



# Sustainability Perspectives

## The effects of fire management on ecosystem services and geochemical cycling in traditional Maya swidden agroecosystems

**Tomasz Falkowski**, postdoctoral fellow with the *Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future* at Cornell University, explains that *swidden* (i.e. *slash-and-burn*) agriculture is often condemned for contributing to climate change and deforestation. As a result, the Mexican federal government is pressuring the Maya of southern Mexico to stop using fire management in their agroecosystems. However, preliminary evidence suggests that burning offers important ecosystem services that would be lost should traditional practices be abandoned.



Monday, February 10, 2020 ~ 12:20 – 1:20PM  
deWitt Lecture Hall, Zabriskie Hall Room 106

All *Sustainability Perspectives* series events are free and open to the public.  
The series explores the concept of '*sustainability*' from a variety of viewpoints.

Wells is committed to providing access to all events; anyone needing assistance should contact Marian Brown, Center for Sustainability and the Environment, at 315-364-3304 or by email at [mbrown@wells.edu](mailto:mbrown@wells.edu), as soon as possible.

Arrive curious ∴ Graduate prepared.

