



INSTITUTE OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE ■

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

AT BOULDER ■

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY PROGRAM

RoseMarie Perez Foster

IBS Environment and Society Program/Natural Hazards Center Visiting Scholar

“The Legacy of Chernobyl: Long-term Mental Health Effects Twenty Years and Beyond”

**November 12, 2007
12:00-1:00**

The 1986 Chernobyl nuclear plant core meltdown distributed unprecedented levels of radioactive material into the atmosphere, contaminating large areas of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, as well as sections of Western Europe. Over 100,000 people were evacuated from affected areas. Pollution of air, food and water; economic and social disruption; and fear of radioactively-induced illness, shaped a technological accident into a multi-systemic disaster. Governmental misinformation and inadequate public health planning left the population suspicious, frightened, and susceptible to rampant rumor. In addition to epidemiological findings which establish a firm relationship between thyroid carcinoma and Chernobyl radiation exposure, the most recent UN Chernobyl Forum report (2005) concludes that mental health effects stand as the most pervasive and long-lasting effects of the 1986 disaster. Anxiety and affective spectrum disorders as well as somatic preoccupation are still reported for exposed populations who remain in the former Soviet Union, as well as cohorts relocated to Israel and the United States. Dr. Perez Foster will present research and findings, and the need for expanded investigation of this population.

IBS 3 Conference Room

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