Action Sports for Development and Peace in the Philippines: Exploring the Surfing, Wellbeing and Environment Nexus

Internationally, (action) sport for development (ASDP) initiatives use sport as a tool for development purposes to address a number of issues, including conserving the environment and promoting gender equality, health and wellbeing among their participants. The purpose of this research project was to explore the experiences of a local non-governmental organization (NGO), its staff members and participants in Siargao, Philippines. Drawing on postcolonial feminist political ecology (PFPE) this participatory action research project (PAR) utilized visual methods, semi-structured interviews, document analysis, and reflexive observations to investigate how the Siargaanon NGO participants, volunteers, and staff experience its activities on wellbeing and local environmental efforts. This presentation will focus on this research project’s PAR design and implementation, including data collection and analysis. The significance of this study has a range of benefits for the scientific and ASDP practice community including, but not limited to: (1) initiate new discussions and practices on how can further empower their programming, community, and participants; and (2) identify resources that the NGO may need to improve overall environmental and wellbeing efforts in Siargao.