



## Dr. Yoshitaka Ota

Research Assistant Professor, School of Marine and Environmental Affairs,  
University of Washington.

### Education

I am currently pursuing the Executive Master's degree for Public Administration at Evans School of Public Policy and Governance.

Ph.D. Anthropology, 2006, University College London

M.Sc. Social Anthropology, 1998, University College London

B.Sc. Anthropology, 1995, University College London

### Fields of Specialisation

- 1) Human Security, Social Equity, Global ocean governance
- 2) Coastal ethnography, Indigenous fisheries, Coastal Food system
- 3) Sustainable Development Goals, Blue Economy
- 4) Digital media story telling, Applied Art and Design

### Academic/Research Appointments

2017 July – Research Assistant Professor, School of Marine and Environmental Affairs, University of Washington

2011 – 2017: Senior Research Associate  
Institute of Oceans and Fisheries, University of British Columbia

I engage with both direction and strategic planning in an international marine science program, the Nereus program. I lead research focusing on marine policy, climate change risk assessment, community-based fisheries management and market-based solutions.

2012 – 2016: Associate Research Fellow, *Courtesy Appointment*  
Liu Institute for Global issues, University of British Columbia

I engage with interdisciplinary research on traditional ecological knowledge for regional ocean policy and cooperative social responsibility associated with maritime activities.

2009 – 2011: Policy Research Fellow, The department of Ocean Policy  
Ocean Policy Research Foundation (Japan)

I engaged with policy analysis on both domestic (Japanese marine policies) and international development of ocean management and governance, including integrated coastal management, marine spatial planning (for community fisheries management and renewable ocean energy) and International law of the sea.

2005 – 2009: Research Associate, Sessional teacher, Research Assistant  
Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, University of Kent (UK)

I engaged with various interdisciplinary fisheries management and marine conservation projects, including multi-disciplinary marine conservation of Dover strait, Community coral conservation in

Aceh, Indonesia, indigenous fisheries assessment in the Peruvian Amazon, and a comparative study of the effects of ITQs (Individual Transferable Quotas) in Small-scale fisheries in UK and Australia. I also taught several courses on Social anthropology, Visual anthropology, Political anthropology and Design and management of protected areas.

2003-2005: Research Assistant, Department of Anthropology  
University of Kent (UK)

I engaged an anthropological research on Artisanal Fishing - Prospects for Community Survival and conducted field research of fishery communities on the north coast of Kent, UK, solely from the initial contact with local stakeholders.

2001-2003: Undergraduate tutor, Department of Anthropology (UK)  
University College London

I taught 3 anthropology courses for undergraduate students, including Material Culture and Critical social theory, Social Anthropology and Anthropology Methods.

2000-2001: Lecturer, Palau Community College (Palau)

While conducting my Ph.D. fieldwork in Palau, I regularly taught social science at the regional community college.

1998-1999: TV Documentary Producer, MediaLink/NHK Enterprise (UK)

I produced a short documentary on London antique community and family history in Germany under WW II for Japanese Public TV.

## Publications

### *In Preparation*

Belhabib, D. **Ota, Y.** et al. (Final Draft). Using satellite data to detect industrial fishing activities within African coastal waters.

**Ota, Y.** et al. (Final Draft). Human Security, State Fragility and Ocean Health.

### *Peer-reviewed articles*

Packer, H. **Ota, Y.** et al. 2017 (Under review). Corporate Social Responsibility in the Seafood Industry: from the business case to private governance. *Fish and Fisheries*.

Teh, L. **Ota, Y.** et al. 2017 (Under review). Human Rights Issues in socially responsible seafood. *PLOS ONE*.

Millar, D. **Ota, Y.** et al. 2017. Adaptation strategies to climate change in marine systems. *Global Change Biology*.

Wabnitz, C. **Ota, Y.** et al 2017. Ecotourism, climate change and reef fish consumption in Palau: Benefits, trade-offs and adaptation strategy. *Marine Policy*.

Signh, G. **Ota, Y.** et al. 2017. A rapid assessment of co-benefits and trade-offs among Sustainable Development Goals. *Marine Policy*.

Von der Porten, S. **Ota, Y.** et al. 2017. (Under review) Global Indigenous Resurgence and Marine Conservation. *Nature Sustainability*.

Benette, N. **Ota, Y.** et al 2017. An appeal for a Code of Conduct for Marine Conservation. *Marine Policy*

Kittinger, J. **Ota, Y.** et al 2017. Committing to Socially Responsible Seafood. Science.

Cisneros, A. and **Ota, Y.** 2016 (Under review). Forgotten fishers: a review of seafood consumption data on coastal Indigenous peoples. Fisheries Research.

