

*Presenting*

# **RICHARD WIDICK**

## **“DANGEROUS PLACES: ETHNOGRAPHY AT THE GLOBAL CONVERGENCE OF PEOPLE, LABOR & ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS”**

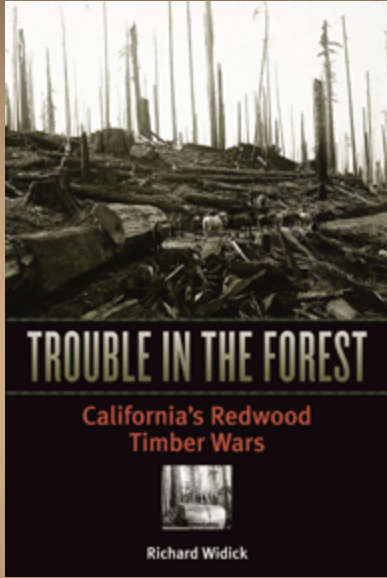
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**Thursday, March 11, 2010**

**12:00 pm**

**Orfalea Center Seminar Room**

**1005 Robertson Gym**



Richard Widick is a visiting scholar at the Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

In his recent book on the redwood timber wars of the Humboldt Bay region of northern California (*Trouble in the Forest: California's Redwood Timber Wars*, U. of Minnesota Press, 2009), Richard Widick put ethnography, social history and cultural sociology to work in trying to understand the societal engines of this contemporary environmental conflict and tease out its implications for globalization. In this new talk, the author uses the case study to outline a method for engaging a world that many believe is on the brink of environmental calamity. If Global Studies in particular, and the social sciences in general, want to keep up with this deteriorating global social-ecology and stay relevant to its cause, they should seek out these dangerous places and subject them to focused ethnographic scrutiny, historical inquiry, and cultural analysis. In places like Humboldt, where capital runs up against external, environmental limits to infinite accumulation, ethnographers can and should be focusing on local struggles to save remnant communities of nature, labor, and indigenous peoples.