process of recovery. I may suggest the future work on the property relations and the comparison between fishing and cultivation.

2. Prof. Taku IIDA (Minpaku)

### **Communal Wellbeing among Competitive Fishermen**

The livelihood of coastal fishermen in Hidaka District, Hokkaido, Japan, closely depends on gathering natural Kombu Kelp (*Saccharina angustata*) collection in July-September (rarely in October). Despite the relative abundance of the resource, fishermen restrict their activities to a communally agreed period, both seasonally and daily. The analysis proves that this successfully avoids a "tragedy of the commons" situation for the fishermen's income, but not for the maintenance of the resource base.

3. Stephanie Weir (Herriot Watt)

### **Who owns the sea? Investigating enclosure and privatisation in Scotland's seas**

Environmental protection and economic development targets are driving enclosure of Scotland's seas on an unprecedented basis, as marine spaces become increasingly 'privatised'. Attitude analysis (via Q method) regarding changes in rights at sea revealed tensions between marine users as well as a clear gap in knowledge. Continuation of the current system of planning and development could lead to a widening of the gap between data-rich 'powerful' marine stakeholders and marginalised users like coastal communities.

4. Rebecca Ford (UHI Orkney)

### **Beach-Combing and the Entangled Relationship with the Sea**

Recent high profile campaigns have drawn attention to the impact of plastics on the marine environment, prompting both changes in legislation and an increase in anti-plastic activism. How does this focus on plastic pollution relate to existing community practices of beach-combing? Drawing on my fieldwork in Orkney and sharing stories of maggots, marine plastics, and marine renewable energy, I will explore how beach combing might help us better understand our relationship with the marine environment and the entanglement of people, place and practice.

## **Session 3: The Resilience of Coastal Livelihoods**

The panel explored unexpected types of coastal subsistence or engagements with the local landscape.

1. Dr. Jo Vergunst (Aberdeen)

### **Coastal walking and path-making**

Walking along the coast is significant for how local communities and the wider public understand coastal ecologies. In the Scottish context of heavily-marketed driving tours like the North Coast 500, what futures can be imagined for ordinary, everyday acts of walking along coastlines? This contribution explores the politics of walking and path-making in these distinctive landscapes.

2. Dr. Tavis Potts (Aberdeen)

**Golf courses and conflict in a social-ecological seascape in Scotland.**

The coastal seascape of Scotland is biologically diverse, productive and culturally significant. The importance of the coasts is deeply entwined with Scottish culture, with our coastal villages and cities and the outward face of Scotland to the world. Increasingly, along the Scottish coast line a simmering relationship exists between the protection and management of remnant sand dune systems and estuaries and the development of large scale wealth creating investments in the form of Scottish 'links' golf courses. This relationship manifestly underlies the political nature of natural capital and ecosystem services, and puts in stark relief the failure of the planning system to incorporate 'values' beyond economic and commercial considerations. This seminar introduces some of the concepts and work in mapping the broader benefits of coastal dune systems and the nature of the conflicts in Scotland between golf courses and coastal conservation.

3. Dr. Sandy Kerr (Herriot Watt)

**How does cultural context influence reactions to marine development?: A case study looking at community responses to marine energy development**

The UK is now the world's largest developer of offshore wind technology and Scotland is at the forefront of research and development in wave and tidal energy technology. The development of marine renewable energy has the potential to permanently enclose large areas of the sea. Community reaction to this development has varied across the UK. This paper presents some evidence of how cultural context, and the distribution of rights over resources, can influence community responses to new economic development in the sea.

4. Prof. Jun Akamine (Hitotsubashi)

**Resumption of Coastal Whaling in Japan**

Japan will resume commercial whaling on Minke whale in July 2019 within her EEZ. My presentation will explain history of coastal whaling in Japan and whale meat foodways in contemporary Japan. The presentation is based on my fieldwork at two whaling communities in Chiba and Miyagi prefectures

**Session 4 Sea walls – Barriers or Enablers of Coastal Life**

This panel examined seawalls, and natural protected zones, of all size and scale. In particular the major sea wall constructions in Japan, but also older traditional seawalls such as that on North Ronaldsay, Orkney.

