

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,800  
- My name is Amanda Bertana,

2  
00:00:01,800 --> 00:00:04,480  
I am an Assistant Professor in Sociology

3  
00:00:05,580 --> 00:00:07,620  
at Southern Connecticut State University

4  
00:00:07,620 --> 00:00:09,360  
in New Haven, Connecticut.

5  
00:00:09,360 --> 00:00:12,210  
I'm an environmental  
sociologist by training,

6  
00:00:12,210 --> 00:00:15,330  
and my work has really been located

7  
00:00:15,330 --> 00:00:16,560  
in the Fiji Islands,

8  
00:00:16,560 --> 00:00:18,390  
looking at how communities

9  
00:00:18,390 --> 00:00:20,400  
were implementing relocation

10  
00:00:20,400 --> 00:00:22,890  
as an adaptation to coastal erosion.

11



00:00:22,890 --> 00:00:25,110  
But my approach with this project

12  
00:00:25,110 --> 00:00:27,450  
was kind of understanding how relocation

13  
00:00:27,450 --> 00:00:29,910  
was being undertaken as a project,

14  
00:00:29,910 --> 00:00:32,430  
but also how it was being undertaken

15  
00:00:32,430 --> 00:00:34,110  
in collaboration with the government

16  
00:00:34,110 --> 00:00:37,350  
as an external intervention.

17  
00:00:37,350 --> 00:00:39,180  
Within my work in the Fiji Islands,

18  
00:00:39,180 --> 00:00:42,900  
when I was visiting a lot  
of these relocation efforts,

19  
00:00:42,900 --> 00:00:45,180  
what I noticed was that,

20  
00:00:45,180 --> 00:00:49,170  
the relocations really  
had divergent outcomes,

21  
00:00:49,170 --> 00:00:51,420  
in the sense that the projects

22



00:00:51,420 --> 00:00:54,360  
did not necessarily always kind of,

23  
00:00:54,360 --> 00:00:56,580  
they introduced new vulnerabilities

24  
00:00:56,580 --> 00:00:58,110  
for some communities.

25  
00:00:58,110 --> 00:01:00,330  
And so I was really kind of interested in,

26  
00:01:00,330 --> 00:01:03,990  
well, how did these  
divergent outcomes arise?

27  
00:01:03,990 --> 00:01:05,700  
Right? And so my work intersects

28  
00:01:05,700 --> 00:01:07,170  
with the Australian Center,

29  
00:01:07,170 --> 00:01:10,080  
because what I came to really realize

30  
00:01:10,080 --> 00:01:12,480  
throughout the scope of this project,

31  
00:01:12,480 --> 00:01:14,820  
was that these were logics

32  
00:01:14,820 --> 00:01:16,680  
that were being imposed

33  
00:01:16,680 --> 00:01:18,870



through the adaptation efforts

34

00:01:18,870 --> 00:01:20,640  
onto these communities.

35

00:01:20,640 --> 00:01:22,920  
And they were leading  
to maladaptive outcomes,

36

00:01:22,920 --> 00:01:27,360  
and actually, introducing  
a host of issues.

37

00:01:27,360 --> 00:01:30,030  
The fellowship has really helped

38

00:01:30,030 --> 00:01:32,160  
open up conversations for me

39

00:01:32,160 --> 00:01:36,030  
that I would not have  
necessarily thought otherwise,

40

00:01:36,030 --> 00:01:38,100  
of these maladaptive outcomes

41

00:01:38,100 --> 00:01:42,150  
really being ideologically  
driven in so many ways.

42

00:01:42,150 --> 00:01:44,790  
And that for me, kind of,

43

00:01:44,790 --> 00:01:48,000  
I didn't necessarily  
have the language prior



44

00:01:48,000 --> 00:01:49,320  
to be able to think about,

45

00:01:49,320 --> 00:01:52,410  
how do I articulate this without,

46

00:01:52,410 --> 00:01:55,890  
and I, being within the Australian Center,

47

00:01:55,890 --> 00:01:57,330  
and hearing about the work

48

00:01:57,330 --> 00:01:59,460  
that people are doing within the center,

49

00:01:59,460 --> 00:02:01,890  
and also throughout the university

50

00:02:01,890 --> 00:02:05,100  
with this critical lens of understanding

51

00:02:05,100 --> 00:02:07,020  
how a lot of these policies

52

00:02:07,020 --> 00:02:09,750  
are kind of being perpetuated

53

00:02:09,750 --> 00:02:11,850  
through these colonial logics.

