



Apr 16th, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Unfree Labor in Côte D'ivoire's Cocoa Production: A Comparative Analysis of the Local Cocoa and Cotton Commodity Chains

Kacie Graves
Illinois Wesleyan University

William Munro, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>



Part of the [Education Commons](#), and the [International and Area Studies Commons](#)

Graves, Kacie and Munro, Faculty Advisor, William, "Unfree Labor in Côte D'ivoire's Cocoa Production: A Comparative Analysis of the Local Cocoa and Cotton Commodity Chains" (2016). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 2.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2016/oralpres7/2>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Oral Presentation O7.2

**UNFREE LABOR IN CÔTE D’IVOIRE’S
COCOA PRODUCTION: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF
THE LOCAL COCOA AND COTTON
COMMODITY CHAINS**

Kacie Graves and William Munro*
International Studies Program, Illinois Wesleyan University

The Department of Labor’s, “List of Goods Produced by Child or Forced Labor,” reports forced and child labor in the production of cocoa, but not cotton, even though accounts of labor exploitation on cotton farms are widely documented across the globe. Scholars have determined the wider macroeconomic causations of labor exploitation in the Ivorian cocoa sector by attributing liberalization, market reformation, and increasing concentration to farmer marginalization. However, limited research examines how the local structure and governance of these supply chains contribute to un-free labor practices. Utilizing the framework of commodity chain research, this study employs a comparative analysis of the two supply chains strictly within Côte d’Ivoire to identify why forms of slavery exist in the cocoa production, but not cotton, though both are rooted in the same country. I conclude by explaining who wields power in these supply chains and how this power is formed, distributed, and combated.