

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY COLLOQUIUM ANNOUNCEMENT

What: Geography's Colloquium

When: Thursday, January 12, 2012. Talk starts promptly at 4:00 p.m.

Where: Sassafras Room, Indiana Memorial Union

Who: Dr. Marcela Gonzalez Rivas, Visiting Assistant Professor
Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University

Title: "Ethnolinguistic Divisions and Access to Clean Water in Mexico"

Abstract: The existing literature relating ethnic fragmentation to public good provision sheds little light on inequalities in access to public goods across groups, despite the fact that some of the causal factors underlying the hypothesized relationship seem to predict such inequalities. This paper seeks to fill this gap by examining the relationship between ethnic fragmentation and both the level and distribution of access to clean water in Mexico, using regression analysis at both the municipal and individual levels for the period 2000-2005. Using the divide between indigenous and non-indigenous people to measure ethnic fragmentation, the results first replicate the general finding in the literature: more fragmented municipalities have worse access to clean water, all else equal. However, this worse access is not equally distributed. Instead, there is a systematic gap in water access between indigenous and non-indigenous people, even after controlling for fragmentation and other relevant factors. The findings have important implications for future research regarding ethnic fragmentation and public good provision.