Bourbonism, Blues, and Asset Stripping in Post-Katrina New Orleans
A Colloquium Presentation by
Prof. Clyde Woods

Abstract
The debate over the federal response to the disaster caused by Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans’s failed levees typically overlooks the social construction of the region and its contending development traditions. The talk will discuss the evolution of the Bourbon and Blues intellectual traditions in New Orleans and their dramatically different visions of regional development. The public marginalization of these contending traditions resulted in many well-meaning reconstruction efforts intensifying inequality and asset stripping.

Clyde Woods is an associate professor in the Department of Black Studies and the acting director of the Center for Black Studies Research. He is the author of Development Arrested: Race, Power, and the Blues in the Mississippi Delta and the coeditor of Black geographies and the Politics of Place with Katherine McKittrick. He recently edited the American Quarterly special issue In the Wake of Hurricane Katrina: New Paradigms and Social Visions (September 2009) and has completed a manuscript on New Orleans. He is also working on a study of the evolution of the African American community in Southern California, from 1781 to the present.