

Introduction

Because Indigenous Peoples are stewards of some of the world's most significant biodiverse landscapes, they are vital for achieving global conservation and sustainable development goals. Yet, many scholars and practitioners assume Indigenous Peoples are "weak," and therefore inconsequential actors in international politics. At the same time, Indigenous Peoples play an increasingly greater role in global environmental governance (GEG). In recent years, 3-4% of delegates at multilateral environmental negotiations register as Indigenous Peoples (Marion Suiseeya and Zanotti 2019). Notably, however, indigenous participants face multiple structural and agential constraints to engagement. To understand how and why Indigenous Peoples presence matters at sites of GEG, we direct attention to the politics of representation.

We consider representation to be the practice of making something present, whether literally, physically, materially, or ideationally. Representation is both an act and an artifact of action. With a few notable exceptions (Brosius and Campbell 2010; Corson et al 2014, *inter alia*), most studies of international negotiations focus on high level decision makers or their outcomes. To examine and understand how and why indigenous presence matters at sites of GEG, we adopt collaborative event ethnography.

Collaborative Event Ethnography

Collaborative event ethnography (CEE) is a team-based, interdisciplinary approach to studying mega-events. It brings together a team of researchers under a common analytical framework to understand and examine how GEG is produced (Brosius and Campbell, 2010; Campbell, et al., 2014; Corson, et al., 2014; Duffy, 2014). In addition to traditional ethnographic methods, the collaborative method prioritizes iterative, reflective analysis between and among team members from project conception through to writing and dissemination (see Table 1; Corson et al., 2014; Zanotti and Marion Suiseeya, *under review*). For this paper, we draw from data collected at the 21st Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP21) and the 2016 World Conservation Congress (WCC).

Team Training	Data Management	Debriefs	Communication	Team Dinners and Personal Time	Writing Retreats
Asynchronous and synchronous team training before events took place, with emphasis placed on face-to-face training in one geographical locale. These team trainings focused on interdisciplinary team building, methodological and theoretical considerations for doing CEE, and logistical and practical challenges of travel.	We formulated a shared Data Management Protocol for Event and Reflective Fieldnotes, Individual Time Log, General and Event Specific Photos, Individual Photo Log, Materials Log, and Blogging Guidelines.	Formal scheduled debriefs for teams or subteams at CEE in CEE team shared space or daily "pop up" shared space. These debriefs took the form of descriptive, analytical, synthetic, and reflective commentary, informal and opportunistic debriefs took place among team members and cross-disciplinary paired team members across days. Faculty leads also performed informal individual debriefs before events and formal debriefs with team members after each event.	Shared GroupMe or WhatsApp Group where the team could stay in touch during travel, during the CEE experience, and post-travel. At COP21 wireless service prevented high activity on the GroupMe. In Honolulu staying in touch via electronic means remained easier.	While we shared many meals across events, we had one formal planned team dinner at CEE events, as a "soft stop" to relax and come together as a team in the middle of the events unfolding. We also had planned hard stops for personal time and days, and were flexible with schedules when team members need extra self-care.	Weekend long or semester-long writing retreats or stop, drop, and write events were scheduled across teams after each event took place to continue to talk about, process and collaboratively work on written products from the events.
CEE Ethnographic Kit	Social Media + Blogging	Analytics + Matrix	CEE Event Fieldnotes	CEE Daily Reflective Notes	Interviews
Team members received an ethnographic "kit" for CEE events, which included audio recorders, audio splitters, power packs, camera, extra batteries, SD cards, and a carrying case.	Coordinated shared Facebook Page, Twitter Handle, and Blogging Website for "Live Fieldnotes". Team members rotated days in which they took the lead on these items, and were encouraged to also contribute in unplanned moments as well.	Shared analytics worksheet that guided CEE team members in their ethnographic experience. This "cheat sheet" included definitions, inclusion criteria and Examples of Politics of Translation, Politics of Scale, and Politics of Performance. We also had a shared matrix that drove our event selection for each site, emphasizing events that focused on: indigenous rights, biodiversity, forests, and climate change.	Standardized fieldnote template for each formal or informal event attended that cued team members for event reflective notes, event notes, event spatial and visual notes as well as photographs, and basic event attributes.	Open fieldnote template for each team member to writing up summarizing, synthesizing, analytical and reflective thoughts at the end of each day. Team members were encouraged to share their thoughts in team debriefings, however, these notes were only shared between the team member and project PI.	Shared interview protocol and script for formal interview with conference participants. Shared interview write-up protocol.