1. Prof. Alyne Delaney (Tohoku)

**Lives and lifeways in the new “seawall era”**

This presentation focuses on reconstruction and redevelopment after the 2011 Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami (3.11) in two coastal Miyagi communities. On-going research centres on what these developments mean for coastal communities and transmission of coastal culture.

## 2. Nao Sakaguchi (Tohoku)

### **The logic of a fishing village over the height of the seawall**

“I will report on one case where the unique structure of a fishing village was revealed through a conflict. Following the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami in March 2011, the Japanese government made a decision to build seawalls of 10 meters or higher in some areas. Nevertheless, other seawalls were restored to their previous height as a request of the local residents. What prompted residents to actively decide on seawall height? In the coastal area of Sanriku, district-based events or local resources, such as the island, are common resources called “ours=Orahonomono”. These district people have protected and shared their values over the years”

## 3. Laura Goyhenex (UVSQ Versailles)

### **"It is what binds people together." Maintaining the dyke in North Ronaldsay, United-Kingdom**

The presentation focuses on a unique infrastructure in the UK, the sheep-dyke in North Ronaldsay, Orkney. It will give a brief overview of the history of this wall, its place in islanders' life, and the current challenges to maintain the dyke and the community on the island in times of modernisation and climate change.

## 4. Emma McKinley (Cardiff)

### **Working with nature: the social and cultural values of saltmarshes**

Coastal areas face increasing pressure from urbanisation, erosion, flooding and climate change, and are experiencing unprecedented levels of change and regime shifts. As the social component of ecological management comes ever more to the forefront of decision making, it is increasingly important that we build a comprehensive understanding of how coastal environments, like saltmarshes, and their benefits to society, are valued – economically, socially and culturally. Drawing on the findings of the RESILCOAST and CoastWEB projects, this work contributes to the ongoing debate surrounding valuation of ecosystem services, and highlights the integral role that non-monetary values can have in understanding how natural environments are valued by both individuals and communities. Recognition of a more diverse range of value metrics can only result in a more thorough and nuanced appreciation of the value of ecosystem services.

## **15.00 Excursion to the seawalls and harbours around the City of Aberdeen, and then to the mouth of the River Ythan**



*Panorama of central Aberdeen*

## Wednesday 19 June

### Session5: The New Blue-Green Economy in Sea Algae Harvesting

Here we wished to explore the similarities and differences in how seaweed is harvested and consumed. We are particularly interested in the older forms of seaweed harvesting in Japan, the traditional use of kelp in Scottish crofts, and the new and controversial proposals for industrial-scale seaweed harvesting in Scotland.

1. Prof. Taku IIDA (Minpaku)

#### **What Matters for Natural Kelp Collectors and Kelp Aquafarmers?**

##### **Physical and Social Factors Taken in Account.**

In contrast to Hidaka District, fishermen in Donan (Oshima or Hakodate) do not collect Kombu Kelp (*Saccharina japonica*) but farm it. An analysis of the cost-benefit balance of natural harvest and aquaculture in both districts elucidates that different strategies are stable in different conditions of natural-social environment, limiting diverse alternatives to change fishermen's life in modern settings.

2. Prof. Alyne Delaney (Tohoku)

#### **From 'Black diamonds' to 'black paper:' Nori seaweed cultivation in northeastern Japan**

This presentation gives a brief history of nori seaweed cultivation in Japan, focusing on technological change, gender roles and historical user rights

3. Prof. Shiaki KONDO (Hokkaido)

#### **Traditional and Contemporary Uses of Sea Weed Resources in Rural Japanese Communities**

I will discuss the use of seaweeds (wakame, kombu and others) for subsistence and commercial purposes in rural Japanese communities including Oki Islands (Shimane Pref.) and Rebun Island (Hokkaido Pref.). In the Oki Islands, where farming is comparatively viable as a commercial practice, seaweeds could be used as fertilizer or an ingredient of local liquor. On the other hand, in the Rebun Island, opportunities for farming have been very limited. Thus, seaweeds would be regarded as a substitute for "vegetable" and as important commercial products.

