

Ryan MacNeil, PhD, EcD (he/him)



Bio:

Ryan MacNeil holds the Rath Professorship in Entrepreneurship and is an Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship & Innovation in the F.C. Manning School of Business at Acadia University. He holds a PhD in Management from Saint Mary's University, a Masters of Applied Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo, and a Professional Designation with the Economic Developers' Association of Canada. His book, "Observing Dark Innovation: After neoliberal instrumentalities" is forthcoming from Bristol University Press.

Title:

Instrumental innovation: Advancing SDG 14A in Nova Scotia

Abstract:

In 2012, the Government of Canada initiated deep cuts to its ocean and environmental science programs and began a massive new wave of investment in "ocean technology" development (in partnership with the Province of Nova Scotia). In my forthcoming book, I examine the neoliberal market bias at the heart of this policy failure, and the ways a market bias restricts our understanding of innovation. In this short talk, I will focus on two examples from Nova Scotia that challenge our assumptions about 'what counts' as 'good' innovation: a set of fit-to-purpose scientific tools constructed by ocean researchers here at Acadia and a set of world-changing diplomatic practices deployed in the halls of the United Nations by activist and legal scholar Elizabeth Mann Borgese.