Cisneros, A. Weatherdon, L. Pauly, D. **Ota, Y.** 2016. *A global estimate of subsistence fisheries catch by coastal indigenous peoples.* PLOS

Swartz. W. Schiller, L. Sumaila, R. **Ota, Y.** 2017. *Searching for market-based sustainability pathways: challenges and opportunities for Japan's seafood eco-labels.* Marine Policy.

Cheung. W. Jones, M. Lam, V. Miller. D. **Ota, Y.** The, L. Sumaila. R. 2016. *Transform high seas management to build climate-resilience in marine seafood supply.* Fish and Fisheries.

Weatherdon, L. **Ota, Y.** Jones, M. Close, D. Cheung, W. 2016. *Projected scenarios for coastal First Nations' fisheries catch potential under climate change: management challenges and opportunities.* PLOS ONE.

Merrie, A. Dunn, D. Metian, M. Boustany, A. Takei, Y. Oude Elferink, A. **Ota, Y.** Christensen, Y. Halpin, P. Österblom, H. 2014. *An ocean of surprises – Trends in human use, unexpected dynamics and governance challenges in areas beyond national jurisdiction.* Global environmental Change 27:19-31.

Osterblom, H & **Ota, Y.** et al. 2013. “*Modeling social-ecological scenarios in marine systems.*” BioScience (2013) 63 (9): 735-744.

Hanich, Q & **Ota, Y.** 2013. “*Moving Beyond Rights-Based Management: A Transparent Approach to Distributing the Conservation Burden and Benefit in Tuna Fisheries.*” International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law 28.

Smith, R.J. Eastwood, P., **Ota, Y.**, Rogers, S. 2009. “*Developing best practice for using MARXAN to locate marine protected areas in European waters.*” ICES Journal of Marine Science 66.1: 188-194.

Martin, C., Carpentier, A., Vaz, S., Coppin, F., Curet, L., Dauvin, J., Delavenne, J., Dewarumez, J., Dupuis, L., Engelhard, G., Ernande, B., Foveau, A., Garcia, C., Gardel, L., Harrop, S., Just, R., Koubbi, P., Lauria, V., Meaden, G., Morin, J., **Ota, Y.**, Rostiaux, E., Smith, R., Spilmont, N., Verin, Y., Villanueva, C., Warembourg, C. 2009. “*The Channel habitat atlas for marine resource management (CHARM): an aid for planning and decision-making in an area under strong anthropogenic pressure.*” Aquatic Living Resources 22.4: 499-508.

Villanueva, C., Vaz, S., Ernande, B., Gardel, L., Coppin, F., Carpentier, F., Martin, C., Eastwood, P., **Ota, Y.**, Harrop, S. 2013. *The CHARM Project: Defying the Channel's loss by improving communication on ecosystem knowledge across borders.* La Mer 49(3): 201-210

**Ota, Y.** and Just, R. 2007. “*Fleet sizes, fishing effort and the 'hidden' factors behind statistics: an anthropological study of small-scale fisheries in UK.*” Marine Policy 32.3: 301-308.

**Ota, Y.** 2005. “*Fluid body in underwater – the sensory modality of fishing.*” Worldviews: Environment, Culture, Religion 10: 205-219.

#### Non-Referred Publications (Journals, Reports, Book chapters)

Cisneros, A. and **Ota, Y.** (2017). Indigenous people, the world we want to live in. Samudra Report.

**Ota, Y.** & Cheung, W. et al (2017). “*Nereus Program Report on SDG14: Co-benefit, Climate Change and Social Equity*”.

**Ota, Y.** & Cisneros, A. (2017). *For indigenous peoples, fish means more than food.* Conversation.

**Ota, Y.** & Cheung, W. et al. (2015). “*Nereus Program Report: Predicting Future Ocean*”.

Takana, T. and **Ota, Y.** (2014) “*Reviving the Seto Inland Sea, Japan: Applying the Principles of Satoumi for Marine Ranching Project in Okayama.*” In *Marine Productivity: Perturbations and Resilience of Socio-ecosystems*. Ceccaldi, H. Hénocque, Y. Koike, Y. et al (ed). Springer.

Coady, L. Strandberg, C. and **Ota, Y.** (2013). *The role of corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the international Shipping Sector*. A Phase 2 Research Paper. Liu Institute for Global Issues, University of British Columbia. Prepared for the Northern European Symposium on CSR in Shipping, Denmark.

**Ota, Y.** et al. (2012). “*Mainstreaming satoumi in Japanese National Policy; Introduction to the case studies. Biological and Cultural Diversity in Coastal Communities; Exploring the potential of Satoumi for implementing the Ecosystem Approach in the Japanese Archipelago.* CBD Technical Series No. 61. p9-14

**Ota, Y.** & Torii, M. (2012). “*Mobilising local wisdom and scientific knowledge; recreating eelgrass beds in Okayama, Japan. Biological and Cultural Diversity in Coastal Communities; Exploring the potential of Satoumi for implementing the Ecosystem Approach in the Japanese Archipelago.* CBD Technical Series No. 61. P70-75

Lingard, S., Harper, S. **Ota, Y.** and Zeller, D. (2011) *Marine Fisheries of Palau, 1950-2008: Total reconstructed catch*. pp.73-84. In: Harper, S. and Zeller, D. (eds.) *Fisheries catch reconstructions: Islands, Part II*. Fisheries Centre Research Reports 19(4). Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia [ISSN 1198-6727].