4. Dr. Liam Carr (Galway)

#### **Seeing through the weeds of Ireland's kelp harvesting: how practices and politics threaten a traditional tenure system**

Ireland's push to grow its 'blue economy' over the past decade has led to a re-examination on how coastal resource harvesting and cultivation might be best supported. The future prospects of Irish seaweed harvesting to contribute more fully to economic growth and rural employment are hampered by questions surrounding tenure rights and the impact of emerging legislation, as well as more practical considerations on the possible effects of mechanical harvesting at commercial scales.

5. Dr. Rob Wishart (Aberdeen)

**Seaweed, industrial salts, and iodine: Booms and busts in Scottish seaweed industries and the implications of harvesting rights**

Harvesting seaweed in Scotland has played an important historical role in the world market for potassium/sodium salts and iodine while maintaining a local use as fodder, fertilizer, and human food in coastal communities. This paper will look at some of these historical developments and discuss the relationship between tenure rights and how these industries developed on the ground.

6. Dr. Alex Watson Crook (SIFT)

**The SIFT campaign to ban the mechanical dredging of kelp in Scotland**

**Session 6: Coastal Conservation**

This panel explored various types of wildlife conservation with an emphasis on the frictions or conflicts these may create. We have a special interest in eider duck, seal, and brent goose conservation.

1. Prof Kyoko Ueda (SophiU Tokyo)

**A Right to Survive with Dynamite fishing?: a coastal community's history severely affected by WWII.**

After the WW II , many coastal communities in Japan, both onshore and offshore, were severely damaged and contaminated in bombs attacks. Especially in Okinawa prefecture, a group of islands placed in south-west of Japanese mainland, there was a ground war called battle of Okinawa. Like on the ground, its maritime environment was severely damaged with underwater mines and two hundred thousand tons of ammunition in total - by comparison the ammunition load in the rest of the 46 prefectures of Japan is said to be six thousand tons. How did the people who had lived on the fishing areas recover their life and their coastal environment? The presentation focuses on clarifying what the recovery of coastal communities meant in post-war Okinawa and what their practices of dynamite fishing brought about for their life under U.S. Occupation.

2. Prof. Shiaki KONDO (Hokkaido)

**Research Proposal for Comparative Studies of Brent Goose Conservation Issues in Northern Communities**

In this exploratory presentation, I will compare conservation issues of Brent Goose populations in Hokkaido and Alaska. My aim is to explore the possibilities of international collaborations among the different regions in the world where the migratory bird species utilizes for summer and winter habitats.

### 3. Dr. Andrew Whitehouse (Aberdeen)

#### **Geese across boundaries in the UK and beyond**

Brent Geese and Barnacle Geese are two species that breed in Arctic regions and spend the winter in temperate coastal areas. These species previously fed on coastal vegetation such as *Zostera* and saltmarsh grasses. More recently they have adapted to feeding in agricultural grasslands in winter and on migration, which has sometimes created conflicts between conservationists protecting the geese and farmers. This paper explores the way in which these two species cross boundaries between relatively natural coastal ecosystems and agricultural areas, as well as considering the implications of these changes in behaviour on different people and places.

### 4. Malcom Gibson and Raul Ugarte (Uist Asco)

#### **Implementation of a precautionary approach for the harvest of the commercial seaweed *Ascophyllum nodosum* in North Uist, Scotland**

*Ascophyllum nodosum* is a commercial seaweed inhabiting the rocky intertidal of several countries in the north Atlantic. Besides being the raw material for the industry, *Ascophyllum* plays an important role in the ecosystem as it provides habitat for the prey of some waterfowl and various fish species. Consequently, the harvest of this seaweed, as well as subtidal kelps, has become very controversial. Since there is no fishery where all the necessary biological information is available to develop a zero-risk management plan; Uist Asco is implementing a precautionary approach to the harvest of *Ascophyllum* within its exclusive areas of operation. This is a Canadian model successfully implemented for the management of this seaweed in the mid 90's. The goal for this approach is to keep impact short term and within limits that could be mitigated. The degree, extent and duration of change in the habitat architecture is being controlled through several resource management approaches including, conservative harvest rates, controlled incidence of mortality, new harvesting methodologies, and using area-based management at a high level of resolution. The challenges of this implementation for the industry and for the local traditional harvesters is discussed

### **14.00 - 17.00 Roundtable on Coastal Ecologies & Conclusion**

Minutes are available [here](#)