



EVENT SERIES: GLOBAL MIGRATIONS

Global Attitudes of Rural Technical Inferiority as a Cause for Migration to Cities in the Non-Industrialized World

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4
MAIN LIBRARY 106
12-1PM



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Ann-Perry Witmer teaches courses for the Illinois Engineering First-Year Experience and is a faculty adviser to Engineers Without Borders-UIUC and AWWA/WEF. Her service travels have taken her to Central America, Africa, Asia and South America, where she's developed a deep understanding of the relationship between technical and social considerations that must be co-evaluated for communities in need.

A global predisposition toward disengagement with rural societies not only has created a trend toward urban migration but has produced a snowballing loss of techno-diversity. In the same way, we recognize the value of biodiversity and seek to preserve plant and animal species that have evolved specifically to adapt to location and time, we need to recognize a need to preserve place-based technical thought – which we call innovative self-sufficiency. By collaboratively designing place-focused technical applications for rural societies, technical designers can better equip societies to preserve rural livelihoods, stabilize urban migration, and ensure sufficient food production capabilities to meet local population needs.