



Towards an Ethics of Abundance: Ontological Multiplicity and the So- Called Hungry of Lake Victoria

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The fascinating complexities of Lake Victoria's contemporary fisheries situation and assumed fisheries crisis have motivated a recent florescence of social science scholarship. These studies have identified a central paradox: despite living next to and making their living from Africa's largest freshwater fishery, residents of Lake Victoria's fishing communities are surprisingly food insecure and eat surprisingly few fish. In this talk I introduce three ontological problems that implicitly frame studies of and attempts to address Lake Victoria's contemporary fisheries crisis. These problems are: what constitutes a body of water, a complete meal, and fish themselves. Attention to these ontological problems configures a paradox otherwise: it is still possible to eat and live well with fish in a place where experts have already determined almost no one can.