

# The Colonial History of Tropical Field Stations and the Roots of Biodiversity Science

Dr. Megan Raby - Dept. of History/UT Austin.



**TUE, NOV 27**

**12:45 - 1:45**

**Grinter 376**

Tropilunch is a weekly seminar run by graduate students from the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program. It provides a forum for a range of discussions and presentations related to TCD work and research. Special guests, visiting scholars and practitioners also participate. It happens every Tuesday @ 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. in Grinter 376.

Tropilunch presentations are recorded and posted weekly on TCD's YouTube Channel.

## BIO

Megan Raby is a historian of science and environment whose work emphasizes the transnational connections of science in the US and Latin America in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Her book "American Tropics: The Caribbean Roots of Biodiversity Science" explores the relationship between the history of field ecology, the expansion of U.S. hegemony in the circum-Caribbean during the 20th century, and the emergence of the modern concept of biodiversity. She is also the author of articles appearing in the journals *Environmental History* and *Isis*, and she was awarded the History of Science Society's Price/Webster Award for best article in 2016. Professor Raby earned her Ph.D. in the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Before joining the Department of History at the University of Texas at Austin, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Smithsonian Institution Archives and National Museum of American History.

## PRESENTATION SUMMARY

Dr. Raby will be speaking about the research behind her recent book, in which she “explores the relationship between the history of field ecology, the expansion of U.S. hegemony in the circum-Caribbean during the 20th century, and the emergence of the modern concept of biodiversity.”

More at her page: <https://meganraby.com/>.

If interested in meeting with Dr. Raby, please contact Emilio Bruna at [embruna@ufl.edu](mailto:embruna@ufl.edu).

Dr. Raby's talk is co-sponsored by the UF Biodiversity Institute.