

TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION GOVERNANCE IN MT. ELGON NATIONAL PARK

RILEY RAVARY

Riley is interested in conservation, environmental governance, political anthropology, human-environment interactions, African Studies, boundaries, development, and protected areas. Currently, Riley is working on her dissertation research on transboundary conservation governance in Eastern Africa. Through a case study of Uganda's Mt. Elgon National Park, this field research project interrogates the practices and experiences of conservation governance in transboundary protected areas. Based on preliminary field research, transboundary protected areas exhibit arrangements of overlapping rules and regulations. However, these rules are not always well coordinated or collectively determined, meaning persons near protected areas face deep structural constraints. Riley seeks to better understand how this mode of governance produces unevenness, patchiness, uncertainty, and insecurity on the ground through the pluralization of authority and political instrumentalization of disorder. Riley's research has been generously supported by the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Award, American Philosophical Society Lewis and Clark Fund for Exploration and Field Research Grant, UF Office for Global Research Engagement Research Abroad for Doctoral Students Award, and University of Florida Doughty Award.

Riley's past research centers on the complex, often conflicting relationships between people and the environment. Her M.A. project utilized the University of Florida Ian Parker Collection Relating to East African Wildlife. This archival research considered the Galana Game Management Scheme, a colonial-era Kenyan community conservation project conducted from 1960-63, that proposed to employ indigenous peoples in an effort to reduce elephant poaching in the region. In 2016, Riley conducted preliminary field research on Uganda's Mount Elgon region

focusing on the role of gender in resource use and conservation governance. In 2017, Riley assisted in the curation of an exhibit on the University of Florida Bob Campbell papers, which featured Dian Fossey's early

mountain gorilla conservation efforts at the Karisoke Research Center.

Riley Ravary is a doctoral candidate in anthropology and former FLAS fellow (Swahili).

