

# Great American Outpost: Dreamers, Mavericks and the Making of an Oil Frontier

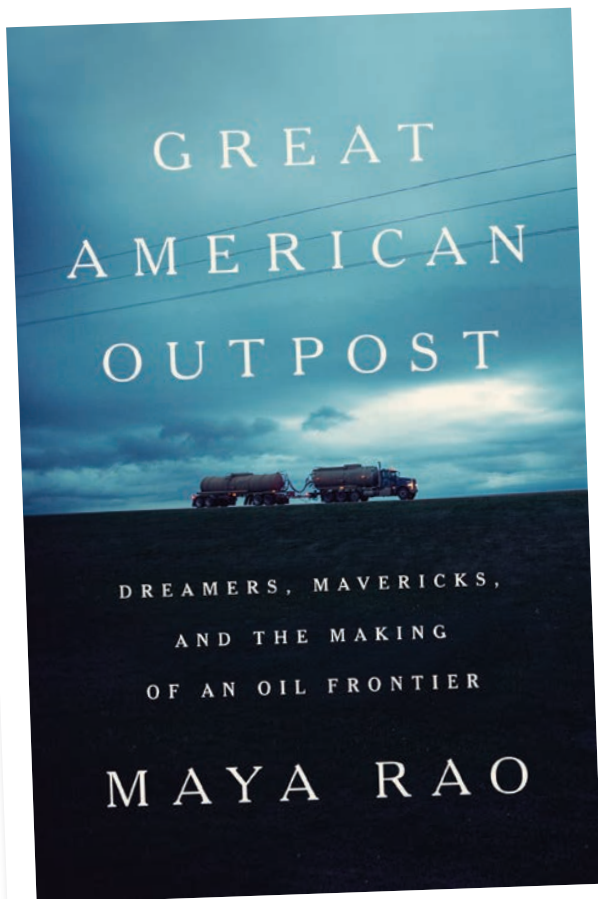
**Maya Rao**  
Staff Writer  
Minneapolis Tribune



**February 18, 2019**

**12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**

Frederick E. Giesecke Engineering Research Building  
Third Floor Conference Room



## About the Presentation

As North Dakota became second to Texas in oil production, journalist Maya Rao lived in the Bakken oilfield for a year to chronicle the making of a new oil frontier that drew many investors and laborers from the Lone Star State. She briefly cashiered at a truck stop, rode with truck drivers braving toxic fumes and dangerous roads, dined with disgraced businessmen, and wove together dispatches about man camps, oil waste disposal and tribal conflicts. As the boom receded, empty trailers and idle oil equipment littered the prairie alongside the abandoned homesteads of the prairie. She will be speaking about her narrative nonfiction book, “Great American Outpost: Dreamers, Mavericks and the Making of an Oil Frontier” on February 18. Rao is a staff writer for the Minneapolis Tribune and has also written for the Atlantic, Philadelphia Inquirer, Houston Chronicle, Awl and Longreads.