GCSC Seminar Series

Tuesday, February 12, 2019
4:00-5:00 PM

Giovanna Di Chiro
Lang Professor for Issues of Social Change at Swarthmore College

“Imagining Sustainable Futures: Collaborative ‘Soul’-utions for Earthly Survival”
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Abstract
Drawing on my own involvement in campus-community collaboratives in Philadelphia, I discuss practices of engaged scholarship that blend commitments to environmental justice and sustainability. Such practices underscore the social inequalities and colonial legacies that lie at the root of environmental problems and, as such, aim to prevent the “unintended” consequences of “unmindful” sustainability solutions, such as green gentrification. I argue for an intersectional, decolonial approach to environmental problem solving in order to confront the “crisis of imagination” that hinders our capacities to create genuine soul-utions to social and environmental crises.

Bio
Giovanna Di Chiro is Professor of Environmental Studies at Swarthmore College. She has published widely on the intersections of environmental science and policy and human rights, with a focus on gender, race, sexuality, and economic disparities. She is co-editor of the volume *Appropriating Technology: Vernacular Science and Social Power* and is completing a book titled *Embodied Ecologies: Science, Politics, and Environmental Justice*. Di Chiro’s research, teaching, and activism focus on community-driven approaches to sustainability and the intersections of social justice and environmental change.