**Ota, Y.** (2007). “*Knowledge as a cultural expression: new technology and changes in fishers’ understanding of the marine environments in Palau (Micronesia) and Aceh (Indonesia).* *Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) Programme, UNESCO.*

**Ota, Y.** (2006). “*Socialisation of fishing knowledge: The emergence and transmission of new fishing technology and marine ecological knowledge in the Republic of Palau, Western Micronesia.*” *SPC Traditional Marine Resource Management and Knowledge Information Bulletin 20: 24-32.*

**Ota, Y.** (2005). “*Fisheries on the North East Kent coast: An anthropological study.*” P.P. Edward (ed.). *Making Connection – The community conservation of North Kent Coast*. English Nature, UK.

**Ota, Y.** (2003). “*Becoming a Traditional Fisherman? – Reasons for selecting a fishing method: Ethnographic Approach to Underwater Spear-gun Fishing, Republic of Palau, Micronesia.*” *South Pacific Study 24.1*. Kagoshima University Research Centre for the Pacific Islands.

**Ota, Y.** (2001). “*Social Conditions of Palau (section number 5.1 – 5.5).*” *Study for the Promotion of Economic Development in Republic of Palau*, JICA/The Office of Planning and Statistics, Republic of Palau.

#### Selected Conference Proceedings

**Ota, Y.** (2015). “*Social Governance of Ocean under Climate Change*”. Our Common Future under Climate Change, Paris, France (Session co-organizer).

**Ota, Y.** (2013). “*Weaving Ocean Web Through Collaboration: the Nereus Program*”, AAAS Annual Meeting, Boston, USA. (Session co-organizer)

**Ota, Y.** (2011). “*Small coasts, Large issues - Can communities protect their Coasts?*” 9<sup>th</sup> Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Sea Meeting, Baltimore, USA.

**Ota, Y.** (2011). “*Introducing Satoumi -Japanese fishers’ effort to save the contested coastal seascape*” International Marine Conservation Congress, Victoria, Canada.

**Ota, Y.** and Just, R. (2005). "Tales of two towns – technological choices and community construction in UK fishery." Conference at the Centre for Maritime Research (MARE), 'People and the Sea III: New Directions in Coastal and Maritime Studies.' Amsterdam, Netherlands.

**Ota, Y.** (2004). "Fishing inside the sea – an ethnography of underwater spear gun fishing in Palau, Micronesia." Association of Social Anthropology (ASA) annual meeting. Durham, UK.

**Ota, Y.** (2002). "Fishing as a part of gift exchange-transaction, distribution, and the changing value of fish in Palau, Micronesia." Ninth International Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies. Edinburgh, UK.

**Ota, Y.** (2002). "The transformation of Palauan mortuary ceremony, Micronesia." Eighth International Conference for the Social Context of Death, Dying and Disposal. York, UK.

**Ota, Y.** (2002). "The transformation of Traditional Fishing Practice in Palau, Micronesia." European Society for Oceanists (ESFO) International Conference. Vienna, Austria.

## Media Expose

December 2016

Washington Post: Indigenous peoples of world coastlines are losing their fisheries.

November 2016

Nikkei Asia: Empty Seas mounting tensions in fish, Hungry Asia.

January 2016

A [Nereus Program study published this week](#) in PLOS ONE which found that First Nations communities in coastal BC, Canada, could see a decrease of up to 50% in fish catch by 2050 received considerable press in both local and international news. Coverage included:

Global News: [Global warming could decrease B.C. First Nations' fish catch by half](#). January 14.

KUOW News Seattle: [Climate Change Could Slash Natives' Fish Catches](#). January 14.

The Washington Post: [Scientists say climate change is threatening the lifeblood of Canada's native people](#). January 13.

June 2015

Press Conference in Tokyo on Nereus report, which were covered by over 20 new papers in Japan and elsewhere.

<http://www.nereusprogram.org/nereus-report-predicting-future-oceans-climate-change-oceans-fisheries/>

Feb 20<sup>th</sup> 2012

Live Science Chat at Association of Advanced American Science

<http://news.sciencemag.org/sciencenow/2012/02/live-chat-the-future-of-the-worl.html>

## Teaching Experience

*US*

University of Washington (started)

Supervising Msc Students for their individual thesis research.

