

TITLE: Social Movements and Sustainability: Contributions, Debates and Outreach

HOSTS: Wendy Wolford and Shorna Allred

DATE: Tuesday, October 1, 2013 – 12:00-1:00pm – 300 Rice Hall

Abstract:

Making an impact on the ground in sustainability arguably requires bringing together markets, governments and civil society. Sustainable development organizations, in particular, emphasize the importance of collectivities – from trade associations to communities to social movements – for building the adaptive capacity necessary for just, sustainable futures. And yet, there is often a divide between sustainability science in the academy and social movements. This topical lunch features a guest from one of Latin America's largest grassroots rural social movements, the Brazilian Landless Movement (referred to by its Portuguese acronym, the MST, for short). We will use the lunch forum to learn more about the ways in which the MST approaches issues of sustainability, technology and science. We will discuss the potential contributions social movements offer to sustainability science and vice versa as well as the tensions between the two. This lunch builds on a previous topical lunch around social mobilization and climate change, and we hope that participants will develop future collaborations.