

Cain, Toby, "Sowing Seeds and Throwing Spindles: Change, Resistance, and Local Perceptions of Traditional Agricultural and Artisanal Practices in Boruca, Costa Rica." Advisor: Daniel Rojas. Grinnell College. 2010. 44pp.

This text, the culmination of two months of ethnographic field research, aims to explore the agricultural and artisanal changes that have taken place in the indigenous community of Boruca, Costa Rica, during the last six decades using the 1949 ethnography of American anthropologist Doris Z. Stone as a reference. The people of Boruca have strong agricultural and artisanal histories dating back hundreds of years. However, the prevalence of these traditions has fluctuated significantly in the last half century. Residents have witnessed a significant decline in the number of agricultural workers while community members involved in the artisan economy have become the majority. This research aims to explore how the indigenous Boruca perceive these changes in agriculture and art, and to reveal their perceptions of the future of these traditions in the community. The town of Boruca offers not only a glimpse back in time, but also a lens to the present, shedding light on the influence of tourism and globalization in this small indigenous town.