

**TITLE:** Engendering Resilience: Building Sustainable Communities through Women's Collective Action

**HOSTS:** Wendy Wolford, ACSF Associate Director and Polson Professor of Development Sociology  
Brian Byrd, Master in City and Regional Planning, Class of 2015

**DATE:** Thursday March 6, 2014, 12:00 -1:00 PM 300 Rice Hall

This lunch is hosted by Wendy Wolford and Brian Byrd and will feature a short introduction by THAIS CORRAL, Executive Director of the transnational non-governmental organization, the Women, Environment and Development Organization (WEDO).

**ABSTRACT:** Urban resilience is an important topic in discussions of a sustainable future. As more of the world's population comes to reside in urban areas, many of which already lack sufficient basic services and economic opportunities, climate change, pollution and resource degradation will threaten everyday life and livelihoods. In Brazil, where 80% of the population lives in cities, there is a broad network of women community leaders working collectively to identify environmental risks in their communities. Thais Corral will introduce the lunch with a short discussion of the challenges women face and the policy and societal support they need to pursue community-led actions to improve community resilience. We hope to better understand how to forge linkages across Cornell on issues of development, gender, collective action and sustainable urban communities.

**More about THAIS CORRAL, Msc**

Executive Director

Women, Environment and Development Organization

As part of the Women's Global Movement, Thais Corral was one of the leaders of women's participation at the Earth Summit in 1992. Together with American Congress representative, Bella Abzug and Nobel Award Winner, Wangari Mathaai, she founded WEDO (Women, Environment and Development Organization). In 2006, WEDO received the Champion of the Earth Award from the United Nations Environment Program. Corral conceived and implemented a women's radio network which links 400 women's radio programs and their communities throughout Brazil. The network was built over a period of 20 years through dialogue and innovative projects. Today many of these programs have integrated ICTs and community telecentres as part of their operations. The project is considered a best practice worldwide. Currently, Corral is part of the board of directors of a major global initiative to address climate change and reduce poverty. SouthSouthNorth ([southsouthnorth.org](http://southsouthnorth.org)) is now based in six countries (Brazil, South Africa, Tanzania, Mozambique, Bangladesh, and Indonesia). Its focus is to leapfrog projects that contribute to mitigating and adapting to climate change while simultaneously addressing the issue of poverty.

Note: If interested, THAIS CORRAL will host a follow up lecture, "Leadership for the Transition to Sustainability: How to Improve our Agency to Benefit the World," at the International Planning Colloquium sponsored by the Department of City and Regional Planning in the School of Architecture, Art, and Planning Friday, March 7, 2014 at 12:20 p.m. in 280 Martha Van Rensselaer Hall