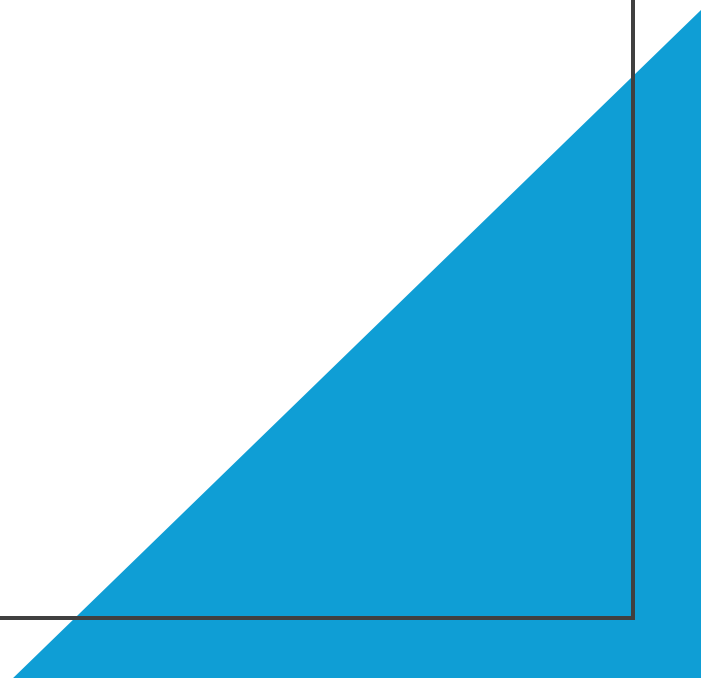


Basics of Sustainability, Unincorporated Territories, Economic Development & Environmental Justice

Lesson One from the unit: *Territorial Status, Economic Development
& Community Health in the Virgin Islands*

Dr. JoAnna Poblete, Claremont Graduate University
in collaboration with Chalana Brown, Sayeeda Carter and Monica Marin

Plan for today

- Introductions
 - Pre-Territorial Environment/Sustainability in St. Croix
 - Basic Concepts
 - Colonialism
 - Heavy industry in St. Croix
 - Environmental Justice
 - Group discussion
- 

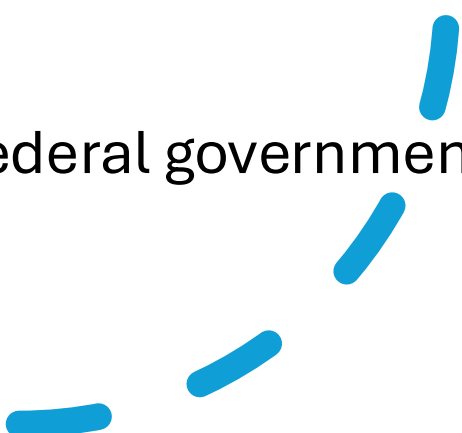
Introductions



- Name
 - Age/Year in School
 - One impact of living in a U.S. Territory
- 

A large orange circle on the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge.

Dr. JoAnna Poblete

- Bachelor of Arts in History, University of California at Davis
 - Master's Degree & PhD in U.S. History, UCLA
 - Post-doctoral fellow, UNC-Chapel Hill
 - Taught at University of Wyoming
 - Historian of unincorporated territories
 - U.S. colonials
 - Any group subject to direct U.S. federal government authority
 - Different times & places
- 
- Four blue curved lines of varying lengths and orientations, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.



ISLANDERS IN THE EMPIRE

FILIPINO AND PUERTO RICAN LABORERS IN HAWAII

JOANNA POBLETE

Balancing the Tides

Marine Practices in
American Sāmoa

JoAnna Poblete



Women, Gender,
and Families of Color

WGC
FC

JEH Journal
of Energy
History
RHE Revue
d'histoire
de l'Énergie

#9

SPECIAL ISSUE

Hydrocarbons and
human resources



Pre-U.S. Territorial Life in St. Croix

- Before colonization: lush mangroves, rainforests, and active fishing in Krause Lagoon
- Indigenous, enslaved, and post-emancipation groups fished and raised crops in the region in sustainable ways



Photo courtesy Olasee Davis

“Our Troubled Environment— Can We Save It?” George A. Seaman, May 1974

Do you know what Krause Lagoon was?

