



In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Science
Emily Curtis

Will present her scientific paper

**Development at the Indigenous-West Boundary:
The case of Iyarina and the Waorani of Pastaza**

Thursday April 16, 2020

3:00 pm

[Zoom Meeting](#) ID: 418 084 703

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. David Manuel-Navarrete, Co-Chair

Dr. Craig Calhoun, Co-Chair

Dr. Tod Swanson, Member

Abstract

The Woarani of the Pastaza Province in Amazonian Ecuador face complex pressures both externally and internally to develop. While there are both positive and negative impacts associated with this transition, it remains a problem that development solutions designed external to the system they're meant to impact risk imposing asymmetries on that system. This research explores the case of Iyarina, a culturally and historically embedded boundary organization operating at the nexus between Western academics and two communities of Woarani in the Pastaza Province of Ecuador. Through unstructured and semi-structured interviews, field-observation and social and historical research, this study seeks to understand: 1) the pathways to development for the Waorani, what and why they choose what they

do and, 2) in the context of the I-W boundary at Iyarina, the elements of development that are critical for sustainable scaling. Key findings include eight elements that explain development at Iyarina and situate Iyarina as a boundary organization. Another important finding is the support for sustainable scaling, that in this context, sustainable scaling is modeled by organic growth along known networks of relations and that the growth moves at the speed of these relationships.