



Engineering for the Developing World Seminar Series.

"Sustainable Engineering in the Developing World: Engineering Anthropology for Global Justice"

Scott M. Lacy
Emory University

2.00 - 3.00 pm, Tuesday 6th May, 2008,
Room 2053, Materials Research Laboratory.

Abstract:

Billions of dollars are spent every year in the name of international development while the persistence of extreme poverty, greed, and inequality undermine the very premise of development itself. Promoters of sustainable development advocate multi-disciplined methodologies for understanding and addressing our world's social, economic, and ecological crises and questions. The bridging of anthropology and engineering, for example, has the potential to create enduring contributions throughout the developing world. Anthropological methods and perspectives can help intrepid engineers who seek to apply their knowledge in the service of humankind. Moreover, anthropological engineering has the potential to serve and transform the engineer as much as the host community in which he or she may be working.

Brief Biography:

Scott Lacy is Marjorie Shostak Distinguished Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology at Emory University. He is also the founder and Executive Director of African Sky, Inc., a non-profit organization that serves hard-working farm families in rural Mali, West Africa. His research interests include: sustainable development, food production, and intellectual property rights associated with participatory plant breeding. Lacy earned his PhD in Anthropology at UC Santa Barbara where he taught in the Department of Black Studies. Lacy has worked in Mali since 1994 when he served in the Peace Corps.



Host: Professor Roy Smith (roy@ece.ucsb.edu)

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