

*The Department of Anthropology and
The Latin American Studies Center*

*Invites you to a lecture by June Nash
Water Wars: Activist Anthropology and the
Growing Scarcity of Resources*

Community based studies in the areas where the world's resource base is located are a source for tapping new channels of knowledge. Indigenous people living in mountain and jungle retreats have promoted sustainable projects to enhance and sustain their subsistence base for generations to come. Their awareness of complex environmental processes in the lands they inhabit and their development of collective controls to use and preserve resources can be the greatest gift for humanity. Instead, the retreat areas that once enabled indigenous people to retain their autonomy and distinctive life styles are now the frontiers for the rapacious extraction of the world's resources. In their zeal to extract resources the lumber, oil, and mining companies are destroying the environment that sustained reproduction, often forcing the indigenous caretakers off their lands. Joined by a new breed of biogenetic engineers, they are introducing privatized notions of air, water, and genetic diversity that envision the world and its creations as commodities that are valued only in exchange. In these frontiers and in the wastelands left in their wake are the new challenges for activist anthropologists and other environmental and social scientists working with indigenous people. Nash will discuss social action in Chiapas and Bolivian communities where the conflict is now carried out, in order to cultivate an awareness of their vision of development and the collective action needed to sustain it.



UNIVERSITY OF
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Monday, Apr 21, 2008
12:30-1:45 pm
St. Mary's Hall