

The 2009-2010 Klopsteg seminar series in Science in Human Culture presents

GREGG MITMAN

University of Wisconsin – Madison

**LATEX AND BLOOD: SCIENCE,
MARKETS, AND AMERICAN EMPIRE**

Monday, February 8, 2010

4:00 –5:30 pm

**Hagstrum Room,
University Hall 201**

refreshments served

Gregg Mitman is William Coleman Professor of the History of Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he also serves as Interim Director of the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. His most recent books include *Reel Nature: America's Romance with Wildlife on Film*, 2d ed. (2009) and *Breathing Space: How Allergies Shape Our Lives and Landscapes* (2007).

During the 20th century, the US developed a unique kind of empire, one bound together less by military conquest and direct political administration than by the expansion of markets, corporate influence, and cultural exchange. The ties between the US and Liberia, cemented in the 1920s when the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company successfully established a major rubber plantation in the country, exemplify this new imperial relationship. Through a focus on the Harvard African Expedition to Liberia in 1926, this talk investigates the relationships among science, business, and the state in the economic transformation of nature and a nation.