

World Issues Forums/Paths to Global Justice  
Spring Quarter 2009

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All events are free and everyone is welcome. Information: call 650-2309 or visit our website: <http://www.wwu.edu/depts/fairhaven>



**Baldemar Mendoza Jiménez**, Agro-ecologist with the Union of Organizations of the Sierra Juarez, Oaxaca

**"NAFTA turns 15: Free Trade, Food Security and Migration in Mexico"**  
Wednesday, April 8, noon-1:30, Fairhaven College Auditorium

On tour with Witness for Peace Northwest, Baldemar Mendoza Jiménez will take a deeper look at the effects of NAFTA, including resistance to genetically modified (GMO) corn, the impact of migration on sending communities, and the struggle for food security in Oaxaca's indigenous communities.

**Tuesday, April 7: 7:00pm, Bellingham Unitarian Church ( I Street)**



**Julio Betancourt**, Professor, Geography & Regional Development Senior Scientist, National Research Program, Water Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey, University of Arizona

**Wednesday, April 15, noon-1:30, Fairhaven College Auditorium**

**"Decisions, Decisions: Exotic Grass Invasions and Altered Wildfire Regimes in the American Deserts"**

Large-scale invasions by Eurasian and African grasses, brought in by chance or to feed cattle and control erosion, have introduced frequent and extensive fires into American deserts that supported little or no burning in the pre-European era. We are standing on a threshold and must now choose between saving the desert or resigning ourselves to these novel and combustible grasslands. What decisions must we make, who makes them, and how will they be implemented across complex physical and cultural landscapes? My own take on these issues is that of a federal scientist with a sense of place and an ongoing crusade to engage the private and public sectors in Southern Arizona, where buffelgrass now threatens to convert a turistic Sonoran Desert into a burning savanna.

**Climate Variability and Climate Change in the Western U.S.**

**Friday, April 17, 3:00pm, Communications 125**

Two important sources of uncertainty in resource management in the western U.S. are decadal-to-multidecadal (D2M) natural climate variability and anthropogenic climate change. D2M variability is characteristic of the instrumental record of the past century, as well as tree-ring chronologies of last two millennia. Resource managers have barely addressed the challenges posed by D2M variability, which makes it that much harder to reckon the impacts of climate change. Abrupt cool season warming beginning 1976-1984, depending on the region, brought on a marked increase in springtime temperatures, an earlier onset of spring by 8 to 10 days, a rise in the elevation at which it rains rather than snows, a decrease in snowpack, earlier snowmelt timing, a shift to an earlier pulse of snowmelt-fed discharge, and an increase in the frequency of large fires. My presentation will rely on statistical approaches to identify spatiotemporal patterns of temperature and precipitation variations in both the past and present to explore their associations with various modes of large-scale climate variability in the context of climate change.



**Elizabeth May**, Chair of Canada's Green Party, an environmentalist, writer, activist and lawyer.

**"The Climate Crisis: Why US leadership is urgently needed"**  
Monday, April 20, noon-1:15 pm, Fairhaven College Auditorium

**"Moving Toward a Green Economy"**  
4:00-5:30pm Fraser Hall 3



**Nidia Castellanos** of Colombia is secretary general of the Arauca Peasant Association (ACA), which promotes organic agriculture and defends the rights of its members and their families. Nidia is a single mother of three children. Photo: Nidia and youngest daughter Melisa )

**"Women Resisting War in Colombia"**  
Wednesday, April 22, noon-1:30, Fairhaven College Auditorium

**7:00pm, 13 Prospect Street (above Rocket Donuts) at the Whatcom Human Rights Task Force.**

**Nidia Castellanos** will address the role of ACA in defending the rights of small farmers and their families in our state of Arauca which involves facing a lot of risk. Repression by the Colombian government and attacks by the guerrillas have left a number of its leaders fleeing exile and/or killed. "I'm willing to suffer those consequences because I want a better future for my children – Melisa, Camila and Brandon," said Nidia. "We hope that the Obama administration will represent a change in U.S. policy towards our country. Colombia doesn't need any more guns and bombs - there are

already enough to kill all of us. We're also aware of the serious economic problems in the U.S. Instead of spending your tax dollars on more weapons, that money could be used to create jobs and support health care and education – in Arauca, as well as Montana."

