Amazon Week is an annual fall conference at the University of Texas at Austin which explores contemporary environmental, social, and cultural issues in the Amazon region from a cross-disciplinary perspective. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Brazil Center at 512/471-8418 or brazil@uts.cc.utexas.edu.

Monday, November 15
Panel. Environmental and Social Research in the Amazon: Contextualizing Amazônia
Sinclair Suite, UNB 3.128, 4:00–6:00 p.m.

Geographers study the interactions between humans and nature. The research of place-to-place environmental differences in the Amazon is fascinating, in addition to having implications for understanding additional change in biological diversity and with seasonal shifts.

These biophysical patterns in turn have profound implications for understanding how indigenous and colonizing people in the Amazon use their environment, for example, in terms of what land use practices are possible. Environmental and social research together allow for the better planning of future scenarios for the Amazônia of tomorrow.

**Moderator**
Kenneth R. Young, Geography and the Environment
*Introducing the Amazon: Regional and Local Contexts for Adapting to Change*

**Presenters**
Lars Pomara
*Variation in Wildlife Communities across Landscapes and Regions in the Peruvian Amazon, and Consequences for Development and Conservation*

Amy Norman
*Multi-seasonal Characterization of Land Use/Land Cover in Iquitos, Peru* (Abstract)

Mario Cardozo
*Recent Deforestation in the Northeastern Peruvian Amazon: Drivers and Patterns* (Abstract)

Santiago López
*Assessing Land Use and Land Cover Change in Indigenous Communities: The Ecuadorian Achuar Case*

David S. Salisbury
*Amazonian Borderlands: Land Use, Livelihood Strategies, and Resource Use on the Political Frontiers of Brazil and Peru*

**Discussants**
Kelley A. Crews-Meyer, Geography and the Environment
European press coverage of the Brazilian Amazon has undergone a deep transformation over the last two decades as environmental concerns have entered mainstream political consciousness. As traditional political parties have integrated environmental issues into their platforms and green parties have won municipal elections throughout Europe, the tropical rainforest has gained tremendous political meaning.

Biodiversity is a product of complex natural and anthropogenic interactions. The data in this paper describes this process in the Amazon floodplain of sector Muyuy, Peru. A smallholder tradition of adaptive change in this highly precarious and unstable landscape provides a dynamic foundation upon which biodiversity is produced, managed and conserved.

To examine this tradition of appropriate response to change, data was collected on land-cover dynamics using Landsat images and biodiversity inventories and household surveys of resource use technologies and conservation practices were carried out. Through complex agricultural technologies, sector Muyuy smallholders, known as ribereños, use a highly differentiated and dynamic environment to produce a great diversity of crops while creating habitats for endangered and over-exploited species of fish and river turtles, plants, and other species.

Pinedo-Vasquez and his co-authors conclude that meaningful attempts at biodiversity conservation must begin at the interface between ecological and social processes and incorporate locally developed knowledge and practice.


Discussants
Seth W. Garfield, History
Brian King, Geography and the Environment
Kenneth R. Young, Geography and the Environment
Thursday, November 18
Brown Bag. Study Abroad and Research Opportunities in the Amazon
With Miguel Pinedo-Vasquez and other Amazon Week speakers
Dean’s Conference Room, GEB 3.312, 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Friday, November 19
Geography Colloquium Series

Rodrigo Sierra
Professor, Geography and the Environment
Director, Center for Environmental Studies in Latin America
A Spatial Analysis of the Factors and Outcomes of Deforestation in the Ecuadorian Amazon
GRG 102, 4:00–6:00 p.m.

The present study is an attempt to expand the dimensions of regional level studies about land cover change and to understand what factors affect their specific outcomes. A key finding is the effect of regional markets on and their interaction with peri-urban areas. Results highlight the opportunistic logic of agricultural development in the region. To a large extent this opportunism is driven by state actions that do not seek agricultural efficiency but to facilitate resource extraction. (Full abstract)

The Brazil Center would like to thank the sponsors of Amazon Week 2004:

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