

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

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Examining Anthropogenic Pollutants in a Social-Ecological System: A Case Study at Kibale National Park, Uganda



Wednesday, April 15, 2020

12:00–1:00 PM • Presented via Zoom Meeting

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/2395327669>

Anthropogenic activity has drastically altered the chemical landscape. In particular, accelerated land use change and landscape fragmentation associated with the expansion of agriculture and urbanization has resulted in the widespread introduction of agrochemical and industrial pollutants. While the creation of protected areas has been a successful part of strategies to conserve natural resources and biodiversity amidst these changes, protected areas are still vulnerable to chemical threats which can permeate many institutional boundaries. To better understand the impact of anthropogenic pollutants in such social-ecological systems, this research examines connections between land use, the occurrence of chemical pollutants in the environment, and primate exposure to potential toxicants in and surrounding Kibale National Park, a protected area in western Uganda. Results from this study are examined with regards to applications in Evolutionary Toxicology and the management of protected areas.



[Tessa Steiniche](#) is a PhD student in the Department of Anthropology, Indiana University. Her research focuses on interactions between primates and endocrine-disrupting chemicals in their environment. Tessa conducts fieldwork at Kibale National Park, Uganda, combining methods in biological anthropology, toxicology, and environmental chemistry to understand how land use change is linked to primate exposure of anthropogenic pollutants, and the ecological and evolutionary implications of these interactions.

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, this will be a virtual presentation. Join instantly using the link above. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855–3151).