

Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) – Annual Conference

‘Rethinking difference: beyond language, culture and indigeneity’

**Keynote Lecture: Percy Building G.05 Thursday 30 March, 2017, 11.30 am –
1.00 pm**

‘Uncommoning nature’

Marisol de la Cadena, University of Davis, California

Increasing consumption of minerals and energy has led to an unprecedented—and critical—destruction of what we know as nature and natural resources. Usually located in territories inhabited by indigenous groups, the latter have responded politically to this destruction, frequently joining political movements that protest the destruction of the environment. Yet most intriguingly, these mobilizations have made public that nature and its resources are *not only* such: what is being destroyed is *also* other-than-human beings, crucial participants in worlds that do not abide by the ontological division between nature and humanity. The talk conceptualizes the potential emergence of a political form that the state cannot recognize—a radically different politics—as it becomes public locally (yet ubiquitously in many places) and in conjunction with the geo-historical phenomenon known as the Anthropocene.

Conceptualizing the emergence of a radically different politics as ‘uncommoning nature,’ I argue that a condition of possibility for the potential destruction of the world as we know it is what I am calling the ‘anthropo-not seen:’ a world-making process through which heterogeneous worlds that do not make themselves through the division between humans and nonhumans—*nor necessarily conceive as such the different entities in their assemblages*—are *both* obliged into that distinction *and* exceed it.

All are welcome. Please register here:

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/clacs/events/item/internationalconferencere thinkingdifferencebeyondlanguage.html>