

Paper ID	060
Author(s)	David J McCaskey
Title	The Partitioned Fish: Afterlives of Tilapia Introductions in North and South Vietnam, 1953-1975
Abstract	
<p>Nile tilapia (<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i>), a cichlid fish native to Africa, is one of the most popular freshwater fish for aquaculture concerns worldwide. Vietnamese aquaculture experts, assisted by French and American advisors, introduced the fish to Vietnam during the final years of the French Indochina War in the early 1950s. Following the partition of Vietnam into the communist-led Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) and the American-supported Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) in 1954, tilapia aquaculture in the region. In South Vietnam, American advisors worked closely with South Vietnamese experts to develop an aquaculture industry based around this African introduction. In North Vietnam, fisheries officials traded tilapia specimens and aquacultural knowledge with similarly interested parties in the PRC, North Korea, and the USSR through a series of annual oceanographic research meetings and fish exchanges. Both groups of experts, working with the same fish species, took tilapia aquaculture in different directions for the next two decades. This article is a comparative study of tilapia aquaculture in North and South Vietnam during the 1950s and 1960s, which illustrates how different international networks of knowledge influenced the practices of scientists and aquaculture specialists in each nation during the Cold War. Utilizing research conducted at archives in Vietnam, France, and the United States, this essay traces the trajectories of tilapia aquaculture in North and South Vietnam, examining the political, social, and ecological ramifications of introducing tilapia to Vietnamese environments and foodways.</p>	
Keywords	Animals, Foods, Cold War, Aquaculture

Paper ID	203
Author(s)	Patrick Slack
Title	Changing Commodities, Pertinacious Schemes: 140 Years of Enclosing Opium and Black Cardamom Livelihoods and Territorialisation of the Northern Vietnamese Borderlands
Abstract	
<p>For over a century, Mien, Hmong, and Hani farmers in the northern Vietnamese borderlands have practiced semi-subsistence livelihoods adjacent to highland forests. These ethnic minority groups have been problematised by French colonial, Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV), and Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) authorities, who criticised their swidden agricultural practices as “destructive.” Over the past 140 years, these regimes have sought to sedentarise and enclose ethnic minority livelihoods in mountainous areas, particularly Mien, Hmong, and Hani farmers in Bát Xát District, Lào Cai Province, and Phong Thổ District, Lai Châu Province. Directly on the border, these districts and their residents have experienced persistent state interventions aimed to integrate them into state-backed commodity schemes. Drawing on five months of archival research and six months of ethnographic fieldwork in these districts, I argue that colonial and state regimes have attempted to territorialise these borderlands through commodification, with the ultimate goal of enclosing Mien, Hmong, and Hani livelihoods. This study examines how the cultivation of opium and black cardamom has iteratively been shaped by pirates, wildlife, and agricultural expansion—factors that have intermittently hindered and enabled territorial and livelihood interventions. This paper examines how opium and black cardamom have evolved with livelihoods and state intervention, with cardamom being the only legal commodity of the two. A non-timber forest product dependent on closed-canopy forests, black cardamom has both driven notable forest</p>	

cover changes, while funding agricultural intensification, and provoked forest conservation policies. Whether cardamom faces a similar fate as opium remains uncertain.

Keywords	Enclosure, Territorialisation, Livelihoods, Commodities, Opium.
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Paper ID	086
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Author(s)	Sean Keenan
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Title	Apatite for Destruction: French Empire and Mining in Northwest Vietnam and Yunnan
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Abstract

Mines in Northwest Vietnam and Southeast Yunnan, sprinkled along the route of the historic Haiphong-Kunming railroad remain a leading provider of tin, copper, coal, and appetite. The expansion of French colonial power in the late 19th century was driven in large part by the desire to exploit the mineral wealth of the China-Vietnam borderlands. These justifications were driven in large part by the Yunnan Myth and various imperialists—such as Jean Dupuis or Fransis Garnier—that promised untold riches beneath the soil of the frontier province. This paper explores French mining efforts along the railroad and the role these extracted resources--especially coal, tin, copper, and apatite--played in the larger French empire.

Mining has long been an enticing prospect for prospective settlers in Yunnan. The issue has been explored by scholars like Nancy Kim, Thuy Linh Nguyen, and C. Patterson Giersch. David Atwill makes special note of the role of mining and mining communities in Yunnan during the Panthay Rebellion. The mineral resources of Yunnan have always been a driving force in its economic and demographic development. My research expands upon this work by exploring the ways French businesses and colonial officials developed mines along the railroad, dictated trade terms among Chinese and Vietnamese local laborers, and used their economic dominance in the region to reach across the border and impose French influence across the border.

Keywords	Qing Dynasty, Vietnam, French Empire, Environment, Yunnan
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