Essentially Indigenous

When: Thursday, November 20, 2008 from 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Where: Deutz Room, Copley International Conference Center, The Institute of the Americas Complex, UCSD campus

The Amazon is a region of the world that is excessively talked about, very rarely are the people listened to. How are globally driven health, development, and environmental policies experienced by rural, indigenous women in Amazonian communities on the periphery of formal political power? As with other global development processes, reproductive health programs are actively resisted, modified, and accepted by the families being planned, and who are their intended targets. Through an inquiry of the interface between strategic indigeneity and the feminist discourse of empowerment and reproductive rights, the presentation will explore the impact of international development programs on local identity politics in the Peruvian Amazon.

Michelle McKinley is an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Oregon. Prior to joining the legal academy, she was the Director of the Amazonian Peoples’ Resources Initiative, a reproductive rights organization promoting gender equity and community health in the Peruvian Amazon.