

ENVIRONMENTAL LECTURE SERIES



Which Way Is Up? A Conversation about the Use of Threshold Concepts for Building Participation in Environmental Studies

By Dr. Mark Barnes

Associate Professor of History and Geography at Morgan State University

Conversations about diversity in the study of environmental matters appear to be shifting more to discussions about inclusion. How are these threshold concepts being used for the development and promotion of environmental studies and why? Are these concepts radically different? What outcomes do they produce relative to program participation? These questions represent but a few of many others to be addressed in an intimate discussion about efforts at broadening and narrowing participation in the environmental studies programs of higher education institutions in general, and in particular minority-serving ones like Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The work towards (re)introducing environmental studies at Morgan State University in Baltimore City help to form the basis for this talk.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH
LIBRARY 321
5:00 PM



Dr. Mark Barnes has a faculty appointment in the History, Geography and Museum Studies Department at Morgan State University in Baltimore City, MD. As a geographer, his scholarship intersects hazards, environmental, urban, and economic geography subfields. His work emphasizes equity, mobility, sustainability, and environmental justice to help stimulate interventions relating to the causes and consequences of institutional responses to weather hazards and disasters. His current research agenda centers on the responses of Historically Black Colleges and Universities to flood events.

Dr. Barnes coordinates the Environmental Studies Program at Morgan State University whose purpose is to help bridge curricular divides across the humanities, behavioral and social sciences, and STEM fields. He is a founding father of Morgan's Geospatial Collaborative. Dr. Barnes also leads the Second-Year Experience Strategy Implementation Team at Morgan.