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PRESENTED BY THE
WATERLOO INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

DC 1304

THE ECOLOGICAL HOOFPRIINT: MEAT, ENERGY, AND SUSTAINABILITY

Tony Weis, Associate Professor of Geography, Western University

For millennia, livestock were a fundamental source of energy on farms and in human societies. Today, livestock production is a large and growing consumer of energy and source of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. This is entwined with the fact that the average person on earth today eats twice as much meat as only two generations ago, a broad global trend which also contains enormous inequalities.

This talk will explain the 'ecological hoofprint', a conceptual framework that helps to understand why the soaring global production and consumption of animal foods has become a pivotal sustainability problem.

BIOGRAPHY



Tony Weis

Tony Weis' interests are broadly located in the field of political ecology, with a focus on agriculture and rural development. Attention to the wider political economic context of small farmer's struggles led Weis on a path towards his first book, *The Global Food Economy: The Battle for the Future of Farming* (2007), which analyzes how the global system of agricultural production and trade evolved and has been institutionally entrenched, with a focus on its extreme social imbalances and ecological instabilities. Weis has a focus on problems associated with one of the most powerful dimensions of world agriculture, the industrial grain-oilseed-livestock complex, culminating in his second book, *The Ecological Hoofprint: The Global Burden of Industrial Livestock* (2013).