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# ReveLA

Realidades y visiones sobre Latinoamérica

¿Colonialidad? - ¿Postcolonialidad? -  
¿Decolonialidad?  
Interrogantes desde el sentir y el pensar  
latinoamericano

Revista ReveLA #4

¿Colonialidad? - ¿Postcolonialidad? - ¿Decolonialidad?  
Interrogantes desde el sentir y el pensar latinoamericano\*

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Kolonialität? – Postkolonialität? – Dekolonialität?  
Fragen aus dem Fühlen und Denken Lateinamerikas\*

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## Aus der Redaktion Liebe Leserschaft

Es ist kaum zu glauben, was sich in dem halben Jahr seit der Publikation der dritten Ausgabe unserer Zeitschrift ReveLA alles getan hat. Unser Projekt ist gewachsen und geht aus einer arbeitsintensiven Phase mit einer Reihe erfreulicher Neuerungen hervor, die wir an dieser Stelle sehr gerne mit unserer Leserschaft teilen möchten:

Allen voran steht die viel versprechende Gründung des Vereins *ReveLA. Realidades y Visiones sobre Latinoamérica/Plattform für interkulturellen Wissensaustausch*, der sich neben der regelmäßigen Herausgabe unserer Zeitschrift an kulturellen und wissenschaftlichen Veranstaltungen und Aktivitäten beteiligen sowie die Vernetzung und Förderung von Initiativen, die sich auf vielfältige Weise mit Lateinamerika beschäftigen, vorantreiben wird. Durch die Vereinsgründung sind uns außerdem neue Möglichkeiten zum Austausch und zur Zusammenarbeit mit anderen Vereinen, Organisationen, Universitäten und Personen gegeben, mit deren Entfaltung wir uns bereits fleißig beschäftigen.

Die nächste frohe Botschaft ist jene der Registrierung im System der ISSN, mittels derer wir unsere Publikationen nun in die Bestände verschiedener Bibliotheken aufnehmen lassen können, unseren Wunsch einer ersten Print-Version von ReveLA ankurbeln wollen, sowie - ganz wesentlich für den Wissensaustausch - ab sofort zitiert werden können.

Ein besonderes Anliegen während der Erarbeitung dieser Ausgabe war uns zudem die Unterstützung des Buchprojekts „Machtnetzwerke nach dem Genozid“ von unserem Redakteur Harald Waxenecker mit der Initiative „ReveLA schreibt Bücher... ich schenke eins!!!“, die auf unserer Website zugänglich ist. Sie stellt einen Beitrag zu aktuellen Demokratiebestrebungen in Guatemala dar und fördert den freien Zugang zu Information und Wissen über die Erarbeitung und kostenlose Verteilung von über 1.000 Büchern im Land.

Schließlich können wir uns auch dieses Mal wieder über die große Anzahl, die thematische Vielfalt und die interessanten Ansätze der eingesandten Artikel, Berichte, Geschichten, Anekdoten und Fotos freuen und präsentieren hoch motiviert „ReveLA - Ausgabe #4“, deren zentrales Thema der wissenschaftlichen Rubrik sich um eine der dringendsten Auseinandersetzungen geistes- und sozialwissenschaftlicher Forschung dreht: Kolonialität? – Postkolonialität? – Dekolonialität? Fragen aus dem Fühlen und Denken Lateinamerikas.

Auf eine anregende Lektüre,

**Simone Schober**  
**Redaktionsteam ReveLA**



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## Sección/Rubrik Colibrí

### Sobre medio ambiente y naturaleza en Latinoamérica

Temáticas como extinción de especies, destrucción del hábitat, neoextractivismo, nomadismos, corredores naturales, cambio climático, transformación de ecosistemas, megaproyectos, sistemas agroforestales, monocultivos, relación de comunidades con animales y plantas tradicionales, significado de mundo y cosmovisiones dentro de la región, son una pequeña muestra de la diversidad posible, que como el Colibrí, sobrevuelan los espacios de “Nuestra América”.

