



Stephen Koester, Ph.D. Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology, and a Professor in Health & Behavioral Sciences at the University of Colorado Denver.

I am interested in examining the structural conditions that affect people's lives and their responses to these conditions. My work revolves around issues related to health and the intersection of health and environment. Conceptual frameworks informing my work include structural violence, social suffering and "risk" environments. I have worked with marginalized, disenfranchised populations including drug users, sex workers and traditional resource users (farmers, laborers and fishermen). My publications have detailed how law enforcement strategies and the tenuous economic situations of street-based drug users combine and exacerbate the likelihood of blood borne disease transmission. My research with traditional resource users has focused on their responses to manifestations of economic restructuring – the end of tariff protection and the demise of the Windward Island banana industry, development-imposed environmental change, and resource management schemes. In 2006/2007, I was a Fulbright Scholar in Vietnam.