Tania del Mar López Marrero joins us as an Assistant Professor, a joint appointment with the Department of Latino and Hispanic Caribbean Studies. Tania holds a BSc in Environmental Sciences from the University of Puerto Rico and a MSc and a PhD in Geography from The Pennsylvania State University.

Her research interests include the relationships between humans and the environment, such as vulnerability, adaptive capacity and resilience to natural hazards, ecosystem services and drivers of ecosystem change, and land use and land cover change. Based on the belief that there are multiple ways of learning and means of conducting research, Tania uses a variety of approaches, methods and techniques—primarily participatory methods along with a variety of techniques such as Spatial Analysis, and tools such as Geographic Information Systems.

One component of the application of geographic techniques in her research is apparent in her cartographic representations of environmental data. Drawing on her expertise in cartography and GIS, she designed the maps and graphics for *Atlas Ambiental de Puerto Rico (The Environmental Atlas of Puerto Rico)* (San Juan, Puerto Rico: U Puerto Rico Press, 2006), co-authored with Nancy Villanueva Colón, Tania’s former professor at the University of Puerto Rico. This book is being used in many of Puerto Rico’s schools and universities to teach environmental issues as well as geography.

**Faculty Grants 2011**

**Robin Leichenko:** Barnegat Bay Partnership, “Economic Vulnerability & Adaptation to Climate Hazards and Climate Change: Building Resilience in the Barnegat Bay Region”

**David Robinson:** Updates to Snow Cover Extent and Snow Depth Products. NOAA.
- Tracking and Interpreting of NJ Weather. NJ OEM
- NJFireNet: USDA Forest Service.

**Initiative on Climate & Society**

Under the directorship of Robin Leichenko, the Initiative on Climate and Society joined the Geography Department effective July 1, 2011. http://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/

**Geography Welcomes A New Chair!**

Richard Schroeder was elected chair of the School of Arts and Sciences Geography Department effective July 1, 2011.
Tania believes that research should benefit society, especially disadvantaged groups. She seeks to share research findings with the communities in which she works by incorporating educational materials and workshops for the benefit of stakeholders, as well as to peers. Communities and individual participants should, in Dr. López Marrero’s view, know how much their participation contributes to the research. They should be aware of the researcher’s gratitude. Growing up in the central mountains of tropical Puerto Rico, Tania is very connected with nature and enjoys gardening, nature photography, and sounds of nature recording. She also enjoys Isabel Allende books, and collecting folk art. In moving to Rutgers, Tania plans to continue her cross-disciplinary research with a new group of very active peers, even if it is a bit colder than home.

**Faculty Publications**

**Birkenholtz**

**Leichenko**
- Leichenko, R. Climate Change and Urban Resilience. 2011 *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, Vol 3

**López-Marrero**
- López-Marrero, T. and others. 2011. “*El Yunque Ecosystem Services*” Fact Sheets and Guides series. Developed in collaboration with the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station; available online at www.interfacedsouth.org/projects/el-yunque.

**Mitchell**
- Mitchell, James K. Review of Craig E. Colten, (Forthcoming 2011) Perilous place, powerful storms. in the *Journal of Historical Geography.*

**Rennermalm**

**Robinson**
- McDonnell, J., Bovitz, C. Ferraro, R. Lyons & D. Robinson 2011 (in press) How to increase global environmental awareness by hosting a climate and environmental change teen summit. *Green Teacher*
Mark Barnes: Graduate Program in Geography Teaching Excellence award

Monalisa Chatterjee: 2011 Gilbert F. White Award sponsored by the AAG’s Hazards Specialty Group

James Jeffers: Rutgers Graduate School Research Award for 2010-11

Samuel Ledermann: Graduate Program in Geography Graduate Teaching Excellence Award

Debby Scott: IGERT Graduate Training Fellowship, Renewable and Sustainable Fuels, Member, NSF-sponsored team of social scientists, Collaborative Event Ethnography, 10th Conference Parties, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Nagoya, Japan, Oct 2010.

Sean Tanner: James J. Parsons PhD Fieldwork Award of the Conference on Latin Americanist Geographers

Amelia Duffy-Tumasz: AAG Africa SG best student paper award

PhDs Awarded 2010-2011

- Elizabeth Barron (10/10)
- Monalisa Chatterjee (10/10)
- Dinali Fernando (10/10)
- Rosana Gralafs-Soto (10/10)

MA/MS Awarded 2010-2011

- Carl Figuieredo (1/11)
- Rachel Sutton
- Peter Vancura (1/11)
- Irene Zager

Kimberly Thomas: Study/Travel Award, Rutgers South Asian Studies Dept.

2011-12 Speakers Series

Sep 16 D. Robinson & J.K. Mitchell (Geography, Rutgers) Hurricane Irene Symposium


Nov 10 M. Kwan, Social & Behavioral Sciences, Ohio State Integrating Geographical Information System Technology with Qualitative Research and Critical Social Theory

Dec 2 R. Grant, Urban Studies, U Miami, Mapping the Real Informal Economy: Global Circuits of Electronic Waste (e-waste) in the Millennium City of Accra, Ghana


Feb 10 B. Bradley, Environmental Conservation, U Mass, Predicting Plant Invasions Under A Changing Climate

Apr 27 E. Svendsen, US Forest Service, Northern Research Stn., Civic Environmental Stewardship as a Form of Governance in New York City


Lu, Jacqueline W.T., Svendsen, Erika S., Campbell, Lindsay K., Greenfeld, Jennifer, Braden, Jessie, King, Kristen L., & Falxa-Raymond, Nancy. 2010. “Biological, social, and neighborhood design factors in young street tree mortality in New York City.” *Cities and the Environment* 3(1).


Lawson, Laura, Luke Drake, and Ena Kumar. "How much food can a community garden grow? Exploring ideals, myths, and potential impacts of community gardens as urban agriculture." In *City farms to city gardens: Farm to market in urban agriculture*. Edited by Alfonso Morales.

A fond farewell!

After over 25 years with the Geography Department, Elizabeth Ann Abbate-marco (aka Betty Ann) is leaving us to hang out with five grandchildren & a new puppy. She leaves some mighty big shoes to fill: a superhero to our students—able to smooth any problem with a single phone call—and for the rest of us, she’s been a “true north,” and a lot of fun. Betty Ann, you will be expected at all our theme parties!

Richard Schroeder, Department Chair and Undergraduate Program Director

Kevin St. Martin, Graduate Program Director

Mike Siegel, Cartographer/Newsletter

Elizabeth Ann Abbate-marco, Administration

Theresa Kirby, Newsletter