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University of Pennsylvania  
Institute for Environmental Studies

presents

Patricia Zaradic

Red Rock Institute, Inc.



## Videophilia and Our Changing Relationship with Nature

Regular contact with nature is known to perpetuate a love of nature. However, since the late 1980s and early 90s people are participating less in nature-based activities, which could lead to serious implications for biodiversity and conservation. Dr. Patricia Zaradic reports on her research identifying this decline and its close correlation to “videophilia,” defined as our growing fascination with electronic media. Her research in collaboration with Dr. Oliver Pergams from the University of Illinois examines sixteen long term datasets to gauge participation in nature-based recreation including: visits to national parks in the U.S., Japan and Spain, U.S. state parks, as well as the number of hunting, camping and hiking permits issued, to gauge participation in nature-based recreation. After years of steady increase, per capita rates of participation in nature-based recreation is decreasing annually at a rate of just over 1% beginning in the 1980s and continuing for a typical decrease of 18-25% to date. Experience with nature, particularly as a child, is the most highly cited indicator for environmental behavior as an adult. In the end, the fate of biodiversity and ecosystems depends on political choices and individual choices. If current and future generations have less contact with nature, they are also less likely to make issues of biodiversity and conservation a political and individual priority.

**Date: March 4, 2009**

**Time: NOON - 1:30 pm**

**Place: Carolyn Hoff Lynch Auditorium**

On the Penn campus: Chemistry Building

34 & Spruce Sts. (enter on 34 St)

**NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

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