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Chair of Global Development Studies

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EDUCATION

1999 **Ph.D.** Cultural Anthropology. University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, PA. **Dissertation:** *The Political Ecology of Indigenous Self-Development in Bolivia's Multiethnic Indigenous Territory.*

1996 **Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies.** Center for Latin American Studies. University of Pittsburgh.

1994 **M.A.** Cultural Anthropology, program of applied development. University of Kentucky. Lexington, KY. **Thesis:** *Privately managed agroforestry as a sustainable development alternative for colonists of northwest Ecuador.*

1993 **Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Environmental Systems**. University of Kentucky.

1991 **B.A.** Majors in Anthropology and Biology (Cum Laude). Ithaca College. Ithaca, NY.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2000-present **Associate Professor of Anthropology, and Global Development Studies.** Grinnell College. Grinnell, IA.
Anthropology Courses Currently in Rotation**:** *Introduction to Anthropology; Cultural and Political Ecology; Practicing Anthropology*
Global Development Studies Courses Currently in Rotation: *Introduction to Global Development Studies; Sustainable Development in the Modern World System; Sustainable Development in Costa Rica*
Other Courses Taught: *African Cultures, Latin American Cultures, Theories of Culture; Globalization and Development; Grassroots Rural Development; US Aid for Developing Countries*
Freshman Tutorial: *Development and Degradation in Tropical Forest; No Limits?; Corporations to the Rescue?*

1999-2000 **Adjunct Instructor of Anthropology**. Appalachian State University. Boone, NC. Courses: *Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*; *Gender, Race and Class*; and *Sustainable Development in the Modern World System*.

2000 **Instructor of Anthropology**. Caldwell Community College, Watauga Campus. Boone, NC. Spring Term. Course: *Comparative Cultures*.

1998 **Instructor of Anthropology**. Waynesburg College, Waynesburg, PA. Fall Term. Course: *Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*.
Teaching Fellow. University of Pittsburgh. Six week summer term. Course: *Ecological Anthropology*.

1993 **Instructor**. University of Kentucky. Fall term. Course: *Introduction to Cultural Anthropology – Faces of Culture Film Series*.

1992 **Instructor**. University of Kentucky. Summer term. Course: *Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*.

1991-93 Graduate Teaching Assistant. University of Kentucky. Courses: *Food and Culture*, *Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*, and *Tribal People*.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Geographic: Latin America. Focus on tropical forest regions, particularly the Amazon basin. Secondary interest in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Topical: Political economy of natural resource management and degradation (political ecology), applied anthropology, property systems and reform, indigenous development and modern social movements, sustainable development, non-government organizations.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE COMPETENCE

Spanish: Spoken/Reading: Advanced Proficiency. Written: Moderate Proficiency.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

2012-present Grinnell Community Policy Studies. In my new course *Practicing Anthropology* I have been working with teams of students and a range of community partners to undertake needs assessments and program evaluations related to services provided by public, non-profit, and business organizations in the community. Research results are publicized through poster presentations, and final written reports are delivered directly to the relevant community partners.

2008-present Community Development in El Silencio Costa Rica. I have taken two groups to this rural agricultural cooperative as part of my GDS senior seminar and will be taking a third group in the spring of 2014. The first group undertook a collective development diagnostic, which was later translated, presented back to the community, and published online. The second group undertook individual projects that built off the work of the first group.

1997-present The Political Ecology of Indigenous Forestry Management and Economic Development in Lowland Bolivia's Multiethnic Indigenous Territory (Beni Department). This project focuses on the interest and efforts of indigenous communities and representative organizations to manage and develop natural resources in Bolivia's Multiethnic Indigenous Territory, since its creation in 1990, and how such indigenous "self-development" has been affected by the broader political economy surrounding those natural resources. Dissertation research focused on the period from 1990-1997 and involved 12 months of fieldwork in 1997. Two months of fieldwork in the late summer of 2004 updated this data and gave particular attention to the effect of changes in laws in the mid 1990s that were only beginning to be implemented in 1997. Two weeks of field work in the summer of 2005 focused on the impacts on the indigenous movement of their recent victory in the local elections. Students have participated in maintaining a research presence in the region through independent projects and summer internships.

