



Public Administration Research Colloquium

Organized by the Center for Public and Nonprofit Management (CPNM)

Hear leading experts discuss contemporary problems and strategies in public administration research and practice during this event.

Applying Habermas's Critical Theory to Public Administration and Policy: A Case Study of the Florida Everglades Restoration Program

By **Dr. Claire Knox**

Wednesday, October 20

4:00-5:30 p.m.

HPA II – 247

Please RSVP by October 19, Tuesday to Fatih Demiroz at fdemiroz@mail.ucf.edu.

Dr. Knox's research applies critical theory to analyze public policies surrounding the Florida Everglades. Critical theory suggests conflicting interests and policy agendas will be reflected in FL Everglades restoration policy, most noticeably through communicative distortions and blockages that suppress and conceal tensions between environmental and economic priorities. Dr. Knox's case study challenges a number of assumptions of mainstream policy research. The case study results demonstrate that mainstream policy research actually relies on a comprehensive set of assumptions that it fails to recognize. Moreover, her analysis suggests that a set of unacknowledged premises constitutes a paradigm in need of articulation and assessment.

Dr. Claire Knox

Dr. Claire Knox is an assistant professor in the Public Administration Department at UCF. Originally from southern Louisiana, she was formerly with the U.S.G.S. National Wetlands Research Center as an Interpretative Specialist for the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act before attending Florida State University for her Master's and Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy. Her direct experience with wetland scientists, public administrators, and elected officials at all levels of government drove her to study the scientific miscommunication occurring in the policy arena. Research interests include social construction theory, critical theory, emergency management, and environmental policy, decision making, and public opinion. Dr. Knox won SECOPA's 2008 Collin's Award for Best Ph.D. Student Paper, and has co-authored a 2008 Public Administration Review article and an International City/County Management Association article.

