

# Geography Speaker Series

## Department of Geography

### SPRING 2017



## **Dr. Rosalind Fredericks**

**Associate Professor  
in the Gallatin School,  
New York University**

**February 24, 2017  
3:00 PM  
TIL-246  
Livingston Camps**



### ***Garbage Citizenship: Vibrant Infrastructures of Discard In Dakar, Senegal***

Rosalind Fredericks's research examines contestations surrounding household waste in Dakar, Senegal. Dakar's city streets have oscillated between remarkably tidy and dangerously disorderly as the city's garbage infrastructure has become the stage for struggles over government, the value of labor, and the dignity of the working poor in Senegal's neoliberal era. Her work details how disciplining people through the burdens of waste disposal has become a primary mode of state power and, at the same time, how these ordering projects have been intensely fraught. Through clogging streets with the city's rejectamenta, garbage activists have waged a visceral refusal to be refuse. Often framed through discourses of Islamic piety, their struggles have provided a potent language to critique Senegal's neoliberal trajectory and assert rights to fair labor. Drawing on this rich history, she seeks to reframe how we understand the role of labor in infrastructural politics and the vibrant materiality of citizenship struggles.