2001-2003 Indigenous Participation in Commercial Forestry Markets in the Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region, Nicaragua. This project examined indigenous participation in commercial forestry and identified the various models of participation, the costs and benefits of such participation, and the variables affecting costs/benefits and obstacles to participation. Data gathering was done through an intensive review of literature, a 2-week rapid rural assessment in Miskito and Mayangna communities, and interviews with key state and NGO officials in Nicaragua. The project was initiated as a consultancy, but will also be integrated into a broader comparative project on indigenous forestry.

1993-94 Deforestation and the Potential of Agroforestry among Colonists in Northwest Ecuador, Province of Pichincha. This research, undertaken for my Master's Thesis, examined the underlying causes of deforestation by colonists in a tropical forest region, and the potential of agroforestry as a sustainable land use alternative. The potential of agroforestry was examined within the context of a proposed World Bank reforestation project (Ecoforest 2000), which intended to have an agroforestry outreach component, and within the broader political economy of colonization (the project was

cancelled). Fieldwork was undertaken from January- May of 1993.

1990 **Assessment of Potential Social Impacts of a Biosphere Reserve on a Maya Community in Yucatan, Mexico**. This research examined the potential social impacts of a planned ecotourist park and biosphere reserve, and the likely acceptance of government-developed economic projects by local Maya Indians in the town of Las Coloradas. Fieldwork was undertaken between June - August as a 5-person research team directed by Dr. Betty Faust.

PUBLICATIONS

Roper, J. Montgomery 2013 "NGOs and Community Development: Assessing the Contributions from Sen's Perspective of Freedom." In, D. Caulkins and A. Jordan. *A Companion to Organizational Anthropology*. West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell. Pp. 455-470.

Roper, J.M et al. 2009 "Development Diagnostic for the Community of El Silencio, Costa Rica," a 75 page manuscript based on research performed with students in the spring of 2008. (Self-published. Also translated to Spanish and presented to the community.)

Roper, J. Montgomery 2008 "Indigenous Peoples." In, Jay Kinsbruner and Erick D Langer (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture, Second Edition.* NY: Gale. Pp: 823-829.

Roper, J. Montgomery 2007 *Between Midnight and the Rooster's Crow (Review)*. The Americas 63.3: 511-512

Roper, J. Montgomery 2003 An Assessment of Indigenous Participation in Commercial Forestry Markets: The Case of Nicaragua's Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region. Washington, DC: Forest Trends. Electronic Document available at WWW.Foresttrends.org.

Roper, J. Montgomery 2003 "Bolivian Legal Reforms and Local Indigenous Organizations: Opportunities and Obstacles in a Lowland Municipality". Latin American Perspectives 30(1): 5-22. (Available online at: http://lap.sagepub.com/content/vol30/issue1/)

Roper, J. Montgomery, Thomas Perreault, and Patrick Wilson 2003 "Introduction" Latin American Perspectives special issue, New Transformational Movements in Contemporary Latin America, 30(1): 139-161. (Available online at http://lap.sagepub.com/content/vol30/issue1/)

Kaimowitz, D., G. Flores, J. Johnson, P. Pacheco, I. Pavéz, J. Roper, C. Vallejos, and R. Véle 2000 *Local government and biodiversity conservation: A case from the Bolivian lowlands*. Washington D.C.: Biodiversity Support Program.

Roper, J. Montgomery 1998 "San Ignacio de Moxos: territorios indígenas, madereros y mara". In P. Pacheco and D. Kaimowitz (eds.), *Municipios y Gestión Forestal en el Trópico Boliviano*. La Paz, Bolivia: published in coordination by CIFOR, CEDLA, and TIERRA. Pp: 83-105.

