In co-sponsorship CEEDS and the Center for Religious and Spiritual Life.

When: Friday Nov 18th, 7-8:30 pm
Where: Neilson Browsing Room, Smith College

This event will be a space for people in the Five Colleges and broader community to learn, reflect, connect and strategize.

Nia Eshu Martin-Robinson will speak about environmental justice through a lens of race and class, describe her own community organizing work (with Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign, Planned Parenthood and more) and lead discussion on these issues.

Nia Eshu Martin-Robinson

Possessing the belief that women of color, Indigenous Women and low-income women’s reproduction is a revolutionary act, Nia’s work has often centered around creating dialogue at the intersections of Climate Justice, Reproductive Justice and Environmental Justice and looking at the reemergence of population control rhetoric in the climate change debate and the dangerous implications that this has on women of color, indigenous women and poor women around the world. In March of 2012, Nia served as the inaugural Social Justice Policy Practitioner-in-Residence for the Five College Public Policy Initiative, serving the five colleges of Western Massachusetts. During her residency, in her capacity as an expert in race, reproductive and environmental justice she delivered public lectures on both climate and reproductive justice; convened and organized a teach-in on race and the environment; led skill-building sessions for student activists.

Today, Nia’s professional focus is centered around reproductive health, rights and justice. Currently, Nia is lending her talents and expertise to Planned Parenthood Federation of America as a Regional Field Director. She also has the honor of serving on the board of SPARK, a reproductive justice organization based in Atlanta that works to ensure the liberation of all people with an analysis specifically anchored in the historical lasting legacy of the enslavement and exploitation of Black people in the South.

Nia Eshu Martin-Robinson is a sassy, femme-tellectual, queer, black woman originally from Detroit, MI. Since 2000, she has been a strong advocate for Environmental Justice. She began this work with Detroiter Working for Environmental Justice and later switched gears to sharpen her organizing skills with the Service Employees International Union. From 2006-2011, she served as Director of the Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative. There she worked with her team to bring the voices of people of color, Indigenous Peoples and low-income communities to the debate on a state, federal and international level. While in leadership, she also co-authored a report examining the impacts of Climate change and climate change policy on African Americans entitled A Climate of Change: African Americans, Global Warming and a Just Climate Policy in the U.S.

Nia is a graduate of Bennett College, a historically Black women’s college in Greensboro, NC. She served as the Activist in Residence and completed a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Women’s Studies and Political Science and minors in Sociology and Global Studies.