
GCSC Seminar Series

210 ASB
(Aline Skaggs
Building)

ALL ARE WELCOME

Refreshments &
meet the speaker at
3:45

Tuesday, November 5, 2019
4:00-5:00 PM

Jeff Rose

Assistant Professor, Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, U Utah

“Homelessness, Political Ecology, and Critical Sustainability”



A critical spatial approach to unsheltered homelessness positions it as both a social and environmental justice concern that confronts common understandings of sustainability.

Abstract

Critical social theorists have long argued that there can be no justice if there is not a space in which that justice can be attained. For individuals facing unsheltered homelessness, their access to private space is limited, meaning that much of their existence takes place in the (urban) public domain. Therefore, everyday processes of living, eating, sleeping, and socializing become contested processes of sociospatial access to various spaces in the city, including many unbuilt environments like parks, riparian corridors, and other socio-natural locations. What are the social, ecological, political, and managerial ramifications of these relationships? This presentation will leverage perspectives from political ecology to explore both emic and etic social science research that informs critical social and environmental perspectives of unsheltered homelessness. The presentation will make a normative case for a critical sustainability that both directly implicates dominant political economic arrangements and common objectified notions of nature-society relations.

Bio

Dr. Jeff Rose is an assistant professor in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism in the College of Health at the University of Utah. Jeff's research agenda explores productions of social and environmental (in)justice through the interlocking systemic inequities associated with class, race, political economy, and relationships to nonhuman nature. He has pursued a diverse set of questions that critically examine issues of public space, productions of nature, connection to place, neoliberalism, and various non-normative behaviors.