

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

The 2015-2016 Geography Colloquium Series is funded in part through the John Nelson endowment and the alumni, faculty, and friends of Ohio State Geography endowment

Tania Murray Li

Professor Department of Anthropology
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Edward J. "Ned" Taaffe Colloquium
Public Lecture

**Land's End:
Capitalist Relations on
an Indigenous Frontier**

Thursday, October 29, 2015
3:30-5:00 p.m.
Derby Hall 1080

Drawing on two decades of ethnographic research in Sulawesi, Indonesia, Tania Murray Li offers an intimate account of the emergence of capitalist relations among indigenous highlanders who privatized their common land to plant a global market crop, cacao. Some prospered; others lost their land. The story has potent messages for social movement activists, who expect indigenous people to be guardians of community, tradition, and food production. It also interrupts transition narratives in which people who lose their land march off to find jobs. When jobs are scarce, land's end is a dead end, from which a different politics must emerge.

Dr. Murray Li teaches in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto, where she holds the Canada Research Chair in the Political Economy and Culture of Asia. Her publications include *Land's End: Capitalist Relations on an Indigenous Frontier* (Duke University Press, 2014), *Powers of Exclusion: Land Dilemmas in Southeast Asia* (with Derek Hall and Philip Hirsch, NUS Press, 2011), *The Will to Improve: Governmentality, Development, and the Practice of Politics* (Duke University Press, 2007) and many articles on land, development, resource struggles, community, class, and indigeneity with a particular focus on Indonesia.



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