This talk discusses the Latin American scholar-activist movement that simultaneously resists climate change and the global capitalist order. A new health paradigm, shaped by the field of critical epidemiology, replaces the notion of health as an individual outcome with fragmented causes that is best measured by quantitative statistical analysis. At the same time, an Indigenous movement espousing a philosophy of Sumak Kawsay (healthy living or integrated wellness) blossomed during the struggle for Ecuador’s new constitution in 2007. Combining communal values with principles of cultural empowerment and identity, Sumak Kawsay has strengthened a social-bio-ecological paradigm of epidemiology and a new logic for climate change research. It identifies profit-oriented agribusiness as a key issue in the struggle against a global degrading capitalist civilization.

Comments by Professor Anne-Emanuelle Birn
University of Toronto

Co-sponsored by:
Department of Anthropology
Master’s in Development Practice, LGS
Department of Environmental Sciences
Global Development Studies Program
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program
Dept. of Environmental Health, School of Public Health
Climate@Emory
Emory Sustainability Initiative

Professor Jaime Breilh
Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar
Quito, Ecuador

Jaime Breilh, MD, MSc, PhD, is one of Latin America’s most distinguished, productive, and cited social epidemiologists. He has written more than 20 books and more than 100 articles in many languages about critical epidemiology, social medicine and the political economy of health.

Tuesday
November 7
12 PM
Anthropology 206
1557 Dickey Dr.
Atlanta, GA 30322