54

00:02:11,850 --> 00:02:15,660  
So when I was doing my  
research in the Fiji Islands,



55  
00:02:15,660 --> 00:02:18,720  
I was also really  
interested in how adaptation

56  
00:02:18,720 --> 00:02:22,860  
was kind of being promoted  
across countries, right?

57  
00:02:22,860 --> 00:02:24,090  
And so Australia

58  
00:02:24,090 --> 00:02:27,750  
being also a very hegemonic influence

59  
00:02:27,750 --> 00:02:29,550  
within the South Pacific,

60  
00:02:29,550 --> 00:02:32,100  
I was really interested in how Australia

61  
00:02:32,100 --> 00:02:34,860  
was also interacting with Fiji

62  
00:02:34,860 --> 00:02:39,000  
and the small island  
developing states as neighbors,

63  
00:02:39,000 --> 00:02:41,040  
within the adaptation realm.

64  
00:02:41,040 --> 00:02:44,670  
So when I came across this opportunity,

65  
00:02:44,670 --> 00:02:48,300  
which was through an



email that was sent over,

66

00:02:48,300 --> 00:02:49,440

because Australia,

67

00:02:49,440 --> 00:02:52,648

the Australian Center is  
relatively new, right?

68

00:02:52,648 --> 00:02:54,090

In this realm.

69

00:02:54,090 --> 00:02:55,350

And so I came across

70

00:02:55,350 --> 00:02:57,450

this opportunity through an email,

71

00:02:57,450 --> 00:02:59,820

and when I looked,

72

00:02:59,820 --> 00:03:01,200

and to see what it was,

73

00:03:01,200 --> 00:03:04,350

with thinking about  
settler colonial relations

74

00:03:04,350 --> 00:03:08,160

and how they fit into  
different frameworks as well.

75

00:03:08,160 --> 00:03:10,350

So I was really interested  
in thinking about



76

00:03:10,350 --> 00:03:11,850

how does my work fit

77

00:03:11,850 --> 00:03:14,820

into the settler colonial relations.

78

00:03:14,820 --> 00:03:17,580

And so the Australian Center, then,

79

00:03:17,580 --> 00:03:19,920

even with the call for the fellowship

80

00:03:19,920 --> 00:03:21,450

and the mission of it,

81

00:03:21,450 --> 00:03:25,170

really made me articulate my work

82

00:03:25,170 --> 00:03:29,160

in a different way that was more critical.

83

00:03:29,160 --> 00:03:31,320

So moving forward,

84

00:03:31,320 --> 00:03:35,580

I really hope to just continue my research

85

00:03:35,580 --> 00:03:36,690

in this part of the world,

86

00:03:36,690 --> 00:03:38,550

and really hone in

87

00:03:38,550 --> 00:03:40,560





on a lot of the collaborations

88

00:03:40,560 --> 00:03:42,150  
that I have developed,

89

00:03:42,150 --> 00:03:44,280  
and keep it going.

90

00:03:44,280 --> 00:03:45,540  
I really do think

91

00:03:45,540 --> 00:03:48,180  
we are an international community,

92

00:03:48,180 --> 00:03:51,060  
and having these  
connections across countries

93

00:03:51,060 --> 00:03:53,340  
of like just the research,

94

00:03:53,340 --> 00:03:55,740  
we can learn a lot from each other, right?

95

00:03:55,740 --> 00:03:57,180  
Of best practices,

96

00:03:57,180 --> 00:03:58,500  
and also the practices

97

00:03:58,500 --> 00:04:00,990  
that didn't necessarily work for us,

98

00:04:00,990 --> 00:04:03,090  
you know, in these different realms,



99

00:04:03,090 --> 00:04:05,670  
so for me, my hopes are really,

100

00:04:05,670 --> 00:04:07,620  
to kind of continue my work

101

00:04:07,620 --> 00:04:08,700  
in this part of the world,

102

00:04:08,700 --> 00:04:12,090  
and really strengthen the relationships

103

00:04:12,090 --> 00:04:13,500  
and the research collaborations

104

00:04:13,500 --> 00:04:15,180  
and even the friendships  
that I've made here,

105

00:04:15,180 --> 00:04:16,453  
since being here.

106

00:04:16,453 --> 00:04:19,370  
(thoughtful music)