The U.S. government is providing Colombia with more than \$1 million per day in military aid. Some of that aid is used to protect Occidental Petroleum's oilfield and pipeline in Arauca. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have repeatedly documented the human rights abuses committed by the Colombian military.

Nidia will be accompanied by Scott Nicholson, who has been in Arauca since July 2006 documenting the human rights situation in the region. The presentation will include some of his photos of Arauca.



**Hiroshi Motomura**, Professor of Law at the UCLA School of Law and an influential teacher and scholar of immigration and citizenship law. (Sponsor: CLDJ)

**"Immigration Outside the Law "**

**Wednesday, April 29, noon-1:30, Fairhaven College Auditorium**

How do we think about illegal or undocumented immigration? Why are some voices so vehement, while many remain ambivalent and uncertain? What will durable, politically viable solutions require? To answer these questions, Hiroshi Motomura will discuss three key issues in public debate: what it means for immigrants to be here unlawfully, the role of states and cities, and the integration of immigrants into U.S. society. He then will explore how these issues are intertwined in ways that are essential to finding solutions.



**Alia Parker and Eric Vermeers**, Adventure Learning Grant Recipients in 2008

**"Participatory Poverty Alleviation: Rural Development in Guatemala and Bhutan"**

**Wednesday, May 6, noon-1:30, Fairhaven College Auditorium**

Eric will highlight development projects in two rural villages he visited while volunteering with the Tarayana Foundation, a pre-eminent indigenous NGO in Bhutan. Ali will speak of her year in Central and South America with a focus on women's reproductive health care. Over the course of her time in Latin America last year, she was inspired by the various forms of human rights activism she witnessed in Guatemala, El Salvador, Ecuador, Peru, and Argentina.



**"Israel and the Pacification Industry: Control of Populations and Public Space"**

**Jimmy Johnson**, Israeli citizen, International Representative for International Committee Against Home Demolitions

**Wednesday, May 13, noon-1:30, Fairhaven College Auditorium**

The world, even prior to the current economic crisis, has seen increasing economic divergence between wealthy and poor nations, and between the wealthy and poor inside nations. The increasing levels of poverty and inequality have coincided with the ongoing migration to cities worldwide. Military planners for power brokers have characterized the current and foreseen results of this as the "urbanization of insurgency." The lecture and discussion will focus on Israel and the Occupation's role in the young and growing market for "pacification" strategies, equipment and techniques that are already being used in Iraq, Afghanistan, the United States and beyond. It will also look at how spatial politics, the use of radical architectural theory in urban warfare in the Balata Refugee Camp to the zoning and planning of the settlements to house demolitions, literally define the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and chances for a sustainable peace.



**Margaret C Lee**, Associate Professor, African and Afro-American Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

**"Re-enter the Dragon: China-Africa Relations in the 21st Century Scramble for Africa"**

**Wednesday, May 20, noon-1:30, Fairhaven College Auditorium**

Africa is experiencing its greatest commodity boom since independence. This is largely as a result of the huge influx of Chinese investors into the continent, estimated at 800, interested in extracting needed resources for China's continued economic development. No sector of the continent has been left untouched by the Chinese, who have not only imposed a very different model of development in Africa, but also have gone deep into the interior of the continent to develop areas that heretofore have remained untouched by the US and Africa's former colonial powers. This presentation places in historical context China-Africa relations from the 1950s to 1995 and from 1995 to the present. It concludes with a specific case study of China-Uganda relations.

**"Zimbabwe in Crisis: The Struggle within the Struggle"**

**4:00 Room 210 Academic Instruction Center**

Zimbabwe, once one of the jewels of Africa, and the breadbasket of the region of Southern Africa, is experiencing a crisis of unimaginable proportion. With unemployment at 88%, it has become the basket case of the region. Currently an estimated 91,000 people are infected with cholera, while more than 4,000 have died. The situation is projected to get worse as a large percentage of the population does not have access to basic food supplies. This, along with hyperinflation, has resulted in extreme malnutrition in the country. This presentation will focus on what has gone wrong in Zimbabwe and examine the ongoing struggle between the various political parties (the struggle within the struggle) that has exacerbated the current crisis.