En esta edición Erik Sichra Copello ahonda en la tan disputada temática del derecho a la consulta previa de Pueblos Indígenas y comunidades, con un enfoque especial en la situación del Perú; y Luciana Camuz Ligios aborda a la Megaminería desde una perspectiva democrática y política en la Argentina. Asimismo, Marcela Torres Heredia describe y compara los sistemas de producción “con sombra” y “sin sombra” del café presentes en México y Colombia; y por último Therese Thaler nos cuenta sobre la iniciativa internacional “The Healthy Reefs Initiative” (Arrecifes Saludables) que lleva a cabo monitoreos de la salud del Arrecife Mesoamericano en el Mar Caribe.

### Über Umwelt und Natur in Lateinamerika

Themen wie Artensterben, Zerstörung von Lebensräumen, Neo-Extraktivismus, Nomadentum, natürliche Korridore, Klimawandel, Veränderung des Ökosystems, Megaprojekte, Agroforstwirtschaft, Monokulturen, Beziehung der Gemeinschaften zu Tieren und traditionellen Pflanzen, Bedeutung der Welt und von Kosmvisionen innerhalb der Region sind lediglich eine kleine Auswahl der möglichen Vielfalt, die - so wie Kolibris - die Räume “unseres Amerikas” überfliegen.

In dieser Ausgabe beschäftigt sich Erik Sichra Copello mit der heiß umstrittenen und oft bekämpften Umsetzung des Konsultationsrechts indigener Völker und Gemeinschaften mit Schwerpunkt auf Peru. Luciana Camuz Ligios bespricht den Mega-Bergbau in Argentinien aus demokratischer und politischer Perspektive. Außerdem beschreibt und vergleicht Marcela Torres Heredia zwei Anbauformen des Kaffees, „shade coffee” und „sun coffee”, welche sowohl in Mexico als auch in Kolumbien eingesetzt werden. Zuletzt berichtet uns Ian Drysdale im Interview mit Therese Thaler von der internationalen Organisation „Healthy Reefs Initiative”, die die Gesundheit des Mesoamerikanischen Riffes im karibischen Meer überwacht.

*Luciana Camuz Ligios*



## The Healthy Reefs Initiative

### *Interview with Ian Drysdale*

*Therese Thaler\**

The Healthy Reefs Initiative is an international, multi-institutional organization which keeps track of the health of the Mesoamerican Reef in the Caribbean Sea, operating in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras. Their goal is to provide the scientific information to the public and promote better conservation management. The Mesoamerican Reef is the largest reef in the Western Hemisphere and stretches out over 700 miles. It is formed by various hard coral types which provide the habitat for a large number of fish species, marine turtles and whale sharks. The economy of four countries depends on its health and it provides the livelihood for numerous local communities. In a biennial Report Card the Healthy Reefs Initiative publishes its results, grading the health of the reef in a point system. To accomplish their goals, they not only focus on ecologic issues but also on socio-economic, cultural and policy factors. The Revista ReveLA's Therese Thaler met with Ian Drysdale, the Healthy Reefs coordinator for Honduras on the island of Roatán on October the 6th 2015 to talk about his work, the Initiative and the next steps to improve the health of the reef.

#### *How long have you been working for Healthy Reefs?*

I became the coordinator for Honduras in 2009, but they first contacted me in 2008 when they published their first Report Card, as they wanted me to look at the publication and help them a little bit with the translation and edition into Spanish.

#### *Which are your main responsibilities within the organization?*

I am responsible for the website and for conducting all manner of relationships with Honduran partners, be those government, NGOs, academia or private sector. Also my wife and I were the first ever two Spanish trainers for the AGRRA methodology, which

we use to look at the health of the reef, and we helped translate the entire protocol.

