

**PS  
LA**

Spring 2024

# SEMINAR SERIES



## **Pablo Pérez-Ramos** **The Thermodynamic Garden: On the Degradation of Energy in Arid Environments**

What material orders would simply emerge on Earth's surface if human action were to disappear? What physical configurations would natural forces—those emanating from processes and agents indifferent to us—produce in our absence? How different would such orders be from the ones we build through design and technology? In other words, what degree of tension exists between human-introduced orders and the other-than-human forces that act around and through them? This lecture will use thermodynamic theory and traditional oases in North Africa to conceptualize the design fields as an interference with the energy flows and material orders that natural forces produce.

Pérez-Ramos is an Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He holds Doctor of Design and Master in Landscape Architecture degrees from the GSD (Harvard) and is a licensed architect from the Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid (ETSAM). Pérez-Ramos investigates the origins of contemporary ecological views in landscape architecture by examining the central debates in ecological theory. He is currently working on the construction of a theoretical framework that looks at the landscape through the lens of thermodynamics.

**Friday February 2,  
2024  
12:15-1:15pm**

**Lunch for graduate  
students to follow**

**YNG 132**

**Host: Julia Smachylo**

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