**Amy Hagopian**, PhD faculty at the U.W. School of Public Health and Community Medicine

**"Poaching health workers from poor countries: Is that an ethical way to solve America's health workforce shortage?"**

**Wednesday, May 27, noon-1:30, Fairhaven College Auditorium**

One in four American doctors is trained in another country, at the expense of the taxpayers in those countries. A growing portion of our nurses are trained abroad, too. Nearly two-thirds of those who come to fill our health professions vacancies are from low or lower-middle income countries. How does U.S. policy lure health workers from abroad, and what are the ethical, economic and educational implications of this policy?

**Critical Junctures Lecture Series: 7:00pm at St Luke's Community Health Education Center at 3333 Squalicum Pkwy.**

## Biographies

**Baldemar Mendoza Jiménez** has participated in the informational campaign regarding the contamination of native corn by genetically modified corn. He is a promoter of sustainable agriculture using the farmer to farmer method to attain food sovereignty in the working groups that UNOSJO assists, as well as in communities where their organization has a presence.

**Ann Theisen** is a Witness for Peace International Team Member on the Mexico team based in Oaxaca, Mexico. Originally from Milwaukee, WI, she has a B.A. in secondary English and Spanish teaching and a Masters of Public Affairs. She has taught in middle and high schools and worked for several non-profit organizations educating about immigration issues and human rights. She will provide interpretation.

**Julio Betancourt** is a Senior Scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Arizona ([http://www.paztcn.wr.usgs.gov/julio\\_cv.html](http://www.paztcn.wr.usgs.gov/julio_cv.html)). Dr. Betancourt investigates how climate variability and climate change affect floods, fires, droughts and ecosystem dynamics to inform management of natural hazards and natural resources. He has received prestigious awards from the American Water Resources Association, the Ecological Society of America, and the U.S. Department of Interior. In 2009, he was honored by the White House with the prestigious Presidential Rank Award, and also was elected a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union. He recently co-founded a National Phenology Network that is aimed at observing and predicting how plants and animals will respond to climate change in the U.S. ([www.usanpn.org](http://www.usanpn.org)), and has led the effort to stem the spread of African buffelgrass that threatens to transform fireproof desert into flammable grassland in Southern Arizona ([www.buffelgrass.org](http://www.buffelgrass.org); [www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQilVzSrqZY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQilVzSrqZY))

**Elizabeth May** is an environmentalist, writer, activist and lawyer. She has been active in the environmental movement since 1970. She first became known in the Canadian media in the mid-1970s through her leadership as a volunteer in the grassroots movement against aerial insecticide spraying proposed for forests near her home on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Her volunteer work also include successful campaigns to prevent approval of uranium mining in Nova Scotia, and extensive work on energy policy issues, primarily opposing nuclear energy.

Elizabeth is a graduate of Dalhousie Law School and was admitted to the Bar in both Nova Scotia and Ontario. She has held the position of Associate General Counsel for the Public Interest Advocacy Center, representing consumer, poverty and environment groups in her work. In 1986, Elizabeth became Senior Policy Advisor to then federal Environment Minister, Tom McMillan. She was instrumental in the creation of several national parks, including South Moresby. She was involved in negotiating the Montreal Protocol to protect the ozone layer and new legislation and pollution control measures. In 1988, she resigned on principle when the Minister granted permits for the Rafferty-Alameda Dams in Saskatchewan as part of a political trade off, with no environmental assessment. The permits were later quashed by a Federal Court decision that the permits were granted illegally.

