PROGRAMME

The Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
Department of Geography

NATHAN BENNETT

2002 University of Victoria BEd
2009 Lakehead University M.E.S.

“The Capacity to Adapt, Conserve, and Thrive?:
Marine Protected Area Communities and Social-Ecological Change in Coastal Thailand”

Thursday, July 25, 2013
9:30am
Social Science & Mathematics Building, A144

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Philip Dearden, Dept. of Geography, UVic (Supervisor)
Dr. Grant Murray, Dept. of Geography, UVic
Dr. Stephen Tyler, Dept. of Geography, Uvic
Dr. Ana Maria Peredo, Faculty of Business, UVic

External Examiner:
Dr. Derek Armitage, University of Waterloo

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Jessica Dempsey, School of Environmental Studies, UVic
Abstract

Three interrelated issues are marine conservation, local development, and climate change. Marine ecosystem services are essential for the survival of global society and local communities. Yet, the health and productivity of the oceans are threatened. Marine protected areas (MPAs) are a conservation instrument for protecting ecosystems and managing fisheries. For local communities, however, MPAs can have negative social and economic consequences that undermine support for conservation and compliance. Climate change, which can have detrimental impacts on marine ecosystems and on coastal communities, further complicates the situation.

To seek insight into the challenges posed by these issues within a particular context, this dissertation focuses in on seven communities near National Marine Parks (NMPs) on the Andaman Coast of Thailand. The goal is to explore solutions to the question: how can conservation outcomes and community livelihoods and adaptive capacity can be enhanced in communities near MPAs on the Andaman Coast of Thailand in consideration of a changing climate? The objectives are to survey local perceptions on social and environmental change and stressors, query community opinions of NMPs in Thailand, and examine the adaptive capacity of coastal communities. Literatures on social-ecological resilience, adaptive capacity, vulnerability, impacts of protected areas, sustainable livelihoods, and conservation governance and management frame the research. Fieldwork consisted of a participatory Photovoice process, a series of interviews, and a household survey.

This dissertation includes the following four stand-alone manuscripts that stem from the central question and objectives of this project:

- A picture of change: Using Photovoice to explore social and environmental change in coastal communities on the Andaman Coast of Thailand
- Vulnerability to multiple stressors in coastal communities: A study of the Andaman Coast of Thailand
- The feeling is not good: Community perceptions of marine protected area livelihood impacts, governance and management in Thailand
• The capacity to adapt?: Communities in a changing climate, environment and economy on the northern Andaman Coast of Thailand

Broadly, the research offers relevant insights into the complex social-ecological changes being experienced by heterogeneous communities in a particular context and the multi-faceted and multi-scalar actions required to address these increasing challenges.

Awards, Scholarships, Fellowships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>SSHRC Post-Doctoral Fellowship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Trudeau Foundation Writing/Dissemination Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Trudeau Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Joseph-Armand Bombardier Doctoral Scholarship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Presentations


Publications


2. **Bennett, N.** & Dearden, P. (2013). A Picture of Change: Using Photovoice to Explore Social and Environmental Change in
Coastal Communities on the Andaman Coast of Thailand. *Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability*. Online.


