



The Geography Fall 2015 Colloquium Series presents

ENFORCING EQUALITY:

COURT RULINGS, INDIGENOUS WOMEN, & POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN OAXACA, MEXICO

Wednesday, September 16, 2015 | 3 PM | Whitehall 231

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Within the last decade, Mexico's federal electoral courts have taken unprecedented steps to promote affirmative action in favor of women's political participation. A stumbling block to this affirmative action initiative has been the predominately indigenous municipalities that hold local elections through tradition and custom instead of universal suffrage and secret ballot. In the past three years, a growing number of electoral conflicts appealed to the federal courts have brought the question of indigenous women's political participation to the forefront. Worthen examines several of these cases to explore how the courts mediate between the question of collective self-determination and individual women's rights, how they seek to promote a liberal notion of gender equality, and how women and communities are responding to their rulings in unexpected ways.

Holly Worthen received her Ph.D. in geography from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is currently a professor at the Instituto de Investigaciones Sociológicas at the Universidad Autónoma Benito Juárez de Oaxaca in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. Her work focuses on gender, migration, development and indigenous politics.



Sponsored by the Department of Geography,
Annual Geography Department Colloquium Series.

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