Elizabeth is the author of five books, *Budworm Battles* (1982), *Paradise Won: The Struggle to Save South Moresby* (1990), *At the Cutting Edge: The Crisis in Canada's Forests* (Key Porter Books, 1998, as well as a major new edition in 2004), co-authored with Maude Barlow, *Frederick Street: Life and Death on Canada's Love Canal* (Harper Collins, 2000), and most recently, *How to Save the World in Your Spare Time* (Key Porter Books, 2006). *Frederick Street* focused on the Sydney Tar Ponds, and the health threats to children in the community—the issue that led her to protest in front of Parliament Hill over a seventeen-day hunger strike in May 2001.

She has served on numerous boards of environmental groups and advisory bodies to universities and governments in Canada, including the International Institute for Sustainable Development and the National Round Table on Environment and Economy and is currently a member of the Earth Charter International Council, coo-chaired by Maurice Strong and Mikhail Gorbachev. Elizabeth is the recipient of many awards including the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Sierra Club in 1989, the International Conservation Award from the Friends of Nature, and the United Nations Global 500 Aware in 1990. In 1996, she was presented with the award for Outstanding Leadership in Environment Education the Ontario Society for Environmental Education. In 1998, the "Elizabeth May Chair in Women's Health and Environment" was created in her honor at Dalhousie University. She holds honorary doctorates from Mount Saint Vincent University, the University of New Brunswick and Mount Allison University. She is also the recipient of the 2002 Harkin Award from the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS). In 2006, Elizabeth was presented with the prestigious Couchiching award for excellence in public policy. Most importantly, she is the mother of Victoria Cate.

In March 2006, Elizabeth stepped down as Executive Director of the Sierra Club of Canada, a post she had held since 1989, to run for the leadership of the Green Party of Canada. She was successful in her bid, was elected the Green Party's ninth leader at their national convention in August 2006 with a clear majority of the votes. Elizabeth is an Officer of the Order of Canada since 2005.

**Nidia Castellanos** was born on August 20, 1977 in the city of Pamplona in the state of North Santander. My mother abandoned us when I was seven months old. I grew up with the love and support of my father. I've been involved in human rights work since I was ten years old. I was elected as the student human rights officer in our elementary school when I was in fifth grade. I studied through the eighth grade in the Rafael Afanador Cadena school in Pamplona. I left school and home when I was 14 years old. I moved to the state of Arauca in northeastern Colombia and earned my living doing domestic work. I became involved with the Arauca Peasant Association (ACA) in 2005 as the human rights coordinator in my community of Muriba. I was elected as the secretary general of ACA in September 2007. I've been working as the secretary of the ACA office in Arauquita since May 2008. I enrolled in an adult high school program in Saravena in 2007. We attend class on Saturdays and I will be graduating this December. I also began taking secretarial classes in a technical college in Arauquita in January of this year. I'm the mother of three children: Melisa (5 years), Camila (9 years) and Brandon (12 years).

**Hiroshi Motomura**, is Professor of Law at the UCLA School of Law and an influential teacher and scholar of immigration and citizenship law. He is co-author of two immigration-related casebooks widely used in law school courses, and his many articles and essays are among the most cited in the field. Hiroshi's comprehensive study of U.S. immigration policy, *Americans in Waiting: the Lost Story of Immigration and Citizenship in the United States* (Oxford University Press 2006), won the Professional and Scholarly Publishing Award from the Association of American Publishers as the year's best book in Law and Legal Studies, and was chosen by the U.S. Department of State for its Suggested Reading List for Foreign Service Officers. Hiroshi has testified as an immigration expert in the U.S. Congress, has served as co-counsel or a volunteer consultant in several cases in the U.S. Supreme Court and the federal appeals courts, has been a member of the American Bar Association's Commission on Immigration, and is one of the co-founders of the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN). Most recently, he served as an Advisor to the Obama-Biden Transition Team's Working Group on Immigration Policy.

**Alia Parker** was born and raised in Anchorage, AK. She developed an interest in social justice advocacy during her childhood in Alaska, and began to focus her education around human rights as a student at Fairhaven College. She is particularly interested in the areas of women's reproductive health, ecological perspectives on human health issues, and the effects of war on populations. During 2007-2008, Ali traveled through Central and South America with a focus on women's reproductive health care as a recipient of the Fairhaven Adventure Learning Grant. Over the course of her time in Latin America last year, she was inspired by the various forms of human rights activism she witnessed in Guatemala, El Salvador, Ecuador, Peru, and Argentina. She will receive her B.A. from Fairhaven College in June 2009 with a concentration titled "Women's Health and Human Rights: Health and the Environment." She looks forward to continuing her education in public health with the social justice background she received at Fairhaven College.