#### *How is the Healthy Reefs Initiative organized?*

The Healthy Reefs Initiative is an informal partnership that gathers most of the entities who work in reef conservation in the 4 countries of the Mesoamerican Reef. It's Florida-based, and our administration falls under the Mesoamerican Reef Fund, which is based in Guatemala, but they are also a US registered non-profit organization.

#### *Is the Healthy Reefs Initiative cooperating with other organizations in Honduras?*

Yes, we cooperate with 20 organizations in the country, such as NGOs, Universities, governmental entities and research centers. We mostly share and gather information together, as well as plan for joint activities. Some of our partners have also been trained in the AGRRA protocol and join us underwater, helping to gather data for our Report Card.

#### *What kind of relationship exists between the government of Honduras and the Healthy Reefs Initiative?*

There is a very good relationship with the government at both the National and local levels. Every two years, the Healthy Reefs Initiative publishes about the state of the reef and so the Ministry of Environment, as well as all the collaborating partners, can see that their actions are having a positive impact on the health of the reef. Most people working in the central Honduran government, within all the different institutions that are related to natural resources, have specialized in forestry, as Honduras has an 80% forest cover. So the marine environment has been left on the side. The Healthy Reefs Initiative, through its partnership with



all the other organizations, is filling that gap. So it's a very tight and good relationship.

***Did this tight relationship lead to any joint projects?***

Oh yes. During the last year, a project called the Proyecto Marino Costero, with funding from the Global Environmental Fund have been working towards managing marine resources in the North Coast of Honduras. They have reached out to the Healthy Reefs Initiative to inquire what indicators we use to evaluate the health of the reef and what indicators we use to promote better management of the reef. The project now wants to adopt these indicators and support the organizations doing the research work. So within the next four years there will be a very strong collaboration with this group.

***What projects are you working on right now?***

We publish the Report Cards every two years, evaluating the health of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef. But we also have a second biennial publication that is not very well known. It's called the Eco-Audit. One year we publish the Report Card and the next year we publish the Eco-Audit.

***What information does this ECO-Audit contain?***

Whenever we publish the Report Card we make sure to include a list of recommendations on reef conservation that are approved by all at our yearly Regional Partners Meeting. Each recommendation falls within seven different themes and each theme has between three and six indicators. We use the Eco-Audit to evaluate how each country is implementing the recommendations, based on each indicator, which springs from the recommendations in the Report Cards. All these indicators, and their implementation, are verified by a third-party auditing firm, and all this information becomes the Eco-Audit.

***Could you give an example?***

Of course. For example in the 2014 Eco-Audit files the seven themes are Marine Protected Areas; Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management; Coastal Zone Management; Sanitation and Sewage Management; Research, Education and Awareness; Sustainability in the Private Sector and Global Issues. Each theme has a number of indicators which are evaluated by a 5-point system, and a complete file for each indicator

is created for each of the four countries. A country can improve their Marine Protected Area score by increasing the number of hectares that are protected, but these can only be verified by providing the decree of declaration of a protected area once it is published in the national, legal newspaper. Both the Report Cards and the Eco-Audits are all available on the Healthy Reefs Initiative's website for free download at [www.healthyreefs.org](http://www.healthyreefs.org).

***Are you working on any other projects in Honduras at the moment?***

Within the Report Card we train our partners in the AGRRA methodology which we use to evaluate the health of the reef. We are using this protocol on the whole reef in Honduras, which spans from Puerto Cortes near Guatemala, moving eastward towards Tela, La Ceiba and Trujillo, as well as the Swan Islands and all the three Bay Islands.

***Are there any further projects planned in Honduras?***

Yes. As of October 2015 we will be starting the Coral Bleaching Monitoring and Response Program for the whole Mesoamerican Reef. So my colleagues in Belize, Mexico and Guatemala will also be monitoring the reefs for signs of bleaching at the same time.

