



**INSTITUTE FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCE AND POLICY**

**LEAP
and
Institute for Environmental Science and Policy**

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School of Public Policy
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"Do Invasive Species Harm the Environment?"

Thursday, November 12, 2009

4:00 p.m., Rm 4289 SEL

Science and Engineering Laboratories

840 West Taylor Street

Parking is available on the northeast corner of Taylor and Halsted.

Entrance on Taylor

Abstract:

Environmental science has no means to measure or describe environmental harm. Since ecology is not a normative science, it cannot identify endpoints of regulation or determine whether one environmental outcome is better or worse than another. The attempt by environmental scientists, including ecologists and economists, to make judgments of value has sunk their studies into useless confusion. The concept of harm to the environment such as may be associated with the effects of invasive species must be understood, if at all, in spiritual, aesthetic, historical, ethical, cultural, and political terms. Insofar as any environmental discipline develops a conception of environmental harm, it becomes a branch of religious or cultural studies and loses its way as an empirical science.

Please join us for refreshments before the seminar