

George Mason University's Terrorism, Transnational Crime, and Corruption Center (TraCCC) Hosts:

Jim Wickens

Pioneering Environmental Journalist Ecologist Film Unit

Jim will show and discuss his recent film on elephant smuggling as well another of his short films on environmental crime



At the age of 33, Jim Wickens is one of Britain's pioneering environmental journalists, and has spent the last decade building up an unsurpassed mass of investigative experience unearthing hard to swallow truths and environmental crimes around the world. Jim gained a degree and Masters in Social Anthropology and Human Geography from University and King's College London, focusing on unraveling the complex conflicts between people and the planet today. As a teenager, Wickens found working undercover was a far more effective way to bring about change. Through secretly recorded footage documented in each place he worked and gaining national attention, he rapidly discovered the power of media footage in helping to expose the truth behind the food we eat and the lifestyles that we live.



In 2003, Wickens partnered with a friend and fellow journalist Andrew Wasley, to help set up Ecostorm, an undercover environmental investigation unit pioneering these hard-learned investigative techniques around the world. Over the last decade the unit has risked life and limb to film undercover in over 50 countries. Their footage has been viewed by billions, opening eyes, changing consumer practices and helping to change laws and enforcement world-wide, leaving few stones left unturned.

In 2008, Ecostorm joined with the Ecologist, setting up the Ecologist Film Unit (www.theecologist.org), a unique project to bring attention to pressing issues around the world that mainstream news was otherwise ignoring. Over the last 4 years, the team have shot and produced 15 films. The Unit's first investigation, Hell For Leather, probed the hidden ecological and human impact of leather tanning in Bangladesh, and was swiftly picked up and featured by BBC World and a host of alternative news channels, prompting renewed interest in the long debate about the true cost of our love affair with cheap shoes and other goods made from leather.

*Welcoming Remarks given by Dr. Todd La Porte, Associate Professor at the School of Public Policy
Introduction given by Dr. Louise Shelley, Director of TraCCC*

Date: Friday, September 21st, 11:45am-1:00pm

Location: Room 118, Founders Hall

3351 Fairfax Drive

Arlington, VA 22201

(Virginia Square Metro Stop)

***Please Bring Lunch, Beverages Will Be Provided
To RSVP, Please contact Caitlin Kurylo at tracc@gmu.edu or 703-993-9757***