



**The Department of Ethnic Studies
Invites You To:**



**The 11th Annual
Ethnic Studies Labovitz-Perez
Lecture**

Devon Peña



Environmental Justice and the State of Exception

**Thursday, October 24, 2013
6:30pm-9:00pm
Salomon Hall**

Professor Peña will discuss the limits and contradictions facing the environmental justice movement as it enters the third decade of activism. Environmental racism has not been resolved – if anything, the neoliberal policies of the past four presidencies have exacerbated racial injustices and aggravated ecological inequities that are best understood as a regime that suspends the rule of law. The alternatives for the future of EJ include renewed mobilizations focused on ecological self-determination and autonomy instead of a quest for equity within the existing regime of environmentality.

Peña is Professor of American Ethnic Studies, Anthropology, and the Program on the Environment at the University of Washington. He is also Research Professor with the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute. He writes about place-based ecological knowledge, farming and biodiversity, water access and rights, and the impacts of neoliberalism on indigenous farming practices on either side of the U.S.-Mexico border. He is the author of several award winning books and anthologies. Peña is the founder and president of The Acequia Institute, the nation's first Latina/o charitable foundation dedicated to supporting research and education for the environmental and food justice movements. Peña received the 2013 NACCS Scholar Award from the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies. During the five-month irrigation season (May-Sept) he farms in San Acacio, Colorado on a 184-acre acequia farm where he grows heirloom varieties of maize, beans, calabacita, fava beans, and other native crops. He is a seed saver and plant breeder and serves on the Steering Committee of the Biosafety Alliance, which is organizing the 2013 Global Conference on Seed Justice.