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## ***Hydropower Impacts on “Heterotopias” and Spaces of Conflict***

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12:45 - 1:45pm  
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**Abstract:** A “new” wave of large-scale infrastructure development is currently planned (and being constructed) for the Amazon basin including new roads, waterways, and hydropower facilities. The “Initiative for the Integration of the Regional Infrastructure in South America” (IIRSA) represents a coalition of South American countries intending to promote social and economic development through increasing economic connectivity and energy security plans. My thesis project seeks to understand how these scalar political-economic forces may impact a local, site-specific region of the Eastern Brazilian Amazon known for social conflict. Historically, contradicting Brazilian national policies regarding economic development, protecting the environment, and promoting human rights often exacerbates resource scarcity and social conflicts. My thesis project posits that plans for a hydroelectric dam may exacerbate these “spaces of conflict” over resources and employs geographic information systems in conjunction with land conflict data to identify impacted municipalities and contemporary struggles over resources. This heuristic model of impacts leads to a discussion of class, ethnic, and gender based struggles potentially aggravated by the introduction of a hydroelectric dam.

Bio:

Mike Waylen is currently finishing his Master’s in Latin American Studies at the University of Florida and plans to continue his research in the Geography Department. He earned a BA in History and Geography from the Florida State University in 2012 and has worked for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. His research is currently focused on understanding the social impacts of infrastructure development in the Brazilian Amazon.

*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.*  
*Tropilunch presentations are recorded weekly and can be found on [TCD's YouTube Channel](#)*