

**UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY**

**Colloquium / Research Seminar**

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“Violent ‘development’ & Alleged Crimes of Canadian Mining in Guatemala: Which Way Forward?”



Neoliberal development schemes of mining, oil extraction, and hydroelectric projects, are embraced by post-conflict Guatemala as the way forward on the path to democratization. At the same time, the Canadian government's pro-business, pro-mining stance, through its Embassy's activities, is shaping the very nature of the so-called "development model" for this Central American country. In this presentation, based on fieldwork in the summer months of 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2010, I focus on the ways in which the development projects pursued by Canadian-based mining companies Skye Resources, Inc. and Hudbay Minerals, Inc. among others, and facilitated by the Guatemalan state, are predicated on the reduction of indigenous and rural populations to 'bare life' (Agamban 1995; 1998). The contemporary neoliberal moment functions on the continued 'legal abandonment' of the Guatemalan people and reduces the indigenous population and human rights activists to 'bare life.' The people of El Estor, and other mining-affected communities, though, are resisting their exclusion and demanding a recognition of the violations suffered through the Canadian legal system.

**Tuesday, 6 March  
Geography Room 200  
at 12:30 pm**