**Eric Vermeers** was born in Charleston SC and grew up in the Puget Sound region. His family frequently moved on the whims of first the US Navy, then a contractor for pulp and paper mills until they "settled" in Bremerton, WA. He spent his adolescence forming an identity around a politically and socially aware punk rock scene, eventually getting involved in social justice and environmental activism. He worked in the inaugural year of the Americorps program learning habitat restoration and trail maintenance and continued as a seasonal trails laborer with the National Park Service. Throughout his years as a student at Fairhaven College, he Co-coordinated both the AS Environmental Center and the ASP Underground Coffeehouse Concert Series. He traveled to Thailand, Bhutan, India, Japan, and Taiwan as recipient of the Fairhaven College Adventure Learning Grant in the 2007/2008 cohort for his project "Crossroads in the Himalaya: Buddhist Communities Between Cultural Conservation and Neo-liberalism". This Spring, Eric will graduate from Fairhaven College with a concentration entitled "Interpersonal and International Interdependent Relations". He is producing a documentary, reflecting on his travels in Asia called "The Dream Like Quality of Living: The Space Between cultures".

**Jimmy Johnson** has worked as a researcher for the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAH) in Jerusalem for most of the last three years. His work there included documenting human rights abuses, organizing and practicing civil disobedience, and guiding governmental and civil society groups from all over the world in political tours of East Jerusalem and environs. For two years he has researched Israel's arms industry to develop a model of the country's military diplomacy and is the co-author, with Prof. Jeff Halper, of an upcoming book on the subject from Pluto Press.

**Margaret C. Lee**, Associate Professor, Department of African and Afro-American Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Teaching interests include Southern African Politics, Regional Integration in Africa, African Political Economy, African and the Global System; The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scramble for Africa. Lee's current research focuses on Africa and the international trade regime. She is a member of a research project entitled: "The New Scramble for Africa," which is sponsored by the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation, the Nordic Africa Institute, and the Institute for Security Studies. She completed the first publication of the project which is entitled "The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scramble for Africa," The Journal of Contemporary African Studies, Vol.24 ,No.3, 2006. Her books include: SADCC: The Political Economy of Development in Southern Africa (1988); The Political Economy of Regionalism in Southern Africa (2003); The State and Democracy in Africa (1996, 1997), Co-editor; and Unfinished Business: The Land Crisis in Southern Africa (2003), Co-editor.

**Amy Hagopian** is on the faculty at the U.W. School of Public Health and Community Medicine, where she teaches, advises students, and conducts research on international health workforce issues. She is senior health workforce policy advisor to Health Alliance International, a non-governmental organization working with Ministries of Health around the world to improve population health. She has led the University of Washington sister university collaboration with Basra University in Iraq, and is principal investigator on a Puget Sound Partners project to gather epidemiology data on pediatric cancers and birth defects in Basra. Her particular research interest is in the area of health worker migration from low-income countries to wealthy countries. Hagopian is active in the American Public Health Association, and in the Seattle public schools. She serves on the board of College Access Now, which works to assist "first generation" students gain entry to college

**Valued Co-Sponsors with Fairhaven College for the Spring 2009 World Issues Forums, Paths to Global Justice include:** Anthropology, Canadian-American Studies, Communication, Huxley College, Political Science, Women's Studies, Center for Law, Diversity and Justice, Critical Junctures Institute for Health Advancement and Research, Sustainability Academy, AS Environmental Center, , Ethnic Student Center Community to Community, Witness for Peace NW, Justice in the Americas, United Ministries in Higher Education (UMHE), Whatcom Peace & Justice Center, Whatcom Human Rights Task Force, and Green Sanctuary and Social Justice Committee of the Bellingham Unitarian Church.