



School of Management – Tourism Management Group

# TOURISM MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

We are pleased to present the following seminar in our 2012 series:

**Marcela Palomino-Schalscha**

Lecturer in Human Geography and Development Studies, VUW

**Tourism, neoliberalism and relational ontologies.  
Enacting connections with more-than-humans  
through a Pewenche tourism initiative in Chile.**

Wednesday, 12 September 2012, 12:15 - 13:15, followed by coffee  
Rutherford House, 23 Lambton Quay, Level 12, Boardroom

Questioning ideas of neoliberalism and nature, this presentation will focus on Trekaleyin, an Indigenous tourism initiative in Alto Bío-Bío, Chile. It will explore how tourism is being articulated to enact and defend connections and rights that four Pewenche communities have over territory, and natural and supernatural beings in a neoliberal context. Using geographic literature on neoliberal natures and relational ontologies to study this tourism experience, this presentation will examine the impacts of neoliberalism in the management of nature, and how Trekaleyin engages with and subverts processes of neoliberalisation of nature, thus destabilising and hybridising neoliberalism, questioning what counts as “nature”, and putting forward Pewenche ontologies. Thus, situated in Alto Bío-Bío, Chile’s poorest municipality commonly represented as a site of failure and conflict, this presentation examines creative and unexpected counter-hegemonic ways in which tourism is being used to relate to neoliberalism, nature and politics, loaded with ancestors, laughs, mountains, dreams, pain, histories and resistance.

Marcela joined Victoria University of Wellington in July 2012 after completing her PhD (Geography) at Canterbury University. She became inspired to engage in research by the concerns she encountered while working as a development and environmental practitioner in Chile, her home country. She is interested in developing research that is both grounded on local communities concerns and theoretically sophisticated.