TITLE: Engendering Resilience: Building Sustainable Communities through Women's Collective Action

HOSTS: Wendy Wolford, ACSF Associate Director and Polson Professor of Development Sociology; Brian Byrd, Master in City and Regional Planning, Class of 2015

DATE: Thursday March 6, 2014, 12:00-1:00 PM 300 Rice Hall

The topical lunch featured invited guest Thais Corral, Executive Director of the transnational non-governmental organization, the Women, Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). Thais discussed her work in the periphery of Rio de Janeiro, a city known for its expansive urban sprawl, slum communities and environmental challenges. The conversation during lunch focused on urban resilience as a key piece of a sustainable future. As more of the world's population comes to reside in urban areas, many of which already lack sufficient basic services and economic opportunities, climate change, pollution and resource degradation will threaten everyday life and livelihoods. In Brazil, where 80% of the population lives in cities, there is a broad network of women community leaders working collectively to identify environmental risks in their communities. Thais Corral introduced the lunch with a short discussion of the challenges women face and the policy and societal support they need to pursue community-led actions to improve community resilience. Participants also discussed some of the parallels between the work in urban Brazil and work on Sustainable Communities, Rust2Green and Civic Ecologies in the Department of Natural Resources. The lunch is part of a larger project to better understand how to forge linkages across issues of development, gender, collective action and sustainable urban communities.

Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future TOPICAL LUNCH – Thais Corral, Executive Director of the transnational non-governmental organization, the Women, Environment and Development Organization (WEDO).

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Organizers:

Sign In	Last Name	First Name	Net ID or email	Dept	College
	Wolford	Wendy	www43	DEVSOC	CALS
	Byrd	Brian	led24	AAP	

Participants:

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Sign In	Last Name	First Name	Net ID or email	Dept	College	
	Chung	Youjin Brigitte	ybc6@cornell.edu	DEVSOC		
	Horrigan	Paula	phh3@cornell.edu	ARCH		
	Tester	Jeff	jwt54@cornell.edu	ACSF		
	DiSalvo	Frank	fjd3@cornell.edu			
	Young	Sera Louise	Sera.young@cornell.edu	ACSF		
	Chambliss	Lauren	elc55@cornell.edu	ACSF		

Hickey	Amanda	amandahickey@gmail.com		
Shenk	Tim	culsarspanishcamp@gmail.com	CULSAR	
Leonard	Lori	ll536@cornell.edu	DEVSOC	
Schnoes	Helen	has236@cornell.edu		
Wolford	Wendy	www43@cornell.edu	DEVSOC	
Touesnard	Monica	mat59@cornell.edu	SGE	
Goldstein	Shoshana	shoshanarg@gmail.com		
Walsh-Dilley	Marygold	ms396@cornell.edu	DEVSOC	
Choi	Hena	hc778@cornell.edu		
Thomas	Amber	agt42@cornell.edu		