

# *ASTRA Seminar Series 2011-2012*

*Presents*



## **Jennifer Bonnell**

**Postdoc, History, University of Guelph**

### **An Environmental History of an Urban Borderland: Toronto's Don River Valley, 1860-1930**

**Tuesday, February 7, 2012**

**12:00 - 1:15pm MacKinnon 318**

**All are welcome – bring your lunch!**

This presentation explores the social and environmental history of Toronto's Don River Valley, and the circumstances that transformed an area central to the development of the early town of York to a polluted and vilified urban periphery by the mid-nineteenth century. Cast as a "space apart" for the assimilation of municipal and industrial wastes, the river valley also functioned through this period as a place of refuge and reform for people at the margins of society—for gangsters, Roma travellers, Depression-era hoboes. This presentation examines the connections between these functions, and the ramifications they had for perceptions and material uses of this space at the city's edge.



*D.C. Grose, Taylor Brothers Paper Mill, c1860*

*Toronto Reference Library Historical Picture Collection, B 3-27c*

**Jennifer Bonnell** is a SSHRC post-doctoral fellow in the Department of History. Her work explores the social and environmental history of suburban spaces in southern Ontario in the twentieth century.



[www.uoguelph.ca/arts/astra](http://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/astra)



[www.uoguelph.ca/arts](http://www.uoguelph.ca/arts)



[www.uoguelph.ca/cbs](http://www.uoguelph.ca/cbs)