

**Fall Lecture, November 11, 2009, 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

Experiments in sustainability: the implementation of nature's services in the city. Cities have now begun to embrace sustainability and the notion that their environmental impacts can be mitigated to some degree by implementing "nature's services." These include planting trees, installing bioswales, restoring watersheds, implementing low impact development standards.

This approach has many fascinating aspects from reflecting ideas of nature (what species of trees get planted, for example) and the borrowing of restoration ecology vocabulary, to implementation (who actually does the work), to the financing of this new infrastructure (who pays, and who is impacted). Moreover, it represents a substantial shift from conventional grey centralized infrastructure (the sanitary city model) to a decentralized approach that relies on complex biological processes. We shall explore some of these issues and paradoxes this new approach creates.

**About the Speaker**

Dr. Pincetl, Director of the Center on People and the Environment, has a PhD from UCLA's former Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning. She is a Researcher at the Institute of the Environment at UCLA and a Social Science Researcher at the US Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station. She has published extensively on issues of environmental policies and regulation. The content of her research is land use, land use change, with a focus on urban environments and the transformations of their natural environments. The theoretical core of her research is environmental politics, policies and governance and specifically, the ways that rules and rulemaking impact the participants in decision-making and the content of decisions. Rules can be formal or informal, hard or soft, but they form the boundaries of what is perceived of as possible. Dr. Pincetl has studied land use, infrastructure, and environmental preservation or services.