

# Frontiers of environmental justice: Human rights, environmental change, and indigenous struggles in South America's Chaco region

Dr. Joel Correia - LAS/TCD Faculty



**TUE, DEC 04**

**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

Joel Correia is an Assistant Professor in the Center for Latin American Studies, core faculty member of the Tropical Conservation and Development Program, and affiliate faculty for both the Department of Geography and American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program at the University of Florida. He holds a PhD in geography from the University of Colorado Boulder, and a MA in Latin American studies from the University of Arizona. Correia's research investigates the intersections of indigenous politics, land rights, socio-environmental (in)justice and law in the context of extractive development and Latin America, with a particular focus on Paraguay and the Gran Chaco. His research is published in journals such as *Geoforum*, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, *Erasmus Law Review*, and forthcoming in *The Journal of Latin American Geography*. He has been involved in numerous applied development and academic research projects across Paraguay, in the Mexico–US borderlands, and northeastern Kenya.

## PRESENTATION SUMMARY

Joel's talk will provide an overview of his research program on the intersections of human rights, environmental justice, and indigenous territory. Drawing from ethnographic action research with Aché peoples in the Paraguay-Brazil borderlands and Enxet-Sur and Sanapana communities in Paraguay's Chaco, Correia argues that securing territorial rights is a fundamental first step to supporting indigenous struggles for self-determination but that land rights alone do not necessarily change extant power relations that often thwart indigenous wellbeing. The talk seeks to open a conversation about the potential and limits of land rights to support indigenous environmental justice in the context of radical environmental change driven by extractive development. Joel will also introduce his new UF Global Fellows project "Frontiers of Environmental Justice" that investigates frontier deforestation and indigenous mobilizations for justice in one of Latin America's most threatened forest ecosystems—the Gran Chaco.