Faculty Lunchtime Talks

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016
1–2:30 pm, 1008 Humanities

David Taylor, Sustainability Studies Program

Teatro Tuyo’s GRIS: Children’s Theatre as Environmental Engagement

While Teatro Tuyo’s play GRIS borrows from traditional forms of Cuban children’s theater—clowns, mime, and physical humor—to engage the audience in a story about environmental awareness, the performance is clearly for adults as well. Taylor will discuss how GRIS serves as artistic engagement across multiple ages and audiences.

David Taylor is an Assistant Professor in the Sustainability Studies Program, SoMAS, at Stony Brook University. He is the author and editor of six books. Over the last four years, Taylor has traveled to Cuba multiple times to work with Artes Escenicas Cubanas (Cuba’s performing arts organization) to document forms of environmental engagement through the arts.

Donovan Finn, Sustainability Studies Program

We Built This City: The Contradictory Implications of DIY Public Space Activism

DIY urbanism is an umbrella term to describe citizens reshaping public spaces without official sanction. Informal settlements, alternative street signs and unauthorized art installations challenge the relationship between citizen and the state. Finn will discuss how these interventions complicate notions of social equity, public participation and democratic decision-making.

Donovan Finn is an Assistant Professor in Sustainability Studies, SoMAS. His research, including a current project funded by the National Science Foundation, examines how citizen activism informs local policy creation for sustainability, resilience and disaster recovery. He holds a PhD in Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Karina Yager, Sustainability Studies Program

Climate & Societal Change Transforming Traditional Pastoralism in the Andes

Traditional Andean pastoralism began several thousand years ago and peaked in the 15th century during the Inca Empire. Today, few indigenous communities practice traditional pastoralism, but many face rapid societal change coupled with climate change. Yager discusses current challenges and future trajectories of Andean pastoralism given unprecedented, rapid socio-ecological perturbations.

Karina Yager is Assistant Professor in Sustainability Studies, SOMAS. Her interdisciplinary research examines the impacts of climate change on mountain ecosystems and society. Her current NASA research is focused on deciphering climate and societal drivers of land-cover land-use change in the Andes. Yager has a PhD in Anthropology from Yale University.