SECIAL TCD SEMINAR

Scenarios, Modeling, and Institutional Arrangements in the Brazilian Amazonia

Talk given by
Dr. Ana Paula Aguiar
Researcher
INPE (Brazilian Institute of Space Research)

- Thursday, October 21, 2010
- 2:00—3:00 p.m.
- 376 Grinter Hall

Content
The lecture aims at providing an overview of Dr. Aguiar’s research activities at INPE, focusing on the interface between social sciences, modeling, and scenarios to contribute to the understanding of land use change process in the Brazilian Amazonia. The seminar will cover four aspects: (a) overview of INPE and CCST operational and research lines in Amazonia; (b) overview of past and current research activities of the Land Change Modeling Group at CCST; (c) overview of the LUA/IAM Project (Land Use Change in Amazonia: Institutional Analysis and Modeling at multiple temporal and spatial scales), including project goals, methodology and current results; (d) future research and collaboration plans.

Biography
Dr. Ana Paula Aguiar is the lead researcher on Amazonia land-use change modeling at INPE (Brazilian Institute of Space Research), São José dos Campos, SP. Her current research focuses on two main lines: (a) modeling and scenario approaches to represent the co-evolution of institutional arrangements and land use trajectories in the Brazilian Amazonia at multiple scales; and (b) participatory scenario methodologies aiming at local empowerment and decision/discussion support across scales.

At INPE, Dr. Aguiar works at the recently created Earth System Science Center (CCST – “Centro de Ciência do Sistema Terrestre”) which focuses on the interface between global environmental changes, sustainability and national development issues. She has a BSc in Computer Science, obtained at UNICAMP (State University of Campinas, SP), and MSc and PhD degrees in Remote Sensing at INPE. Since she obtained her PhD in 2006, she has been investing in the formation of students of diverse backgrounds, both at INPE and at UFPA (Federal University of Pará), to create a team of interdisciplinary researchers who are able to understand and represent, through models and scenarios, the complexity of social interactions in the Amazonia.