



Kainjem Kaipas from Kairik Village, Porgera, holding a piglet -- the social currency of highlands Papua New Guinea exchange systems. Courtesy of Jerry Jacka.

Challenges to Livelihood Resilience in the Anthropocene: Ecological Knowledge and Resource Management in a New Guinea Mining Area

Some in the environmental sciences argue that we have entered a new geological epoch—the Anthropocene—in which humans are impacting the planet at a global scale. Dr. Jerry Jacka explores this idea among the Porgera people of Papua New Guinea, indigenous forager-farmers who host one of the world's largest gold mines on their lands. Mining development has transformed Porgera society and environment; Jacka assesses these impacts by looking at changes in Porgeran ecological knowledge and resource management practices.

The Smithsonian lecture series, A Cultural Planet, explores the relationship between cultures and their environments. Through engaging presentations by scholars and indigenous community members, the series aims to increase public understanding of the diversity of cultural and environmental knowledge. A Cultural Planet is part of Recovering Voices, a Smithsonian initiative that supports community efforts to revitalize language and knowledge through collections-based research. Learn more online at [Recovering Voices: Documenting & Sustaining Endangered Languages & Knowledge](#).

Date: Friday, March 7, 2014

Time: 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Location: Executive Conference Room, 4th floor*

*Access through glass elevator of the Atrium Café

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