



# INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON OSTROM WORKSHOP

## RESEARCH SERIES

### Jordan Lynton

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Wednesday, November 11, 2020: 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

Virtual via Zoom: [Click here for link to Zoom meeting](#)



### Deconstructing Global Rhetorics of “Mutuality” and “Progress” Surrounding Chinese Development in Jamaica

Much of the research on Chinese development initiatives in the Global South focuses on macro-economic transactions between the China, multinational companies, and the receiving state, but has not appropriately explored how these engagements come to bear in the on-the-ground engagement between Chinese nationals and local communities. Borrowing from Mohan and Lamperts resituating Africans as agentive in Sino-African relations, In this paper I attune my analysis to the everyday ways in which Jamaicans rhetoricize and engage with Chinese nationals and sponsored projects in Jamaica as a method of evaluating the divergent global discourse surrounding Chinese development strategies. I situate my analysis within 3 sites within Kingston, Jamaica: construction projects, low income marketplaces, and environmental locations. I argue that these sites see d productive spaces of public memory in which conceptions about power, legacies of colonialism, and Sino-Jamaican relationships/South-South relationships are engaged through engagements with rhetorics of mutuality and progress.

**Jordan Lynton** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology at Indiana University and a Fellow at the Ostrom Workshop. Her research traces the development of the Chinese Jamaican community from the 19th century into the present, revealing how colonial hauntings are racially, economically, and politically reconstituted in the geopolitical transactions between China and Jamaica. Her interdisciplinary approach to development analysis incorporates ethnography with post-colonial theory, and critical GIS, and the Institutional Analysis Development Framework.

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*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Ostrom workshop presentations will be virtual until further notice. Join instantly using the link above. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon ([sturgeon@iu.edu](mailto:sturgeon@iu.edu))*