

geography

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AT CLARK UNIVERSITY



Where's your world? Fall 2013

The Graduate School of Geography hosts

NATURE-SOCIETY 2013

On September 27-28, 2013, the GSG hosted the Nature-Society Workshop, the fourth in a series of collaborative interdisciplinary symposia involving Geography faculty and students from Syracuse, Rutgers, Penn State, and Clark Universities. This event was a semi-formal gathering oriented towards discussion, debate, engagement, and the fostering of working relationships. Rather than focusing on a single overarching theme for the workshop, the events covered a range of topics from current interests in the field.

Guests started to arrive mid-afternoon on Friday, and the workshop kicked-off with a discussion session on Resource Governance. Late Friday afternoon, guest keynote speaker

Dr. Farhana Sultana (*Associate Professor of Geography, Syracuse University*)

presented her talk, "Gendering water, earth and sky: Feminist political ecologies of climate change." Dr. Sultana is an internationally recognized scholar whose work spans political ecology, international development, water governance, climate change, and gender. Her lecture was well-attended and sparked engaged conversations among workshop participants. A reception following the keynote speech provided a welcoming environment for continued collaboration and chat, and a dinner banquet rounded out the evening.



Dr. Farhana Sultana beginning her keynote speech

Saturday morning began with coffee and more conversation, followed by a field trip led by Professors **Deborah Martin** and **John Rogan**. The trip consisted of a 3-hour tour of Worcester and surrounding towns that have been affected by the Asian Longhorned Beetle

(ALB). Professors Deborah Martin and John Rogan are lead investigators on a 3-year NSF-REU grant that supports the Human Environment Regional Observatory (HERO) program here at Clark, which is focused on the Asian Longhorned Beetle and the impact that the invasive species has had on the community (socially, ecologically, and politically). The tour guided participants through the “Beetle Impact Zone,” where more than 30,000 trees have been removed over the last few years as a result of the ALB.



Professor Deb Martin with field trip attendees at Green Hill Park, Worcester

After the field trip, guests returned for two more discussion sessions: one on “Transitions Thinking in Nature-Society Geography: Possibilities and Pitfalls,” and another on “Ideologies and Narratives of Nature in Crisis.” The workshop concluded at the end of the second session.



Workshop participants follow along during a discussion session

The Nature-Society workshop is an opportunity for colleagues and friends to gather together from different institutions to collaborate on ideas and research. The GSG was delighted to be able to host our guests from Syracuse, Rutgers, and Penn State, as well as some guests from Boston University, and we are thankful to all who participated.

PHOTO ALBUM: nature-society 2013



Doctoral students Azadeh Hadizadeh Esfahani and Alireza Farmahini Farahani



Doctoral students Mireya Bravo and Elisa Arond



Workshop participants listen on to discussion leaders: (from center, L to R): Jody Emel, *Clark University*; Jamie Shinn, *Penn State*; Anne Short, *Boston University*; Tom Perreault, *Rutgers University*; and Tony Bebbington, *Clark University*



Doctoral students Juan Luis Dammert and Fernando Hernandez Espino



Workshop attendees socialize with one another as Dr. Farhana Sultana prepares to give the keynote speech

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