ISLAND TOPOGRAPHIES: Mapping Caribbean Ecopoetics

Deforestation and the Yearning for Lost Landscapes in Caribbean Literatures **Lizbeth Paravisini-Gebert**

**Wednesday, March 30, 2011**
**4:00 - 5:30 PM, 315 PH**
**Light refreshments served.**

From a very early stage in the development of Caribbean literature, its writers have explored the relationship between colonialism and the environment, unveiling the environmental threat posed by continued deforestation on the wake of the Colombian encounter. Through a panoramic look at key texts in Caribbean literature, this lecture addresses, among other topics, the importance of the forests as symbols and realities in post-independence national formations. The forests emerge in the literatures of the Caribbean as new Edens, as alternatives to the sugar plantation, and as vital elements in environmental sustainability.


The Metaphysics of Nature in the Poetry of Derek Walcott **George Handley**

**Friday, April 29, 2011**
**1:00 - 3:00 PM, 315 PH**
**Catered lunch will be served.**

This lecture will explore meditations on death and spirituality in the poetry of Derek Walcott, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1992. He will focus on the dialectic between materialism and metaphysics in the natural world in Walcott’s recent poetry as well as in some of his unpublished work.


These events are sponsored by International Programs, European Studies Group, the Department of Cinema and Comparative Literature, the Department of English, and the Department of Spanish & Portuguese.