

**TITLE:** Planetary boundaries and poverty alleviation – do we have to choose?

**HOST:** Wendy Wolford, ACSF Associate Director and Polson Professor of Development Sociology  
Laurie Drinkwater, ACSF Faculty Fellow and Associate Professor, Horticulture

**DATE:** Tuesday February 25, 2014, 12:00 - 1:00 PM 300 Rice Hall

This lunch will highlight the work of **Mathis Wackernagel, Executive Director of Global Ecological Footprint Network and Frank T. Rhodes Professor.**

Mathis is interested in exploring potential research collaborations with Cornell faculty. The global debate around sustainability and development is gridlocked, whether it is the development of the post-Rio+20 SDG (sustainable development goals), the shaping of international development policy, or the design of stimulus for an economy marred by financial crisis. The debate boils down to the tension between **recognizing planetary limits versus “the right to develop.”** Breaking or at least clarifying this gridlock would be the most transformational piece to add to the current debate. What are the choices? How much ecological debt can we accumulate before it is economically disadvantageous? Where are the synergies between poverty alleviation and recognizing resource limitations? What are the knowledge gaps in both the natural and social sciences for addressing this fundamental gridlock in the development debate?

Mathis is co-creator of the Ecological Footprint and has worked on sustainability issues for organizations in Europe, Latin America, North America, Asia and Australia, and has lectured for community groups, governments and their agencies, NGOs, and academic audiences at more than 100 universities around the world.

**Note:** This lunch will follow a talk the evening before at 4:30 in 200 Savage Hall on the same topic, continuing the conversation with a focus on possible research collaborations. Faculty are invited to attend both but you are welcome to join the lunch whether or not you attend the lecture on Monday.

**More about the Global Ecological Footprint Network:**  
<http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/>