

Contents



Acknowledgments	vii
1. Introduction	1
2. Theoretical Framework	8
3. Traveling to San Blas	20
4. Political Economy of San Blas	34
5. <i>Mola</i> Commercialization	56
6. <i>Mola</i> Production, Exchange, and Use	76
7. Kuna Women Organize	99
8. Tourism and <i>Molas</i> on Carti-Sugtupu	115
9. The <i>Mola</i> Cooperative on Tupile	136
10. <i>Molas</i> and Middlemen in Mansucun: A Discussion of Female-supported Households	156
11. Insights from San Blas: Crafts, Gender, and the Global Economy	178
Appendix: Methodology	191
Notes	201
Glossary of Kuna and Spanish Terms	209
References	213
Index	225
MAPS	
1. The Caribbean basin	4
2. Panama and the San Blas region	5

3. Carti-Sugtupu	120
4. Tupile	138
5. Mansucun	160

FIGURES

1. <i>Mola</i> marketing: From producer to consumer	88
2. <i>Mola</i> marketing options in Carti-Sugtupu	121
3. Puna's household	130
4. Armintá and Kilu's household	133
5. Tupile cooperative chapter <i>mola</i> sales, 1979–1984	141
6. Muu and Tada's household	151
7. Sia's household	153
8. <i>Mola</i> marketing options in Mansucun	162
9. Bunguaru's household	168
10. Albertina's household	169

TABLES

1. <i>Mola</i> production and sales, San Blas, 1960, 1970, and 1980	68
2. Household types, by single mothers, on Carti-Sugtupu	118
3. Household types, by single mothers, on Tupile	139
4. Household types, by single mothers, on Mansucun	158
5. Average household production and sale of <i>molas</i> in 1980, by community	164
6. Reasons for single motherhood, by community	171
7. Household types, with and without single mothers, by community	173