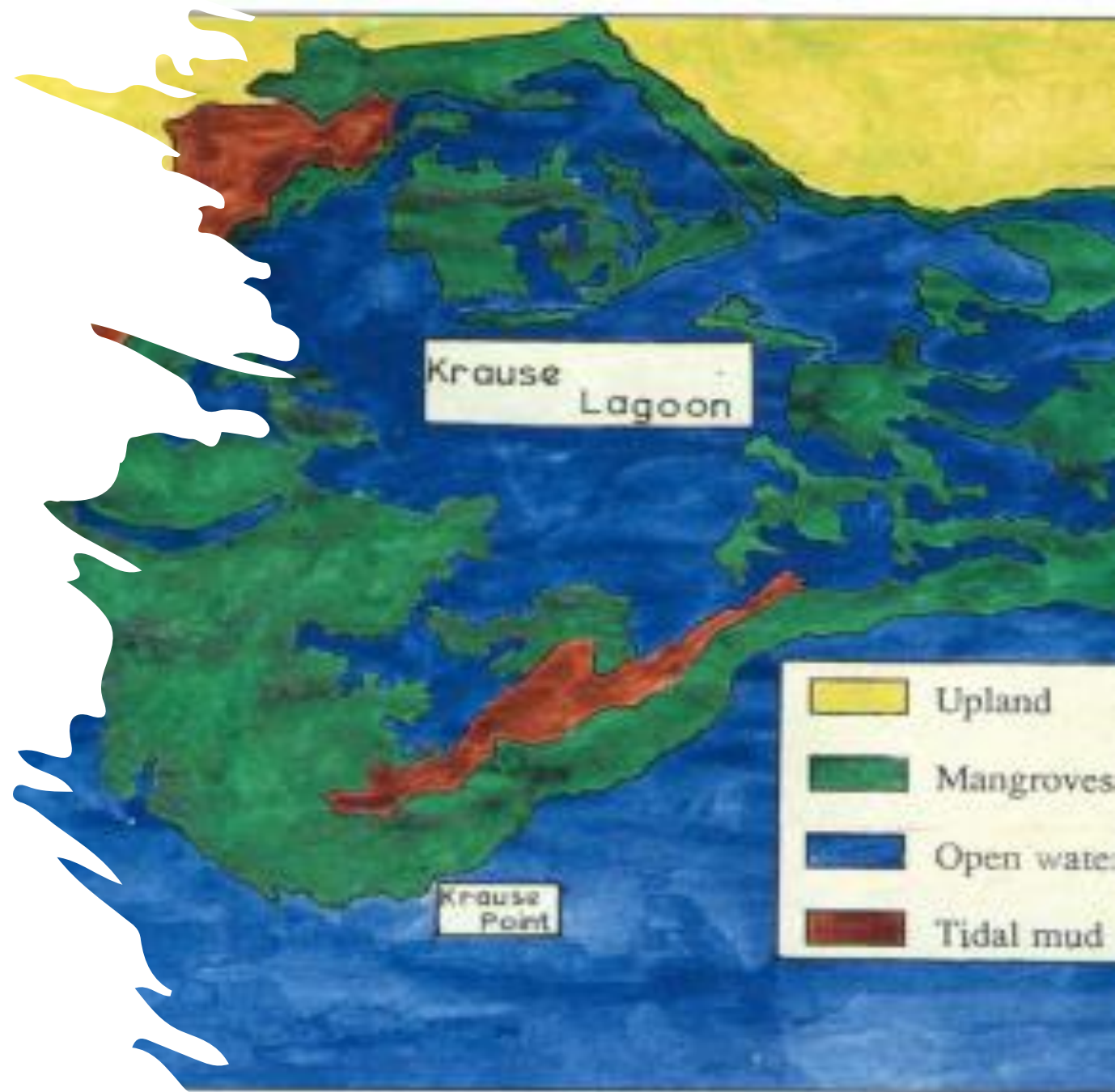
Let me tell you: **our only Everglade.**

A sea, sand, and mangrove wilderness of such
ecologic value and nostalgic beauty that it
could take your breath away

when everywhere, it seemed great gray and
white and brown kallaloo crabs were
appearing from their holes to feed

and an early bat caught in midair by a lone and
deadly pigeon hawk - in one of nature’s most
dramatic exhibitions

you just knew and felt that this place was
something very special...





Sustainability

-- Academy 4 Social Civics

- the preservation of natural resources to maintain an ecological balance

Sustainable development

- meeting the needs of the people without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

What is colonialism?

-- Merriam-Webster

- control by one power over a dependent area or people
- when one nation takes control of another for benefits such as resources
- often, colonizers force their language & culture on the local people



What is the Virgin Islands in relation to the United States?

Unincorporated territory

- What does that mean?

U.S. Department of Interior

- an U.S. insular area where the US Congress has determined that only *selected parts of the US Constitution* apply

Insular Area: a jurisdiction that is neither a part of one of the several States nor a Federal district

- term for any commonwealth, freely associated state, possession or territory of the U.S.



VI's Unincorporated Territorial Status

- 1917: U.S. purchase islands from Denmark
- \$25 million
- World War I - strategic military importance



Economic Development of Heavy Industries in the VI

- corporate tax and tariff incentives from U.S. federal government & Territorial government (1930 & 1960s)
- heavy industries, such as Harvey Aluminum and Hess Oil (HOVENSA), started to develop in St. Croix in the 1960s
- job growth and support services increased
- larger disposable incomes
- affordable gas - support tourism industry

Environmental Impacts of the Oil Refinery

1960s construction in Krause Lagoon

- destroyed mangroves
- dredging for port destroyed marine life
 - disappearance of fish communities & destruction of coral reefs

Contaminated aquifer identified in 1982

Air emissions: planned & accidental

- monitoring started in 1987

Refinery closed in 2012

For more, see articles by David Bond and Matthew Johnson



Environmental Justice Video



Group Discussion

Environmental racism

- intentional location of polluting & waste facilities in communities primarily populated by African Americans, Latines, Indigenous People, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, migrant farmworkers, and low-income workers

– Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.

- What is environmental justice?
- What are examples of today's concepts in the VI?
- How does unincorporated territorial status connect with environmental racism?
- What do these ideas inspire you to do?



Thank you!

Please keep in touch:

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Archive Website:

research.cgu.edu/stxcommunityhealth