

**THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS**

**CENTER OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES**

*PROUDLY PRESENTS THE*

**2010 WAGGONER RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM**

**"Conservation and Biodiversity  
Knowledge in Latin America"**

*...crossing disciplinary, political, and biogeographic boundaries  
using scientific and customary understandings*

**Joane Nagel, PhD**

*University Distinguished Professor of Sociology*

**A. Townsend Peterson, Ph.D.**

*University Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*

**Jorge Soberón, Ph.D.**

*Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*

**Gregory T. Cushman, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor of History*

**Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 4-7pm, Malott Room, Kansas Union**

## **Climates and Borders: Climate Change, Monarch Butterflies, and Local Economies in Mexico**

**Joane Nagel, PhD**

*University Distinguished Professor of Sociology*

*Director, NSF C-CHANGE IGERT Program*

*Department of Sociology*

*University of Kansas*

This interdisciplinary graduate seminar in KU's National Science Foundation IGERT (Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship) program, C-CHANGE (Climate Change, Humans, and Nature in the Global Environment) examined the cross-border migration between the US and Mexico of Monarch butterflies with the goal of understanding the ecological, geographic, social, and political policy factors that shape the migration in the United States and Mexico. The course was taught by bioscience, atmospheric science, and geography faculty to PhD students from a variety of disciplines with the goals of fostering both an interdisciplinary and international understanding of global climate change.



## **Building the Library: Five Centuries of Exploration of Mexican Bird Diversity and Distributions**

**A. Townsend Peterson, Ph.D.**

*University Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*

*Natural History Museum & Biodiversity Research Institute*

*Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*

*University of Kansas*

The history of Ornithology in Mexico is the product of centuries of exploration by scientists and collectors. Their work has been linked intimately to the political and environmental historical context in which they were working, at times constraining the work that was accomplished. This talk provides an overview of the history of Mexican ornithology, from the 1500s to present, focusing on key and little-known contributors. The result, at the end of the half-millennium, is the present knowledge of the birds of Mexico—in this way, history feeds into science.



## The Road to Survival Leads South: The Latin American Roots of the Land Ethic

**Gregory T. Cushman, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor of History*

*Department of History*

*University of Kansas*

This presentation contemplates wildlife scientist Aldo Leopold's late 1930s visits to the Río Gavilán wilderness in the Sierra Madre of Chihuahua and his close relationship to ornithologist William Vogt – who spent three years studying the guano birds of Peru – and the pivotal role this shared experience played in the generation of Leopold's 1949 essay "The Land Ethic," which is widely considered to be the most important work in environmental philosophy of the twentieth century.



## The prism of knowledge. Mexico and its biological nature

**Jorge Soberón, Ph.D.**

*Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*

*Natural History Museum & Biodiversity Research Institute*

*Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*

*University of Kansas*

This presentation unveils how two paths to the knowledge of Mexican biodiversity, the indigenous and the western, have converged, touching sometimes and diverging often. "The indigenous peoples of Mexico developed and maintain a very significant amount of biological knowledge that was acknowledged and compiled by the conquerors. However, over the last two centuries there has been a huge growth of the western approach, culminating in the creation of major electronic archives and databases, with, in the recent years, the birth of so-called "citizen's science." Is it desirable, or even possible, for these three major points of view about the biological world – western science, indigenous traditional knowledges, and citizen science – to communicate and support each other? Or is it one bound to dominate?"