

Department of Environmental Science and Policy

Seminar Series

Frontiers in Ocean Governance

Rebecca Gruby

Colorado State University

DATE: Friday, 03/25/2022 Time: 10:00 am Location: Zoom

<https://miami.zoom.us/j/96436130567?pwd=djdtTWVlQkUyeHBsM1I3aTJSNWpEZz09>

Meeting ID: 964 3613 0567

Passcode: 971222

Abstract: The social-ecological crises in the oceans are increasingly a focus of global attention and concern. In response, we are entering a new era of ocean governance, with innovative mechanisms and diverse actors emerging to address urgent problems at an unprecedented pace and scale. This seminar will focus on Dr. Rebecca Gruby's research on two such frontiers in ocean conservation governance: the relatively recent and rapid proliferation of large-scale marine protected areas, and the growing role of philanthropic foundations as private agents of ocean governance. The talk will begin with a brief introduction to the field of environmental governance and its importance for global transformations to sustainability. Then, Dr. Gruby will present an overview of the *Human Dimensions of Large-Scale Marine Protected Areas* project, with a focus on key findings related to the unique social outcomes of the world's largest marine parks – and the role of policy interactions in contributing to them. Next, she will introduce the *Ocean Philanthropy Research Initiative*, a 5-year project that is engaging more than 100 donors and practitioners to co-produce baseline understanding of the governance roles, impacts, and legitimacy of private foundations supporting marine conservation in the U.S. and abroad. Dr. Gruby will explain how foundations may be conceptualized as 'keystone actors' akin to 'keystone species,' with a profound and disproportionate influence on conservation governance systems. She will then share empirical results revealing the importance of justice as a key source of funder legitimacy, and discuss implications for philanthropic practice. The presentation will conclude with a brief discussion of Dr. Gruby's plans for future work on these topics, as well as emerging areas of interest.



Bio: Rebecca Gruby is an Associate Professor in the Department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources at Colorado State University. She is an interdisciplinary environmental governance scholar whose research focuses on contemporary transformations in ocean conservation. Over the last 15 years, she has worked on issues spanning marine protected areas, small-scale fisheries, marine ecosystem-based management, global oceans governance, the blue economy, ocean philanthropy, and justice and equity in the marine conservation field. Most of her work is international, situated in the Pacific Islands region and at the global level. Rebecca has published more than 30 peer-reviewed articles in leading journals including *Annual Review in Environment and Resources*, *Conservation Letters*, *Global Environmental Change*, and *Nature Sustainability*. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, and numerous philanthropic foundations including The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Oak Foundation, Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, and Waitt Foundation among others. Rebecca approaches her work with a normative commitment to human well-being and environmental sustainability, and engages extensively with communities of practice in co-producing knowledge for transformative change. Rebecca holds a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Conservation *summa cum laude* from the University of Florida (2006), and a Ph.D from Duke University (2013).

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