“Participatory Irrigation Management in Thailand: Pitfalls in Policy Implementation”

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12 - 1 p.m.
Anthropology 206

Light lunch served

Jake Ricks received a MA in Political Science at Northern Illinois University. He is currently a PhD candidate in Political Science at Emory University. His dissertation investigates the conditions under which policy actors will engage in the difficult task of institutional creation through the lens of irrigation management. Irrigation experts and international donors have been promoting participatory irrigation management (PIM) for almost 30 years. They argue that the creation of water user groups to collaborate with state irrigation agencies provides a number of benefits for developing states. However, despite technical know-how, they have met with relatively little success. Ricks argues two conditions determine whether policy actors will engage in developing these institutions: 1.) some sort of political vulnerability must be brought to bear on politicians to provide the incentive for institution building; and 2.) strong political links cannot exist between politicians and the bureaucracy. He tests these relationships through cross-country comparisons of Taiwan, the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand. His published work includes: