

HENNEBACH PROGRAM

in the Humanities

The Hennebach Program in the Humanities invites you to a talk on

Meeting minds; Encountering Worlds: Sciences and other Expertises on the North Slope of Alaska

Monday November 16th

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in Marquez Hall 126

During the summer of 2006 a dozen young people, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, came together from three indigenous communities: Ixtlán de Juárez Oaxaca, San Juan Nuevo Parangaricutiro, Michoacán, and Barrow, Alaska. For two months students were incorporated into scientific research teams; they met with elders; they had weekly sessions with local language experts; they lived with families; and they participated in local subsistence activities. Out of this, Bodenhorn asks: How might distinct scientific disciplines (in this instance, biology, archaeology; and climatology) be differently accessible – as well as open – to knowledgeable, non-scientist others? To what extent that sense of ‘the accessible’ about the nature of disciplinary practice, interdisciplinarity, and/or of the particular collaborative relations involved? ‘Complexity’ is increasingly made visible in research being carried out in the natural as well as the social sciences. It is very much a factor in the design of collaborative projects. Many potential obstacles may stand in the way before such collaborations can productively ‘take hold,’ Bodenhorn suggests, but the ‘science/lay divide’ is not necessarily one of them.



Barbara Bodenhorn