

## 2013 Schmink Outstanding Dissertation Award Presentation

# *Interpreting Legitimacy through a Multi-Level Governance Lens: The Case of Environmental Forums in Bolivia*

By Dr. Laura Kowler, TCD / SNRE Alumna

**Friday, January 17, 2014 @ 2 pm**

**Grinter Hall, Room 376**

Laura F. Kowler was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia. She graduated with an A.B.J. in Public Relations from the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism in 2004. Laura's interest in the design of international conservation and development initiatives and specifically the inclusion of multiple actors at different levels in the development of environmental policy grew from her work involving small-scale farmers and local institutions in Ecuador from 2006-2007. She received her Master of Science degree from the University of Florida in the summer 2009. In her doctoral research, she explored the opportunities for participatory governance in Bolivia through a multilevel governance lens while focusing on the legitimacy of decision-making processes. Laura received her Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Florida in spring 2013. She currently works at the Center for International Forestry Research in Lima, Peru, where she is coordinating the Peru project for CIFOR's Global Comparative Study on REDD+ entitled 'Multilevel Governance and Carbon Management at the Landscape Scale'.

