

Biology Seminar



Western
UNIVERSITY · CANADA

12:30 - 1:30 pm
Friday, March 31, 2023
Via Zoom



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A Study of Place: The Role of Long-Term Field Station Data in Land Management, Policy and Science-driven Decisions in the Adirondack Park

The 2.4 million hectare Adirondack Park in northern New York State is described as the “Great Experiment in Conservation.” It is the largest wild space in the eastern United States and is the majority of the UNESCO-designated Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Region. Yet this large state park is roughly half private land with 130,000 year-round residents living in over a hundred communities. Encompassing the headwaters of the St. Lawrence River, Hudson River and other watersheds, the park’s mountains, lakes and streams annually support millions of visitors, and a long history of human-landscape interaction and rural-urban connection. Adirondack Park has a unique multilayered governance structure and is a fascinating place to interrogate policy decisions around recreation, land use, biodiversity conservation, pollution prevention and more. The SUNY ESF Adirondack Ecological Center is a 6,000 hectare field station in the center of the park that for nearly a century has been a hub of observation of the natural world. We will explore some of the long-term, scientific research at AEC that can be useful to understand the Adirondack region, and how lessons from Adirondack Park might benefit large landscape planning in other social-ecological systems.

