

FURTHER INFORMATION

REF: A3120

Senior/Post-doctoral Research Associate – Environmental Social Science / Political Ecology

Fishy Food: The power and politics of aquatic food systems



PIs, Prof. Christina Hicks

We are seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic environmental social scientist to contribute to a project investigating the power and politics of food systems in Kenya and Ghana to work closely with researchers from Lancaster University, World Fish, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, and the University of Ghana.

This project will take fishing as a starting point from which the policies, practices, structures, and power dynamic's that shape systems of food production (e.g. fishing), distribution, and consumption will be analysed at local, national, and international scales in Kenya and Ghana.

Coastal communities in the tropics are intimately connected to the environments in which they live. Environments within which people's identities, histories, and stories are formed. For example food, in addition to meeting people's nutritional needs, forges social and cultural bonds, connecting people to land, culture, community, and history. Food is therefore a central component of people's cultural identities forming a central bond between people and the environments in which they live.

This project fits within a broader ERC funded project that aims to uncover the ecological and socio-cultural determinants of the contributions SSF make to human health. This is a multi-institutional, multi

country project, with core collaborators based in UK, US, Canada, Malaysia, Kenya, Ghana, and Seychelles.

The specific focus of the project will be developed by the research associate in dialogue with PI's and partners. Angles include: gender and intersectional perspectives, mobilities and the politics of fisheries, alternative discourses and initiatives (e.g. food sovereignty movements), the intersections between fisheries and climate change adaptation /conservation/ vulnerability / resilience.

Example questions we are interested in exploring include:

- How does power shapes access to food at local, national, and international scales?
- How do policies, new and historical, shape access for different social groups (e.g. women, migrants).
- How do inequities manifest in aquatic food systems and what social structures support them.

The ideal candidate will have a background in human geography, sociology, political science or similar fields; and a demonstrated interest in addressing environmental challenges. They should be committed to working with or across diverse disciplines, with and across diverse cultures, and expect to spend time in Kenya, Ghana, and between the host institutions. The candidate will work collaborate with key partners at WorldFish, .

Relevant Reading

- Hicks, C.C., Cohen, P.J., Graham, N.A., Nash, K.L., Allison, E.H., D'Lima, C., Mills, D.J., Roscher, M., Thilsted, S.H., Thorne-Lyman, A.L. and MacNeil, M.A., 2019. Harnessing global fisheries to tackle micronutrient deficiencies. *Nature*, 574(7776), pp.95-98.
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- Cadioux, K.V. and Slocum, R., 2015. What does it mean to do food justice?. *Journal of political ecology*, 22, p.1.
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- Sen, A., 1981. *Poverty and famines: an essay on entitlement and deprivation*. Oxford university press.
- Willett, W., Rockström, J., Loken, B., Springmann, M., Lang, T., Vermeulen, S., Garnett, T., Tilman, D., DeClerck, F., Wood, A. and Jonell, M., 2019. Food in the Anthropocene: the EAT–Lancet Commission on healthy diets from sustainable food systems. *The Lancet*, 393(10170), pp.447-492.
- Ouma, S., Hughes, A., Murphy, J.T. and Opondo, M., 2019. Envisioning African futures: Perspectives from economic geography. *Geoforum*.

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