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## **Trade Liberalization and Environmental Justice in the Ivorian Cocoa Industry**

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Oral Presentation O6.3

**TRADE LIBERALIZATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN THE  
IVORIAN COCOA INDUSTRY**

Anne Fell and Scott Sheridan\*

French and International Studies Departments, Illinois Wesleyan University

The economic liberalization of the Ivorian cocoa industry has played a significant role in the deterioration of Ivorian economic and social stability, degrading the lives of the millions of Ivorian citizens dependent on cocoa for their livelihoods. Having increased environmental threats, worsened poverty and child labor, and aggravated ethnic tensions in the Ivory Coast, Neoliberal economic policies fail to adequately address the environmental and humanitarian costs of cocoa production. Foreign economic interests have thus continued to take precedent over environmental justice goals as the valuation of the Ivory Coast remains centered on the economic exploitation of its resources.