NRESi "Our environment is our future"

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Friday *Mar. 6, 2009*

3:30 - 4:30

LECTURE THEATRE

7 - 238

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED AT 3:20 PM



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The Ecology of Culture: Is Sustainability a Pipe Dream?

Ecology helps us to understand and describe processes and connectivities within nature that promote and sustain healthy ecosystems; the underlying assumption being that natural selection has filtered out "unsustainable" traits in healthy environments. Selection also acts on human culture, and many indigenous cultures reveal practices and values that promote sustainability. Ecology may provide a powerful lens to examine the practices, economies and values of contemporary societies in regards to their sustainability:

- How do modern technological societies rate as ecological systems?
- In what ways do these societies adhere to or disregard selection of practices and values that promote sustainability?
- What are the prospects of making "the global economy" sustainable in terms of ecological principles?