



(Research on Lifestyles, Values and Environment)
UNIVERSITY OF SURREY, Guildford, Surrey GU2 7XH

FORTHCOMING SEMINAR

25th October 2007, 1300-1400

45b AZ 04
University of Surrey

Thomas Henfrey

**Managing behaviour for sustainability:
lessons from traditional resource use.**

Persistent occupation of spatially delimited sites by traditional resource users requires the existence of mechanisms to ensure long-term ecological security. Such mechanisms combine rationally devised knowledge and practice with diverse non-rational modes of perception and action.

Their capacity to provide functional solutions to complex resource management problems contrasts with the relative failure of strategies based upon a purely rationalist science. The composite epistemology characteristic of traditional resource use represents a minimum - but not sufficient - condition for its ecological sustainability.

This seminar will present an account of subsistence horticulture and hunting among Wapishana Amerindians in Southern Guyana, describing how traditional mechanisms for the cultural regulation of behaviour maintain these activities within the limits of ecological resilience of their tropical forest setting. It will then discuss implications of these findings for efforts to promote environmentally friendly behaviour in modern industrialised settings.

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