***What are the next steps that have to be taken in order to further protect the reef?***

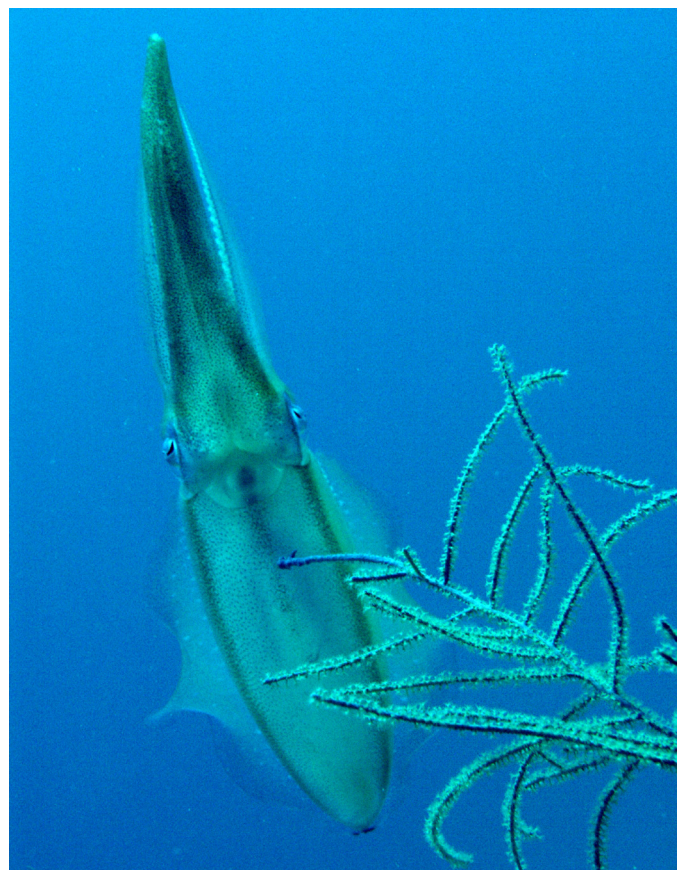
The next important steps would be to declare parrotfish and all herbivores as species that can't be fished, and make sure that these fishing regulations get applied. As well as to build and operate more waste water treatment plants, to reduce the entrance of sewage unto the reef; and much work needs to be done in the upper watersheds, in order to reduce sediment coming onto the reef.

***Looking back at the last years of your work, what was the biggest achievement for you?***

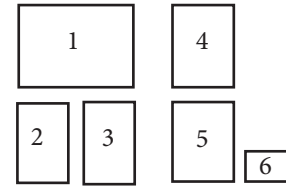
Creating a very large marine protected area in Tela. It has taken about 3 years and we're still not finished, but it's almost there. As well as working with all the amazing partners we have in all four countries that share this meso-amazing reef!

***Thank you for the interview!***









1. Blenny. Morat, Roatán. **Ian Drysdale**
2. Coral. Cordelia Banks, Roatán. **Ian Drysdale**
3. Squid. French Harbour, Roatán. **Ian Drysdale**
4. Black Grouper. West Bay, Roatán. **Ian Drysdale**
5. Spotted Eel. West End, Roatán. **Ian Drysdale**
6. Reefscape. Roatán. **Ian Drysdale**

**Ian Drysdale** is the Honduras Coordinator of the Healthy Reefs for Healthy People Initiative since 2010. He is in charge of data collection, AGRRA training, as well as the development of partner relations and other outreach and media efforts in Honduras. Ian has an undergraduate degree in Environmental Engineering and is currently writing his thesis for a Sustainable Development master's degree. He resides on the island of Roatan, Honduras with his wife Jenny Myton, working on reef protection and management since 2002.

\***Therese Thaler** received her B.A. in Transcultural Communication from the University of Vienna where she is now working on her M.A. in Interpreting and Latin American Studies. In Oktober 2015 she visited the island of Roatán to do research for her master's thesis on diving tourism. Therese is a German teacher at a private institute in Vienna.

