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INSTITUTE OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE ■

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UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

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AT BOULDER ■

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**ENVIRONMENT AND BEHAVIOR RESEARCH PROGRAM**

## **Asim Zia**

Post Doctoral Researcher, NCAR Institute for the Study of Society and Environment

### **“Meta-Decision Models: A Multi-Scalar Adaptive Approach to Model Environmental Policy Designs and Decision Behaviors”**

**March 14, 2005**

**12:30-1:30**

**IBS 3 Conference Room**

Asim Zia will be discussing how the environmental policy and planning problems are confronted with the following four meta-decisions: 1) which values are/should be included in the criteria set of evaluation to measure the outcomes of our actions; 2) what is the logic by which an alternative is included in the set of policy and planning alternatives; 3) given the multiplicity of decision models and algorithms, how do/should we choose which descriptive or normative decision rule or decision algorithm to apply in a given context; and, 4) how shall the weights be assigned to the pluralistic values on the basis of which we judge our actions and decisions. The current decision algorithmic models and policy designs that try to ignore these four and other meta-decision problems actually result in implementation of environmental policies that are less effective in reducing environmental pollution, unfair and end up undermining broader societal values. Three case studies at regional, national and global spatial scales will be discussed that involve environmental policy designs that are aimed at mitigating pollution through changing the decision behaviors of polluters. A theoretical concept of meta-decision models will be presented and applied in specific case studies to demonstrate that environmental policies can be potentially designed that result in balancing diverse values, that are adaptive in incorporating the emerging policy alternatives, and that are context-sensitive in applying decision rules and weighting functions.

**IBS 3 is the second building north of Starbucks Coffee on Broadway.**

Feel free to bring a brownbag lunch.