Results

The three most prominent themes arising from our analysis of the spatializing practices we observed in built spaces, technology, and maps at COP21 and WCC are their roles in: (1) operating as avenues for access or absence, (2) providing opportunities for legitimacy or contestation, and (3) hindering ability to exert agency and authority. The image matrix above demonstrates how we observed and generated themes across images.



Poster by Dorothy Hogg (Northwestern University)

Research Question and Approach

Although non-state actors, including Indigenous Peoples, are central to the production of global environmental governance, there is little attention directed to the politics of representation in global environmental governance. In this paper, we ask: **how do Indigenous Peoples carve out space for meaningful and influential representation in global governance?** By utilizing visual ethnography to analyze images of COP21 and WCC, our research demonstrates how Indigenous Peoples leverage *spatializing practices* – social and political use of technology, maps, and the built environment – to make their voices legible. Spatializing practices are significant for indicating informal avenues for representation and have the capacity to influence the inclusiveness and responsiveness of GEG at these sites (Biermann, 2014; Celis, 2013; Kim and Siddiki, 2018; Weiss, 2000).

Text and Visual Data Comparison

Our analysis demonstrated how visual data complements and transcends textual data by capturing the nuances of these components of space. Further, visual data brings additional performance and aesthetic aspects to our analysis, including the role of emotion and interactions between groups, individuals, and space, that tend to be lost in textual representations of sites and events.

Theme	Avenues for Access or Absence (1)	Opportunities for Legitimacy or Contestation (2)	Constraints to Agency and Authority (3)
Built Spaces (A)			
Technology (B)			
Maps (C)			

#1 Avenues for Access or Absence

- 1A). Example of a pavilion space at WCC, hosted by sponsors to host events. These areas were easily visible and accessible for individuals passing by.
- 2A). Chief Raoni, a leader of the Kayapó People, takes the podium on stage at the UNDP Equator Initiative Award Ceremony at COP21, even though he was not called on.
- 3A). Signage at WCC marking exclusive spaces, where only members with certain credentials could enter.

#2 Legitimacy and Contestation

- 1B). An Indigenous leader of the Marubo Tribe speaks in a scene from a documentary shown during a presentation at WCC. Documentaries and images shown at the sites brought in voices that often were not physically present.
- 2B). A panel of individuals, some of whom are wearing translation headsets. Access to means of translation is necessary for individuals speaking marginalized languages to have the ability to contest ideas, or speak their own.
- 3B). Advanced Western technology and scientific knowledge dominates in this image showcasing the National Oceanic and Aquatic Administration's "Science on a Sphere" exhibit at WCC.

#3 Agency and Authority

- 1C). A physical site map at COP21. Site maps were physically present at both sites, but in select languages and limited accessibility.
- 2C). An image of an Indigenous-sourced "Landscape Cosmology", included in a slideshow presented by an individual that works with Quechua communities and biodiverse food systems.
- 3C). A map that places the territory of Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon region, displayed at an event on financing conservation projects. The Nature Conservancy's logo is present at the bottom right corner of the slide, implying Western sourcing or influence of the map.

