

SEMINAR SERIES 2017 -18

Science as Prophecy: Paleo Perspectives on Environmental Change



MELISSA
CHAPPIN

As ecology emerged as a scientific discipline in the early twentieth century, a number of influential ecologists argued that the basic function of science, and ecology in particular, was “to give perspective to the human adventure and from that perspective to provide direction for the long future.” This vision of ecology as a predictive science is at first surprising. Ecology is usually understood as a descriptive science, interested in characterizing change and uniformity, instability and equilibrium, as well as competition and cooperation in plant and animal communities. Yet, at its root, ecologists promoted ecology as prophecy.



12:30 PM to 2:00 PM, Tuesday Jan. 16th



BC 203 (Norman's)



Light lunch provided