Food Sovereignty and Fome Zero: Cultivating Agrarian Citizenship in Mato Grosso, Brazil

Dr. Hannah Wittman, University of British Columbia

Date: Thursday, April 2nd, 2015
Time: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Place: Klaus Hochheim Theatre (5th floor, Wallace Building)

Abstract: In Brazil, the Fome Zero (Zero Hunger) social welfare program has created innovative links between urban nutrition and food security programs and rural development initiatives including agrarian reform and mediated market support for the family farm sector. I will discuss our participatory evaluation of the experience of land reform beneficiaries in six municipalities in Mato Grosso, Brazil who were contracted to produce food for the Programa de Aquisição de Alimentos (Food Procurement Program-PAA) and the Programa Nacional de Alimentação Escolar (National School Feeding Program – PNAE) under the umbrella of Fome Zero. This evaluation offers insight into the potential of public food procurement programs to simultaneously address urban food security and rural local food system development, and assesses the extent to which these mediated market relations serve as a pathway to food sovereignty and agrarian citizenship.

Biography: Hannah Wittman is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Land and Food Systems and the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES) at the University of British Columbia. Her research projects examine the ways that the rights to produce and consume food are contested and transformed through struggles for agrarian reform, food sovereignty, and agrarian citizenship.

12:00 p.m. Free pizza lunch for graduate students with Dr. Wittman, Dean’s Office Boardroom - 440 Wallace Building.