

SPRING 2018  
**LAI**  
LECTURE  
SERIES

# Food Sovereignty and Seed-saving in Andean Communities. Lessons from Ecuador

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**TUESDAY, JANUARY 23 , 2018 • 4:00 PM • LAII CONFERENCE ROOM**

Please join us for a presentation with Michael Ayala Ayala, Latin American Studies doctoral student, who will reflect on and share findings from his recent community-based research involving seed saving initiatives in rural Ecuador.

What is the contribution of seed saving to food security and food sovereignty? How does seed saving build resilience at a community level? Central University of Ecuador, Ohio University, and the Catholic University of Ecuador have joined efforts to find links between seed saving practices and community resilience through community mobilization and capacity building in northern communities of rural Ecuador.

Ayala received his BA in Agricultural Engineering from the Universidad Central del Ecuador with concentrations in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development. He received his MA in Environmental Education for Sustainability from Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia, and his Higher Education Diploma in Design, Monitoring, and Evaluation of Social Development Projects from La Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales in Quito, Ecuador. He started his career as an Organic Agriculture mentor and instructor, working with farmers from the highlands, coastline, Amazon, and the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador. Using Environmental Education as a tool, he has supported communities in finding their own path to sustainable development and taught Environmental Education for Sustainable Development at the Central University in Quito, Ecuador. Currently, Michael is pursuing his PhD in Latin American Studies with concentrations in Geography and Environment and Community and Regional Planning.

This lecture is free and open to the public.

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