

The Department of Anthropology
2009-2010 Colloquium Series
Presents:

Ari Samsky

Postdoctoral Research Scholar
Global Health Studies Program
University of Iowa

Friday, April 16, 2010
4:00 P.M.
40 Schaeffer Hall

*Living through Population: Bodies, Endemicity,
and Technologies of the State in Two
International Drug Donation Programs*

This talk charts metaphors and values of the body to understand how international drug donation programs create and manage populations. Drawing on two case studies (Merck's donation of ivermectin and Pfizer's donation of azithromycin), I follow how groups of international public health practitioners use various understandings of bodies to create scientific and public relations value, and how local actors in the Morogoro region of Tanzania refashion public health ideas about their bodies. Through mass drug administration and legally enforced hygienic strictures ("behavior change") internationally developed programs enter communities and modulate individual lives at a very fine level. They do this through disease endemicity measured at the statistical level. Ultimately, I ask how these population-focused techniques understand and represent disease and health, and how they reconfigure the relationship between individuals, populations, the market and the state.

If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact the Department of Anthropology in advance at 335-0522.