

Professor Rebecca Lave

Distinguished International Visiting Fellow

Can We Save Nature By Selling It?

Wednesday
23 January 2019
5.00pm
Large Lecture Theatre
Department of Geography,
Downing Site

Selling nature in order to save it is the core goal animating market-based approaches to environmental conservation. Such approaches have become a central component of international environmental policy and practice, with biodiversity offsetting and related policies enacted on every continent except Antarctica. What are the consequences of this shift? Can putting a price tag on nature succeed where previous regulatory approaches to environmental conservation have failed?

In this talk, Professor Lave traces the development of market-based forms of environmental management, examining their track record and future potential through integrated physical and social science analysis of markets for stream and habitat credits. She will argue that the contrast between the dynamism and complexity of ecosystems and the stability and simplicity required for functional markets radically limits the conservation potential of market-based approaches.



Rebecca Lave is an Associate Professor in Geography at Indiana University.

Her research takes a critical physical geography approach, combining political

economy, STS, and fluvial geomorphology. She has published in journals ranging from *Science* to *Social Studies of Science*, and is the author of *Fields and Streams: stream restoration, neoliberalism, and the future of environmental science* (2012), as well as the editor of the *Handbook of Critical Physical Geography* (2018). Her current research focuses on the co-constituted hydrology, history, and political economy of non-point source agricultural pollution in the U.S. Midwest.



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Public Lecture