

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

The 2014-2015 Geography Colloquium Series
is funded in part through the John Nelson endowment and
the alumni, faculty, and friends of Ohio State Geography endowment.

James Tyner

Professor, Department of Geography
Kent State University

Violence, Alienation, and the Transformation of Nature in Democratic Kamphuchea, 1975-1979

The Cambodian 'genocide' continues to be framed as a 'communist' revolution. Subsequent accounts build on this presumption which leads to incomplete and inaccurate conclusions. In this paper he applied a Marxist critique to the Khmer Rouge's so-called 'communist revolution' through the twin tasks of (1) retheorizing Democratic Kampuchea's economy as an exploitative system of production for exchange; and (2) articulating the Khmer Rouge's conception of nature as manifest in this mode of production. In so doing he highlighted how the unity of the production for exchange and the production of nature more accurately accounts for the mass death that occurred. First, he broadly sketched a Marxist conception of nature and alienation. This is followed by a detailed discussion of the generation of surplus production under the Khmer Rouge; and lastly a Marxist analysis of the Khmer Rouge's conception of nature. This understanding is especially salient because it addresses specifically how the Khmer Rouge's attempt to transform nature was necessary—and necessarily wrong—in their greater objective of building a socialist consciousness.

**Friday, September 12, 2014
Derby Hall Room 1080
3:30-5:00 p.m.**



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES