

# **“Beyond Reasonable Politics”**

**Monday, October 21, 3pm, SSB 107**

**UCSD’s Anthropology Department**

**Presents a Colloquium Talk by**

**Mario Blaser**

**Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Studies**

**Memorial University of Newfoundland**

**Canada**

***(Author of *Storytelling Globalization, From the Chaco and Beyond*, and editor of *Indigenous Peoples and Autonomy*)***

Some so-called environmental conflicts involve questions about the ‘things’ at stake in them, and thus constitute ontological conflicts. In such cases, the conflicts pose a politico-conceptual problem: On the one hand they unsettle what is commonly construed as reasonable politics, that is, a politics where the parties agree about what is at stake in their disagreement; and on the other hand, they make evident the limitations of the notion of culture, the conceptual tool with which the social sciences try to apprehend what lies beyond reasonable politics. Using a number of examples from South America as a springboard, Blaser will first characterize what he calls “reasonable politics” and the politico-conceptual problem it implies. Then, through the example of a research project in Labrador, he will contend that a number of resources from material-semiotic versions of Science and Technology Studies (STS) - particularly the notions of ontological multiplicity, partial connections and ‘matters of concern’ - allow for a more open conception of politics and avoid the politicoconceptual problem that ontological conflicts imply. Finally, he will highlight that some important issues still linger from this turn to ontology. These issues underscore the co-presence of complexly overlapped and stratified ways of “worlding” and the urgency to re-center the problematic they entail for how we stage ontological politics.

Reception to follow in the Spiro Library, SSB Rm 269.

For information, contact Nancy Postero, Anthropology, [npostero@ucsd.edu](mailto:npostero@ucsd.edu)

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