

GPHY 500 - GEOGRAPHY COLLOQUIUM
Department of Geography
University of Montana
Fall 2019

Meets:

Wednesdays 4:00-5:20, Stone Hall 217

Coordinator:

Dave Shively

Office: Stone Hall 212

Office Hours: T & R 10:30-11:30 AM, W 3:00-4:00 PM, and by Appt.

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Course Description:

The Geography Colloquium is a speaker series and forum for sharing research and practice pertaining to issues with geographic dimensions. Graduate students in residence and undergraduate seniors (as a part of their Capstone) are required to attend. It brings together faculty, graduate students, undergraduate seniors, and other interested parties. The speaker series sets out to span the broad range of topics in geography or with connections to geography. Speakers are scholars from within the department, from other UM departments, from other institutions, and practitioners from the public and private sector.

It is also a forum for sharing information of importance to graduate students and undergraduate seniors (e.g., Geography Club activities, research opportunities, course scheduling, etc.). Early sessions also serve to orient incoming students to the program, to other students and faculty, and to provide guidance on professional development.

Learning Goals and Outcomes:

1. Incoming graduate students will be welcomed, introduced to continuing students, to faculty, and oriented to the graduate programs in Geography.
2. Students will receive guidance toward professional development, including Curriculum Vitae and Resume preparation.
3. Undergraduate seniors will receive guidance on completing GPHY 400 – Geography Senior Capstone.
4. Participants will gain an appreciation of the broad range of topics with geographic dimensions, from the natural and social sciences to the humanities and arts, and from theoretical to methodological to professional practice.
5. The audience will benefit from exposure to academics and practitioners in Geography, GIS, Planning, and allied fields.

Required Textbooks:

- There are no required textbooks.
- Readings may be assigned.
- Geography Graduate Student Handbook Draft (sent by e-mail).

- For Curriculum Vitae versus Resumes, please consult the UNC Writing Center's guidelines at: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/curricula-vitae-cvs-versus-resumes/>

Course Guidelines and Policies:

Assignments/Expectations

- Students and faculty take turns in providing refreshments to be shared before and/or after the guest presentations. A signup-sheet will be circulated.
- Early in the semester, students will receive a draft copy of our Graduate Student Handbook. They are expected to provide feedback.
- A Curriculum Vitae (CV) and Resume are due by Tuesday, November 26, the Tuesday before the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Attendance

- Regular attendance is expected and will be recorded. Active participation in the discussion, typically at the end of a talk, will enhance the experience for speaker and audience. If you have a conflict please inform Shively.

Grading Policy

Grading mode is C (CR Credit; NCR No Credit.)

Student Conduct Code

All students at the University of Montana must practice academic honesty at all times. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the *Student Conduct Code*. The Code is available for review online at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php

Disability Modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and *Disability Services for Students* (<https://www.umt.edu/dss/default.php>). If you think you may have a disability that might adversely affect your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. Your instructor will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Colloquium Schedule:

8/28	Introduction to Colloquium and Participants; continue Orientation to Geography Programs (Graduate, UG Capstone), university resources, professional organizations; etc.	Geography Faculty
9/4	CVs & Resumes	Geography Faculty
9/11	Visualizing politics: A feminist political ecology and participatory GIS approach to understanding smallholder farming and seed bank failures in Northern Ghana	Hanson NyantakyiFrimpong

8/28	Introduction to Colloquium and Participants; continue Orientation to Geography Programs (Graduate, UG Capstone), university resources, professional organizations; etc.	Geography Faculty
9/18	Theses, Portfolios, Publishing, etc.	Geography Faculty
9/25	My Journey as a Professional Geographer	Jon Harbor
10/2	TBA	Ntebo Sekhele
10/9	Borrowing for Now or the Future: Financing Social Reproduction in Post-Soviet Armenia	Kaitlin Fertaly
10/16	TBA	Libby Metcalf
10/23	Charcoal as a legacy of wildfire in the Rocky Mountain West	Tom DeLuca
10/30	Climate impacts on travel and recreation	Jeremy Sage
11/6	Studying Rural Populations: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches	Christiane von Reichert
11/13	TBA	Joe Offer
11/20	TBA	Sarah Halvorson
11/27	Student Travel Day – No Colloquium	NA
12/4	TBA	Ryan Rock

Presentation Abstracts

(Alphabetical Order, by surname)

Tom DeLuca, Dean, W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana. *Charcoal as a Legacy of Wildfire in the Rocky Mountain West.*

Fire is an important agent of change in forest ecosystems, yet the role of charcoal or pyrogenic carbon (PyC) as one of the few direct legacies of fire, remains poorly understood. It is generally assumed that the occurrence or reintroduction of fire will simply lead to carbon (C) evolution, a reduction in total ecosystem C, and a 12 – 24 month net increase in inorganic nitrogen (N) accumulation. However, PyC which is formed in all natural and prescribed fire events, represents the immediate generation of a form of ‘passive C’ with an estimated mean residence time of 3,000 – 12,000 years in the mineral soil environment. This means that fires actually play a role in long-term C storage. In spite of its long resonance, PyC is a highly active modifier of soil processes and specifically N cycling. During the first 20 – 50 years after fire, PyC deposited during fire stimulates N transformations in forest ecosystems that normally demonstrate little or no inorganic N accumulation. In agricultural settings, the addition of charcoal or biochar to soil has limited effect on soil N transformations, but exhibits subtle effects on nutrient retention, N₂ fixation, and C cycling. Much of PyC’s activity can be ascribed to its capacity to adsorb organic compounds. However, with time PyC becomes occluded with organic compounds to a reduction in its ability to influence soil biotic processes.

