From Ecological Plague to a Political Infrastructure: The Water Hyacinth as a Resource for Clientelistic Politics in Nigeria

Studies on environmental politics have explored how environmental problems are subjected to varying levels of political responses based on the interests of capital, the state, and non-state actors. This is even as states all over the world are known to seek political leverage from addressing environmental concerns. But in none of such instances have we witnessed a conscious effort at converting an ecological plague into articles for clientelistic politics. In this presentation, Dr. Ololajulo seeks to explain the historical and political processes that see water hyacinth, a dreaded weed, transiting from being an environmental menace to a resource for electioneering. The presentation focuses on the theatrics of water weed removal, and the way it intertwines with the discourses of environmental management, and the entire business of statecraft in Nigeria.

Wednesday, February 8, 2017
12:00 PM
Grace Allen Room,
USF-Tampa Library, 4th Floor