In Indonesia, state-sponsored violence of 1965-66, in which an estimated 500,000-1 million Indonesians were massacred as alleged communists, shifted cultural landscapes, shaping collective and individual memories, as well as the possibilities for personhood, political agency, community identity and narrative. Based on over four years of extensive ethnographic research in Bali, Leslie Dwyer’s talk will discuss the social and political complexities of these processes, the ways that ritual offers a site of gendered reworkings of state history, and the production of “civil selves” and “transitional citizens” after violence in Bali.

Leslie Dwyer is Assistant Professor of Conflict Analysis and Anthropology at George Mason University, in the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. A cultural anthropologist, her research has addressed violence and the politics of memory and identity in Indonesia. She received her Ph.D. in anthropology from Princeton University in 2001, and from 2001-2003 was the recipient of a MacArthur Foundation International Peace and Security Fellowship and an H.F. Guggenheim Foundation grant for field research on political violence.

Co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, Center for the Humanities at Tufts (CHAT), Center for South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies, Asian Studies Program, Department of Religion, and Department of Sociology