

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Faculty Presentation

2014-2015 Geography Colloquium Series

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The Ohio State University

**Grounding traffic: embedding the cocaine
commodity chain in spaces of transit**

Illicit commodity flows are emerging from the shadows—increasingly recognized as a key part of neoliberal economic geographies. While sites of illicit commodity production and consumption gain greater attention, sites of transit—so crucial to the functioning of illicit trade networks—remain largely unexplored. In this presentation, she will unpack the functioning of a single rural transshipment node in the global cocaine trade, tracing the ways in which cocaine transit embeds in the social and ecological worlds of eastern Honduras' Moskitia region. Drawing from long-term research with communities there, she will distinguish between background agrarian dynamics and those directly related to the region's rise as a trafficking hub post ca. 2006. I show how narco-rents are captured and laundered, and by whom, and review the implications of the study for scholarship on 'land grabbing' and the development of rural peripheries in general.

**Friday, October 31, 2014
Derby Hall Room 1080
3:30-4:30 p.m.**



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