Fall 2014 Colloquia Series

Date: Monday, October 27
Time: 3:30PM – 5:00PM
Location: Social Sciences 1, room 261

Dr. Jessica Cattelino

Unsettling Nature: An Everglades Ethnography

In settler societies, nature and indigeneity are co-produced in patterned ways that generate broad and problematic consequences for both sociocultural and ecological flourishing. With ethnographic focus on water in the Florida Everglades and analytical attention to settler colonialism and the cultural politics of nature, this paper explores three modes: 1) land reclamation, which calls attention to nature’s national scope; 2) ecological restoration, which illustrates nature’s temporality and compels attention to interest formation; and 3) invasive species management, which calls into question the categories through which nature is enacted.

Jessica Cattelino is an associate professor of anthropology at the University of California, Los Angeles. Cattelino’s current ethnographic and interdisciplinary research focuses on the cultural value of nature in the Florida Everglades. Her previous research about the cultural, political, and economic stakes of tribal casinos resulted in the ethnography High Stakes: Florida Seminole Gaming and Sovereignty (Duke University Press, 2008). Cattelino’s work centers on indigenous sovereignty, environment, economy, the conditions of settler colonialism, and American public culture.