TITLE: Engendering Resilience: Building Sustainable Communities through Women's Collective Action

HOSTS: Wendy Wolford, ACSF Associate Director and Polson Professor of Development Sociology; Brian Byrd, Master in City and Regional Planning, Class of 2015

DATE: Thursday March 6, 2014, 12:00-1:00 PM 300 Rice Hall

The topical lunch featured invited guest Thais Corral, Executive Director of the transnational non-governmental organization, the Women, Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). Thais discussed her work in the periphery of Rio de Janeiro, a city known for its expansive urban sprawl, slum communities and environmental challenges. The conversation during lunch focused on urban resilience as a key piece of a sustainable future. As more of the world's population comes to reside in urban areas, many of which already lack sufficient basic services and economic opportunities, climate change, pollution and resource degradation will threaten everyday life and livelihoods. In Brazil, where 80% of the population lives in cities, there is a broad network of women community leaders working collectively to identify environmental risks in their communities. Thais Corral introduced the lunch with a short discussion of the challenges women face and the policy and societal support they need to pursue community-led actions to improve community resilience. Participants also discussed some of the parallels between the work in urban Brazil and work on Sustainable Communities, Rust2Green and Civic Ecologies in the Department of Natural Resources. The lunch is part of a larger project to better understand how to forge linkages across issues of development, gender, collective action and sustainable urban communities.

Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future TOPICAL LUNCH – Thais Corral, Executive Director of the transnational non-governmental organization, the Women, Environment and Development Organization (WEDO).

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Organizers:

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Participants:

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