Join us for Tropilunch!!

**Bending the rules: An institutional analysis of fire management in Calakmul, Mexico**

Talk by Claudia Monzon-Alvarado  
PhD Candidate  
Geography Department  

September 16  
12:45-1:45pm  
Grinter 376  

**Biography:**  
Claudia Monzon is a PhD candidate in the Geography Department. She is a Biologist from Universidad del Valle de Guatemala who received her Master’s degree in Natural Resource management and Rural Development from El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR) in Mexico. Her research is centered in examining the agricultural fire use and wildfire prevention through participatory approaches such as participatory mapping, role play, Q-methods and scenario planning. Through the study of institutions, local practice and behavioral drivers, Claudia examines what leads to the current environmental outcomes of agricultural fire-use and wildfire prevention.

**Content**  
This presentation draws on findings from a study on agricultural fire-use practice, institutions and behavioral drivers for engaging in wildfire prevention measures in Calakmul, Mexico. Fire management in this area can be considered a case of sustainable fire-use if we examine the large number of agricultural burns contrasted with the marginal number of wildfires. In this presentation, Claudia will describe what has led to this relative success by studying individual and collective motivations for using fire responsibly and also by emphasizing in the role of existing institutions (community and state) in shaping farmer’s fire-use decisions.

*Tropilunch is a weekly seminar run by graduate students from the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program. It provides a forum for a range of discussions and presentations related to TCD work and research. Students are provided with an opportunity to present and discuss their research projects with peers and faculty. In addition, discussion sessions on issues of current interest are also held. Visiting scholars and conservation practitioners also participate when available. It is held every Tuesday at 12:45 p.m. in Grinter 376.*