Roper, J. Montgomery, John Frechione, and Billie R. DeWalt 1997 *Indigenous People and Development in Latin America: A Literature Survey and Recommendations.* Latin American Monograph & Document Series No. 12. Pittsburgh: Center for Latin American Studies, University of Pittsburgh. 81p + Appendices.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

November 2012, *Preparing Undergraduates for Policy Through Practice: An Approach to Teaching Anthropological Methods*. Presented at the 2012 American Anthropological Association annual meeting, San Francisco, CA. Session Title: Anthropologies of Public Policy

June 2011, *Conservation, Tourism and Indigenous Land Rights: Conflict or Harmony.* Alumni College 2011, Grinnell, Iowa.

February 2008, *Marching for Territory and Dignity: Indigenous Struggles for Land and Resources in the Developing World*. Presented at the Environmental Justice Symposium, Grinnell College.

September 2007 *False Paths?: Indigenous Forestry and Development in Lowland Bolivia* Presented September 6, 2007 at XXVII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (September 5-8), Montreal, Canada.

March 2007 *Popular Participation, Rising Expectations, and the Indigenous Movement in Moxos, Bolivia.* Presented March 31, 2007 at The Society for Applied Anthropology 67th Annual Meeting (March 28-31) Tampa Fl.

June 2006 *The Role of NGOs in the Arab/Muslim Countries*. Presented June 27, 2006 at the IES GRANADA Seminar: The Islamic Presence in Spain and Europe (June 25-June 30, 2005) Granada, Spain.

May 2006. *Decentralization and Development in Bolivia's Multiethnic Indigenous Territory*. Presented at Grinnell College, anthropology lunch series.

October 2003. *The Political Ecology of a Common's Tragedy in Bolivia's Multiethnic Indigenous Territory.* Presented at ACM Workshop on Research and Pedagogy in Political Ecology. Macalester College, Oct 24-25.

March 2003. *Indigenous Participation in Forestry Markets in Nicaragua's Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region*. Presented at 2003 Society for Applied Anthropology annual meeting, March 19-23, Portland, Oregon. Session Title: Managing Trees for Sustainable Development: Issues in Community Forestry and Agroforestry.

December 2002. *The Political Ecology of a Common's Tragedy in Bolivia's Multiethnic Indigenous Territory*. Macalester College, Environmental Studies Program "Enviro Thursday" series.

November 2001 *Contested Forests and Miskito Development in Nicaragua's Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region*. Presented at 2001 American Anthropological Association annual meeting, November 28-December 2, 2001, Washington D.C. Session Title: The Power and Politics of Plants: Critical Approaches to Ethnobotanical Knowledge.

September 2001 *Bolivian Legal Reforms and Local Indigenous Organizations: Opportunities and Obstacles in a Lowland Municipality*. Manuscript Delivered at the 2001 Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association, Washington DC, September 6-8, 2001. Session Title: Indigenous Movements in the Andes and Mexico: Organization, Identity, and Democracy.

March 2000, *Whose Territory is it? Resource Contestation and Organizational Chaos in Bolivia's Multiethnic Indigenous Territory*. Presented at LASA 2000 Meetings, March, 2000, Miami, FL. Session Title: "Development or discord: Examining the changing roles of indigenous organizations in Ecuador and Bolivia."

(with Patrick Wilson) March 1999 *Undertaking Research with Indigenous Peoples in Lowland Bolivia and Ecuador.* Colloquium presentation in Department of Anthropology, March 31. University of Pittsburgh.

December 1998 *Reconsidering Collective Territories for Indigenous Populations*. Presented at the 1998 American Anthropological Association annual meeting, December 1998, Philadelphia, PA. Session Title: Indigenous Perspectives and Sustainability.

(With John Frechione and Billie R. DeWalt) 1996 *Indigenous People and Development in Latin America: A Literature Survey and Recommendations.* Summary of research and findings given in September at an open presentation at the World Bank hosted by the Latin America and Caribbean Region Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Sector Management Unit.

1996 *Addressing economically and environmentally unsustainable land use practices in northwest Ecuador: agroforestry development.* Presented at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate Student Conference on Latin American Social and Public Policy.

April 1994 *Addressing economic and environmental problems in northwest Ecuador with lumber company supported agroforestry.* Paper presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology meetings, April 1994, Cancun, Mexico. Session Title: Latin American Forests: Policies and People.