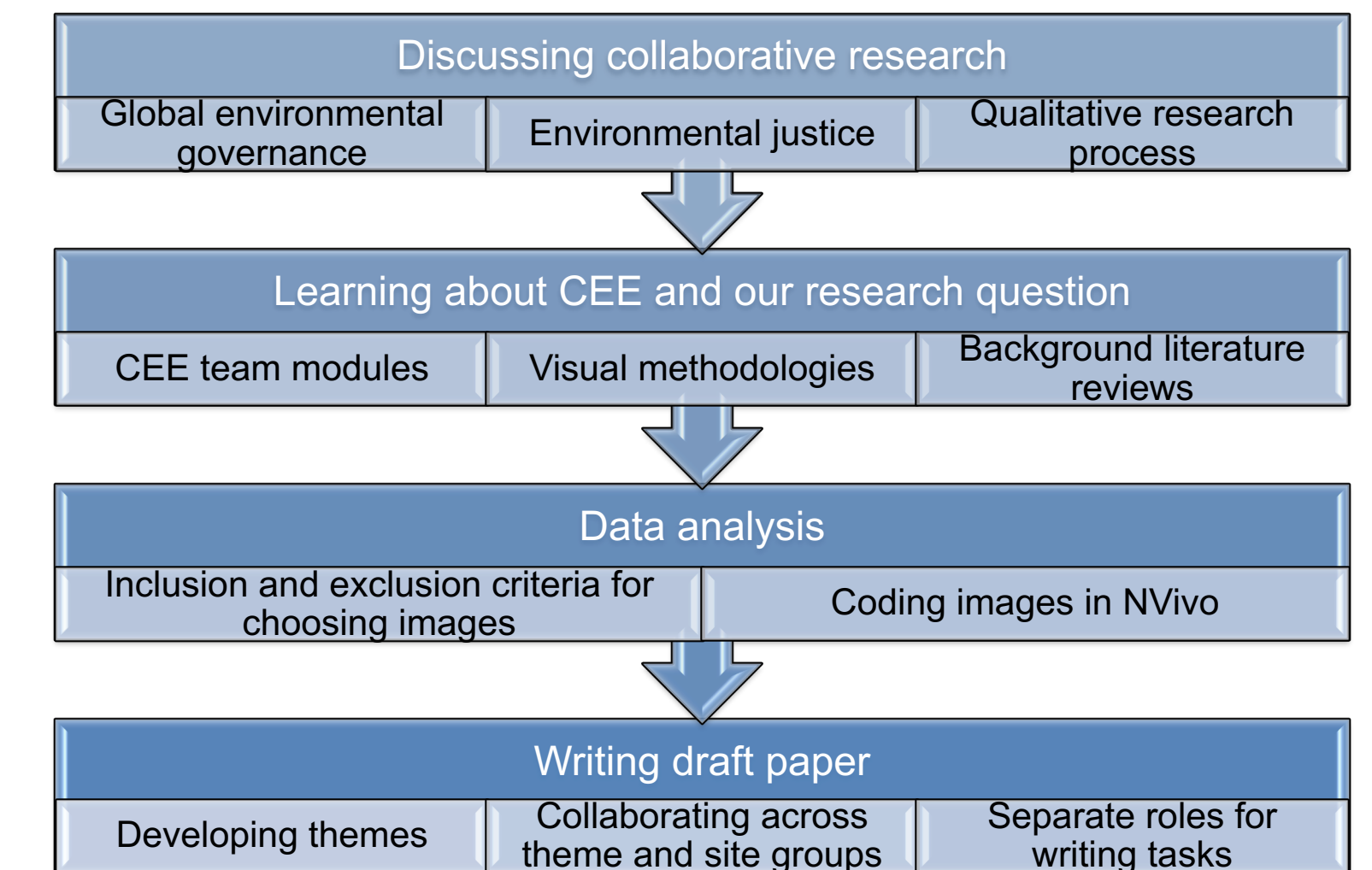
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World Conservation Congress Team: Kate Haapala, Sarah Huang, Kimberly R. Marion Suiseeya (PI) Savannah Schulze, Elizabeth Wulbrecht, Kate Yeater, Laura Zanotti (PI): Funding provided by Purdue University College of Liberal Arts

Methods – Data Analysis

The data analysis process began in an undergraduate research seminar at Northwestern University, taught by Dr. Kimberly Marion Suiseeya with contributions from Dr. Laura Zanotti. Nine students worked collaboratively to identify themes and interpret field data collected by earlier teams. Students received the same training as researchers completing fieldwork, comprised of seven modules that cover ethnography, ethics, and our project analytics.



Students were divided into themes and sites, demonstrated here:

Theme	Built Space	Technology	Maps
COP21	Moriah Lavey	Brittany Owens	Maegan Ramchal
WCC	Luke Kleekamp	Michelle David	Dorothy Hogg
COP10 (not used in current analyses)	Giovanni Amodeo	Jo Machesky	Andy Fonseca

Visual Analysis

A key innovation of this project is our use of visual data to examine the politics of representation. Because our research is focused on spatial elements and their attributes, visual data is especially significant for our research. Our visual analysis included four phases:

1. Initial tagging and coding for content analysis: team members reviewed more than 10,000 images and tagged them for inclusion in the data set based on a set of topic and subject criteria (e.g. images that included Indigenous Peoples, forests, biodiversity, etc.)
2. Visual data integration and thematic coding: we uploaded the data sample of 1,000+ images and associated meta-data to QSR NVivo and began coding, checking for inter-coder reliability in the initial and final research phases.
3. Triangulation with field notes: we used field notes from the CEE field teams to contextualize the images.
4. Interpretation: we collaboratively and iteratively interpreted our results.

