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A.H. Peter Castro

Associate Professor, Anthropology

Degree

Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara, 1988

Specialties

Applied anthropology, rural development policy and planning, environmental conflict management, climate change, forestry, food security, refugees, East Africa

Biography

I am an applied cultural anthropologist with research interests in the fields of rural development planning, natural resource management (especially community forestry), agriculture, conflict management, rural socioeconomic change, climate change, and the history of applied anthropology. Most of my fieldwork experience is in East Africa – Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. I have grown increasingly interested in conflict and livelihood issues in Darfur, Sudan, and hope at some future date to be able to carry out research and training activities there.

With Dan Taylor and David Brokensha, I recently co-edited *Climate Change and Threatened Communities: Vulnerability, Capacity, and Action*, published by Practical Action. This book presents 15 case studies by 29 authors documenting the capacities and constraints encountered among communities facing climate change in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. I

authored a case study entitled, "Social Vulnerability, Climatic Variability, and Uncertainty in Rural Ethiopia: A Study of South Wollo and Oromiya Zones of Eastern Amhara Region," and with Yassir Hassan Satti I co-authored another case study: "Climate Change and the Future of Onion and Potato Production in West Darfur, Sudan: A Case Study of Zalingei Locality." I also co-authored the "Introduction" and "Conclusion" with Dan and David, and prepared a short section on "Resources" for follow-up on climate change issues. The tables of contents, endorsements of the book (from Robert Chambers, Thayer Scudder, L. Jan Slikkerveer, and Gill Shepherd), and ordering information can be accessed at: <http://practicalaction.org/climate-change-and-threatened-communities>.

I have been conducting research on the history of American applied anthropology, focusing on the career of Charles J. Erasmus, a pioneer in applied medical and agricultural anthropology. Erasmus also contributed substantially to anthropological theory, especially regarding cooperation, culture change, and cultural evolution. He was an innovative fieldworker as well, including pioneering time-allocation studies in the late 1940s and doing multi-sited fieldwork in the early 1950s. One output from this research, a study of the Smithsonian Institution's Institute of Social Anthropology, was published in the *Journal of International and Global Studies* (see below).

From 1999 to 2007, I was part of the BASIS Greater Horn of Africa Collaborative Research Support Program's project on food security and livelihoods in South Wollo and Oromiya Zones of Amhara Region in Ethiopia. The project consisted of a multidisciplinary team from the Institute of Development Research at Addis Ababa University, the Institute for Development Anthropology, and several American universities.

I have worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on natural resource conflict management, including developing training materials and editing case studies. With Antonia Engel I edited and contributed to *Negotiation and Mediation Techniques for Natural Resource Management: Case Studies and Lessons Learned* (Rome, Italy: FAO, 2007). Erik Nielsen and I also edited and contributed to *Natural Resource Conflict Management Case Studies: An Analysis of Power, Participation and Protected Areas* (Rome, Italy, 2003). I also contributed to other FAO conflict management publications as an author and editor (see below). My service as a consultant for FAO dates back to the early 1980s with the co-editing of *Wood Fuel Surveys* (with David Brokensha) and it has included such issues as participatory forestry and rural development planning.

My other past applied experience includes working on natural resource management, rural financial markets, and



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Curriculum Vitae

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community forestry for the United States Agency for International Development, serving as team leader for the evaluation of Bangladesh's social forestry project for the United Nations Development Programme, carrying out social surveys of refugee camps in Somalia for CARE, and providing training on natural resource conflicts for the United Nations Interagency Framework for Coordination on Preventative Action and other organizations.

Much of my Kenyan research has concentrated on the social history of natural resource management and agrarian change, including the impacts of colonialism, in Kirinyaga District. I have also been concerned with religious change and its impact on cultural landscapes. My publications have examined cotton production, coffee cooperatives, the Kenya Tea Development Authority, large-scale contract agriculture during World War II, conflicts over common property resources (including state forest reserves, community woodland, and sacred groves), colonial farm forestry, and the Mau Mau War.

As of June 2012, I have served as the main faculty advisor for nine students who earned their doctorates in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs: Hong Anh Vu (Anthropology), Anthony Nocella (Social Science), Mengistu Dessalegn Debela (Anthropology), Vikas Choudhary (Anthropology), David Sorbello (Social Science), Lee Cerveny (Anthropology), Kreg Ettenger (Anthropology), Barbara Franz (International Relations), and Bill Waters (Anthropology). In addition, I have served on the doctoral committees of an additional 44 students in anthropology, sociology, forestry, environmental science, education, and other fields who have completed or successfully defended their dissertations at Syracuse University, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and Binghamton University. I also served on the MA/MS committees of 59 additional students who obtained their degrees. In 2011, I received an Excellence in Graduate Education Faculty Recognition Award from the Graduate School of Syracuse University.

Publications

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