Human Ecology Brown Bag Series Presents:

**Dr. Amy M. Lerner**

**Food security in the face of urbanization, livelihood shifts, and climate change:**

*The example of Mexican maize*

**April 4, 2012**

**12:35 - 2:00**

**Blake Hall, Room 131—Cook Campus**

*Event Co-sponsored by The Rutgers Initiative on Climate and Society*

__Amy Lerner received her PhD in Geography from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she studied human dimensions of global change, urbanization, food security, smallholder livelihoods, and landscape change. Her dissertation focused on peri-urban maize in Mexico as part of a large NSF funded project exploring climatic, economic, political, and socio-cultural dimensions of Mexican maize production. Amy is continuing her interests in smallholder livelihoods and landscape change in her post-doctoral position at Rutgers, where she has been working in Ecuador collecting data on land management practices of cattle ranchers and analyzing farm land cover. Maize in Mexico is a basic staple and national cultural icon, despite shifting diets and widespread urbanization. Amy’s talk will focus on factors affecting the persistence and demise of smallholder maize production in an expanding urban area outside of Mexico City, one of the largest cities in the world. The example of the Mexican maize system sheds light into the reconciliation of urbanization, climate change, and food security which is increasingly gaining international attention.***