*Canada*

University of British Columbia:

Supervising post-docs: Wilf Swartz, Andres Cisneros, Gabriel Reygondeau (Fisheries economics, Ocean governance and Fisheries culture).

Supervising Msc Student: Lauren Weatherdon (2012-14).

*U.K.*

Yoshitaka. OTA

## Curriculum Vitae

University of Kent:

Design and management of protected areas: Sessional lecturer (Year 3, B.Sc. Conservation Biology)

Introduction to Social Anthropology: Seminar leader (Year 1, B.Sc. Anthropology)

Visual Anthropology: Sessional lecturer (Year 3 and MA, Anthropology)

University of College London:

Individual Studies: Teaching assistant (Year 3, B.Sc. Anthropology)

Social Theory & Material Culture: Teaching assistant (Year 3, B.Sc. Anthropology)

*Pacific (Micronesia)*

Palau Community College:

Introduction to Social & Cultural Anthropology: Lecturer (Year 1, BA. Social Science)

## Academic Awards

2004 British Academy/ Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Fund (With Prof. Roger Just)

1998 University College London Research Travel Fund

1999 University of London Research Fund

## Research Funding

Amount	Agency	Title	Co-Applicants	Period
3,437,450(USD)	Nippon Foundation	Nereus Program (Phase 3)	With William Cheung, Andres Cisneros (UBC)	2017 - 2019
The funding was awarded to the Nereus program research which Ota and Cheung direct. The budget was shared with 17 institutes for 2 years research activities. Ota wrote the funding proposal and presented to the Nippon Foundation and coordinated all institutes for the integrated research goals and planned activities.				
1,995,000(USD)	Nippon Foundation	Nereus Program (Expansion)	With William Cheung, Wilf Swartz, Andres Cisneros (UBC)	2016 - 2020
The funding was awarded to the Nereus program research which Ota and Cheung direct. The budget was shared with 10 institutes for 3 years research activities. Ota wrote the funding proposal and presented to the Nippon Foundation and coordinated all institutes for the integrated research goals and planned activities.				
4,780,000(USD)	Nippon Foundation	Nereus Program (Phase 2)	With William Cheung (UBC)	2014 - 2017
The funding was awarded to the Nereus program research which Ota and Cheung direct. The budget was shared with 6 institutes for 3 years research activities. Ota wrote the funding proposal and presented to the Nippon Foundation and coordinated all institutes for the integrated research goals and planned activities.				
4,500,000(USD)	Nippon Foundation	Nereus Program (phase 1)	With Villy Christensen and Daniel Pauly (UBC)	2011-2014
The funding was awarded to the Nereus program research which Ota and Christensen directed. The budget was shared with 5 institutes for 3 years research activities. Ota advised both UBC and the Nippon Foundation to co-develop the program proposal and coordinated all participating institutes for the integrated research goals and planned activities.				
37,750(CAD)	UBC Peter Wall Institutes for Advanced Studies	International Research Roundtable	With William Cheung (UBC) and Masa Matsuura, (University of Tokyo)	2014

The funding was awarded to the international workshop, <i>Seafood in an Uncertain Future: From Scenarios to Policies</i> , which Ota, Cheung and Matsuura organised. Ota co-wrote the funding proposal and designed the meeting structure by appropriating Joint Fact Finding methods. Ota also moderated the meeting while coordinated more than 15 attendants who were invited from diverse geographical locations and expertise. <a href="http://seafoodscenarios.pwias.ubc.ca/">http://seafoodscenarios.pwias.ubc.ca/</a>				
50,000 (USD)	Nippon Foundation	Cooperate Responsibility on International Shipping	With Linda Coady (UBC)	2012
The funding was awarded to the research on maritime supply chain management, <i>The role of corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the international Shipping Sector</i> , which Ota, Coady and Strandberg conducted. Ota co-wrote the funding proposal and designed the research structure. Ota also moderated the stakeholders meeting with more than 15 attendants who were invited from diverse sectors related to BC maritime activities, including shipping companies and Vancouver port authority. <a href="http://www.ligi.ubc.ca/sites/liu/files/Publications/2013_Dec_CSR_UBC-Phase2_CSR-in-Shipping.pdf">http://www.ligi.ubc.ca/sites/liu/files/Publications/2013_Dec_CSR_UBC-Phase2_CSR-in-Shipping.pdf</a>				
30,000 (CAD)	Gordon and Betty Moor Foundation	Marine Spatial Planning in British Columbia: Social License pathway	With Linda Coady (UBC)	2012
The funding was awarded to the research on Marine Plan Partnership for the North Pacific Coast. Ota, Coady and Swartz conducted a research on the relevance of "Social License" to the project.				

### Non-academic Collaborators:

Prosperity of the Commons International: <http://prosperityofthecommons.org/>

Liberty Asia: <https://www.libertyasia.org/>