



INSTITUTE OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE ■

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

AT BOULDER ■

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY RESEARCH PROGRAM

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“Decentralization, Local Institutions, and Environmental Change: Policy Lessons from Bolivia”

**April 30, 2007
12:00-1:00**

IBS 3 Conference Room

Dozens of countries have decentralized at least part of their natural resource policies over the last two decades. Despite the length of time that these policy experiments have been in force, there is little agreement about their effectiveness. Andersson and his colleague, Clark Gibson (University of California at San Diego) argue that part of this ambivalence stems from three limitations of extant studies, suggesting that future studies of decentralized natural resource governance should consider a combination of 1) variation in the local institutional context, 2) the fit between the reform and other public policies, and 3) more adequate outcome measures for decentralized resource governance. After developing such an approach, they posit that varying forest conditions depend on the moderating effects that local institutions have on the socioeconomic and biophysical drivers of environmental change. Analyzing data from interviews and remotely sensed images from thirty municipalities in the Bolivian lowlands, they find that the local institutional performance affects unauthorized deforestation directly and indirectly, but detect no effects on either permitted or total deforestation.

IBS 3 is the second building north of Starbucks Coffee on Broadway.
Feel free to bring a brownbag lunch.