



Upcoming Public Talk:

Coal, Tourism, and Logging in Southeastern British Columbia: Complementarities and Contradictions

by our guest speaker Prof. Paul S. Ciccantell
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Room 003

Abstract

This paper analyzes the economic, social and environmental impacts of the coal, tourism, and logging industries in southeastern British Columbia, Canada. The research questions addressed are: 1. How have the coal, tourism and logging industries shaped economic development in southeastern BC? 2. How have these industries depended on and reshaped the environment in this region? This paper is part of a book project on these communities that I am currently writing.

I employed a variety of methods during several periods of field research in BC, including interviewing coal company executives, managers, and miners, tourism and real estate industry professionals and employees, community residents, and local and provincial government officials, community observations, and constructing databases on the coal, tourism, and logging industries.

Key findings include that the area, despite recurrent boom and bust cycles, has captured significant economic and social benefits from coal mining for export and from tourism but much less from logging. The environmental costs were relatively limited in earlier years from these industries, but have grown rapidly in recent years, including selenium pollution in rivers from coal mining, conversion of forest and farmland into tourism housing and second home locations, and deforestation and destruction of wildlife habitat and alternative tourism uses and views from clearcut logging.



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