

INYI Publications and Events

International Workshop “Denaturalizing Climate Change:
Perspectives for Critical Adaptation Research”
September 28-30 2016, Oaxaca, Mexico

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This workshop was organized by the Sustainability Research Center, University of Bremen, and the Mexican research center CIESAS (Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social). Participants from international non-governmental organizations and academic institutions with studies from around the globe (Brazil, Mexico, Bangladesh, Australia, Philippines, Argentina, Colombia, United States, Germany, Pacific Islands), presented empirical research findings on adaptation policies and projects on the ground. The aim of this event was to discuss and develop decolonizing and re-politicizing perspectives on climate change adaptation. It was based on critical approaches to climate change such as political ecology, environmental history, feminist approaches, knowledge politics, and postcolonial indigenous perspectives, among others. As the workshop organizers explained, development projects are often driven by ideas of vulnerability to hazards, ecological resilience, and social innovation, with the aim to operationalize concepts of adaptation to climate change (Klepp & Chavez, 2016). However, these concepts and approaches are also used and presented in such a way that depoliticize the wide array of complex processes of climate change adaptation on the ground. Some of these predominant approaches are regarded as insufficient and “inadequate for capturing peoples’ multifaceted, dynamic livelihoods” (Klepp & Chaves, 2016). I presented the paper titled “Climate Change Adaptation Initiatives in Fishing Communities in the Gulf of Mexico” which discusses some of the challenges Mexican government officials seeking to implement adaptation projects in fishing communities in that region may face, considering the existence of local contentious socioeconomic, political and environmental issues. In sum, discussions in this workshop challenged predominant climate change approaches, echoing criticisms about “the various equity and human rights implications of using global frameworks that are redefining problems and identities, and how in this process local inhabitants’ perspectives and voices are being misrepresented” (Vazquez, 2014).

References:

- Klepp, S & Chavez, L. (2016). Call for Papers: Denaturalizing Climate Change: Perspectives for Critical Adaptation Research. Oaxaca, Mexico.
- Vázquez, LM. (2014). Adaptation narratives: Climate change and environmental politics in Mexican coastal communities. PhD diss., York University.

Community Event: Health Promotion for Immigrant Mothers of Children with Developmental Disabilities: What is relevant?

On September 23, 2016, our Office organized the Community Event: Health Promotion for Immigrant Mothers of Children with Developmental Disabilities: What is relevant?, at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital in Toronto.

Our goal was to present and discuss with the community, research findings from our qualitative study that examined what is relevant health promotion for immigrant mothers of children with developmental disabilities (DDs). The project explored the particular health promotion needs of immigrant mothers raising children with DDs in the Greater Toronto Area. This research took place between April-December in 2015.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 28 immigrant mothers of children with DDs. Study findings show that overall, mothers have clear and concrete ideas about ways to promote their wellbeing; but have significant time limitations due to consistent parenting and primary caregiving roles, and lack of mother-centered, flexible health promotion services.

The community event was a successful forum through which study participants, service providers and other members of the community exchanged ideas about immigrant mothers’ health promotion strategies.

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You can learn more about the project through the following links:

- Project Video at <http://nkhanlou.info.yorku.ca/>
- Project Information Sheet#7 <http://nkhanlou.info.yorku.ca/files/2014/12/Info-Sheet-7-Health-Promotion.pdf>

INYI PUBLICATIONS

Khanlou N, Haque N, Davidson D, & Dastjerdi M. (2016). Voices of immigrant mothers of children with disabilities: Availability and use of social support. Toronto: York University.

Khanlou N, Vazquez LM, Mustafa, N, Jones, G., & Yoshida, K. (2016). Health Promotion of Immigrant Mothers of Children with Developmental Disabilities. Information Sheet #7. Toronto: York University.
<http://nkhanlou.info.yorku.ca/files/2014/12/Info-Sheet-7-Health-Promotion.pdf>