



Lecture

ANNA TSING Anthropology University of California, Santa Cruz

Monday, May 21, 2007
4:00 pm
Communications 120
Reception to follow

Figures of Capitalist Globalization: Firm Models and Chain Links

Global capitalism is not what it used to be. The return of sweatshops, “branding,” Wal-Mart, and out-of-season cherries points to the reorganization of global supply chains around self-consciously cultural mobilizations of labor and capital. Monolithic theories of capitalism are not enough to understand this situation. This talk offers a feminist theory of global capitalism in which subcontracting and allied forms configure and link newly segregated economic niches.

Anna Tsing is Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her most recent book, *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection* (2005), offers a theory of transnationalism through an exploration of environmental crisis in Indonesia. She is currently involved in collaborative research on the global commodity chain and the transnational scientific network surrounding Pacific Rim forest foraging for a Japanese gourmet mushroom called matsutake.

This lecture is part of the *Global Futures* project sponsored by the Simpson Center for the Humanities. The core theme of this project explores how youth are linked to converging crises in public life around education, labor, militarization, criminalization, and technology and how global processes affecting young people are playing out in different locations, with particular emphases on Africa, East Asia, and South Asia.

This lecture is also sponsored by The Institute for Transnational Studies and the Southeast Asia Center.

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