How should a rapidly growing nation in the Global South respond to climate change? My talk considers this question in the Peruvian Andes. Peru hosted the 2014 UN climate negotiations and recently passed a national climate law regulating limits to Peruvian emissions and impacts. However, the country is also expanding the extractive, emissions-intensive development that has been vital to its recent growth. In the increasingly drought-ridden agricultural villages of the Andes’ Colca Valley, state and non-governmental agents reconcile Peru’s contradictory attention to growth and climate change with a strategy I call “neoliberal adaptation”: a suite of development programs that posit that climate resilience is best achieved through entrepreneurship. This talk shows how Colca’s climate adaptation projects reinvent the category of “underdeveloped” as “low adaptive capacity” in a site where extractive industry is expanding. It also details how indigenous-identifying villagers step outside of the sustainable development framework to map their own responses to climate change.

Zoom details
Time: Oct 16, 2020 03:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
Meeting link: https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/93848733317?pwd=OEdCK2I2aDZaOW1tbkNnSzVzMzZz09
Meeting ID: 938 4873 3317
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