Kaitlin Fertaly, Research Associate, Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities, University of Montana. *Borrowing for Now or the Future: Financing Social Reproduction in Post-Soviet Armenia.*

Post-Socialist Armenia offers an interesting context through which to study changes in social reproduction because of the dramatic shifts in the scale at which it occurs due to the collapse of state socialism and withdraw of state welfare support. These economic shifts and corresponding changes in gender roles have required citizens to endure within altered material worlds where previous social reproduction practices are no longer successful or meaningful (Katz 2004; Povinelli 2011). Families face the need to find new strategies of provision, skills for wage and domestic labor, and means to sustain themselves in a rapidly changing context. Increasingly, rural and cash-poor Armenian citizens find themselves living through debt, using their home, family gold (often women's jewelry), and agricultural resources as collateral for financing their basic needs. Decisions for how to use these loans must navigate between household needs to support their current means of production, invest in greater opportunities for their children to improve their lives through education, or purchase technologies such as televisions, washing machines, and indoor toilets that would make their daily lives easier. The increasing use of loans and the choices individuals make raise questions about where and when social reproduction can happen. In this presentation, I consider what practices constitute the current form of social reproduction and how the trend toward borrowing at high interest rates produces new forms of economic precarity for future generations.

Jon Harbor, Provost and Executive Vice President, and with joint appointment as Professor of Geography and Geosciences, University of Montana. *My Journey as a Professional Geographer.*

Professor Harbor will share his experiences as a professional geographer.

Hanson Nyantakyi-Frimpong, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, University of Denver. *Visualizing politics: A feminist political ecology and participatory GIS approach to understanding smallholder farming and seed bank failures in Northern Ghana.*

Over the past three decades, seeds banks have emerged as a major strategy for building seed systems resilience to climate change. Often initiated and funded by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), seeds banks have grown prolifically, but questions remain concerning their long-term sustainability. Despite their precipitous rise, and effectiveness during initial years, many seed banks cut back on activities or stop altogether once external NGO funding is withdrawn. This rise and fall of seed banks raise three questions worthy of examination: (1) What factors shape the sustainability of community seed banks? (2) Do community seed banks function as they are designed to be? (3) How well do seed banks target farmers based upon true underlying need? Drawing upon insights from feminist political ecology (FPE) and Participatory Geographic Information Systems (PGIS), this paper examines these questions with data collected from drought-prone northern Ghana. The empirical research includes participant observations; 144 in-depth interviews; participatory geospatial data analysis; gender-disaggregated data validation workshops; and analyses of seed bank inventory, lending, and payment records. Contrary to previous work emphasizing the role of climate variability and crop failure, this paper highlights the centrality of rural politics in the sustainability of seed banks. Specifically, the findings show that the lack of respect for indigenous knowledge, pseudo seed borrowing, and local elite capture, all work together to undermine the sustainability of seed banks. When seed banks do not meet farmers' needs, the paper also demonstrates how farmers covertly resist such projects. Finally, the paper shows how through a repertoire of gender politics, village men undermine seed banks' vision of ensuring equitable and democratic access to seeds. Overall, the paper contributes to existing research by demonstrating how FPE and PGIS could be used in parallel to permit a more rigorous testing of claims of village and gender politics on the ground.

Jeremy Sage, Assistant Research Professor, Department of Geography; Economist & Associate Director, UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research. *Climate Impacts on Travel & Recreation*.

The presentation will cover several projects that Dr. Sage and ITRR more broadly have contributed to in the last couple years that relate to climate. These include recreation activities that have been, or could be, impacted by climate change given expected changes in Montana. These include snowsports, fishing, and fire impacts on recreation activities .

Christiane von Reichert, Professor, Department of Geography, University of Montana. *Studying Rural Populations: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*.

Migration within the United States is a major force changing the distribution of the population, contributing to the growth of the South and the West while shifting populations away from rural towards urban areas. Migration is selective which not only alters the size but also the composition of populations in sending and receiving places. The qualitative portion of my research presentation focuses on rural return migration to geographically disadvantaged rural communities drawing on interviews of people in isolated rural places across the United States. My current quantitative research was sparked by relatively high observed rates of disability in rural areas. As research collaborators of the Rural Institute, I am exploring the degree to which selective migration of people with or without disability contributes to higher rates of rural disability.