Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources | University of Manitoba

Riddell Faculty Seminar Series presents:

Increasing Risk: Lowering the Resource – Hazard Threshold in Mountain Regions

Dr. James Gardner

Date: Tuesday, November 25th, 2014
Time: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Place:** 320 Sinnott Building

(Photo Credit: Dr. James Gardner)

Abstract: Over the past forty years environmental assessment has become one of our main tools for better informed and High mountain regions are prone, perhaps disproportionately so, to disasters arising from natural and other hazards. There, risk of disaster is high due to inherent geo-ecological processes and conditions, and the exposure of vulnerable populations, land uses and infrastructure. Many of the conditions and processes that prove to be hazardous also are resources that have attracted people, land uses and infrastructure. For example, a river that supplies water, power, transport and recreation may, when in flood, drown people, destroy settlements and crops, and disrupt all civil and other activity, producing a disaster. Thresholds, defined by geo- and social-ecological conditions, distinguish between resource and hazard. Using case studies from the Canadian Rocky Mountains, European Alps, Indian Himalaya, Peruvian Andes, and Hengduan Mountains of Southwest China, this presentation will describe the dynamic character and spatial and temporal variability of the resource-hazard thresholds in high mountain regions. In doing so, it will demonstrate and explain that risk of disaster, while variable, has increased substantially.

Biography: **James Gardner** is a Professor Emeritus at the Natural Resources Institute. He was Vice President (Academic) and Provost from 1991-2001, and from 2001-2005 he was Executive Director of International Relations of the University. Dr. Gardner's research is in the areas of geological, glaciological and hydrological processes and hazards and land use history and landscape changes in mountain environment.

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