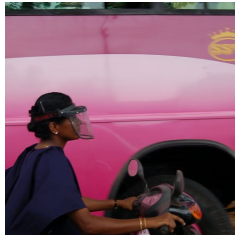


Sussex Anthropologist

Newsletter of the Department of Anthropology, University of Sussex

Engaged Research - New Projects in the Department



Charity and philanthropy in a changing world

The study, launched in Colombo on 23rd May, and being run jointly through the Department and the Centre for Poverty Analysis, Sri Lanka, will look at the role of charity and philanthropy in economic, social and health development. It will investigate Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, Muslim and secular forms of giving across Sri Lanka's capital city and assess their contribution towards achieving development goals.

The team will use survey, interview and ethnographic research methods

to map flows of charitable giving and receiving across the city. The results will be used to understand how patterns of charitable and philanthropic activity vary between social classes and along gender lines, and help to alleviate poverty and other social problems in Colombo and Sri Lanka as a whole.

Principle Investigators, **Professor R.L. Stirrat** and **Dr Filippo Osella**, note that 'global philanthropic institutions are seen as increasingly important players in the development

process, but as yet the plethora of small scale, indigenous charities and philanthropic organisations found in all developing countries have largely been ignored. This project aims to address that imbalance.'

Fieldwork is being led by Professor Tudor Silva (University of Peradeniya/CEPA) and Dr Tom Widger (University of Sussex). It is funded by the Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC) and Department for International Development (DfID), UK. It will run for 24 months.

For more information visit: <http://www.charityphilanthropydevelopment.org/index.html>

Inside this issue:

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Pamela Kea has a new research project on **Transnational Education** funded by the Rockefeller Foundation

This research focuses on transnational education, children and caring practices among Gambian and Nigerian migrants from a variety of class backgrounds living in Britain. It will explore decision making processes about whether to send their children back to their countries of origin, the reasons for such decisions, the role of gender in affecting such decisions and children's experiences of being sent back.

The research will provide insight into the relations of dependence and responsibility that are established between carers in the country of origin, migrant parents and their children, affecting the way in which they maintain connections and the nature of these connections, as well as migrants' transnational movements and future migratory patterns. A key objective of the research is to examine the way in which this reverse process of sending children

back to the country of origin to be educated serves as both an investment in their home communities and educational systems, as well as a way in which parents and children can seek out alternative ways to fulfil their aspirations.

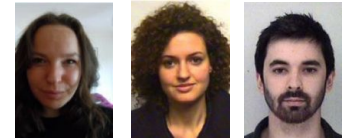
RESPONSIBLE BOP

THE 'BOTTOM OF THE PYRAMID' APPROACH
RESPONSIBLE CAPITALISM OR BUSINESS AS USUAL?

Department members **Dinah Rajak**, **Alice Street** & **Paul Gilbert** are key project team members for a new research initiative.

In recent years "bottom-of-the pyramid" (BoP) schemes have attracted significant interest from international development institutions seeking to harness private sector resources for development purposes. Yet despite the growing number of BoP initiatives across the world, there has been comparatively little engagement from development studies with this new paradigm. This project seeks to address this gap by creating a space for new thinking,

approaches, research methodologies, and evidence that critically engage with the development implications of the BoP model, and examine the distribution of gains and losses and risks and vulnerabilities in BoP markets. We seek to ask how such models work in practice, what processes of inclusion and exclusion they give rise to, and whether they can deliver development that is both ethical and sustainable. The project is a collaborative venture between anthropologists at the Universities of Sussex, Edinburgh and Oxford and is funded by the Development Studies Association's New Ideas Initiative.



THE 'BOTTOM OF THE PYRAMID' APPROACH
PUBLIC DEBATE, SAID BUSINESS SCHOOL
CHAIRIED BY SIMON MAXWELL

RESPONSIBLE CAPITALISM
PATRICIA O'HAYER
MITA SAMANI
ZAHID TORRES-RAHMAN

OR

BUSINESS AS USUAL
ANEEL KARIANI
JOHN HILKEY
JOHN MADELEY
KATE MEACHER

MAY 30th, 5PM - 6:30PM SEMINAR ROOM A WWW.RESPONSIBLEBOP.COM

Engaged Students

Breaking Bubbles: Anthropology for our Future

Ben's Presentation



anthropology can engage with contemporary issues in a changing world. The research was eloquently presented and encompassed an engaging breadth of study – from population control in China to the Occupy movement in London, from Sudanese Sufi saints to the body techniques of physical performers in the Netherlands.

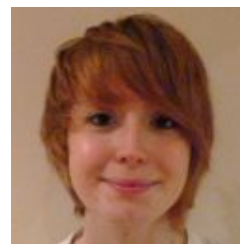
The symposium was well received and a working group has since been formulated in order to construct a platform for undergraduates to engage with anthropology for the future.

Ben Macfadyen

For more information on the symposium, see the website -

<http://www.breakingbubbles.com/>

President McBride



With the son of an anthropologist still in the White House, Sussex's Student Union has gone one better by electing Kelly McBride, who graduates from the department this summer, as President.



Earlier this year, anthropology students from across the UK gathered to take part in the first national anthropology undergraduate symposium, which took place at the University of Kent. The weekend, sponsored by the RAI, the Radical Anthropology Group and the Open Anthropology Cooperative, was created to provide an opportunity for students to speak about their own research, and explore the ways in which

I attended the weekend along with other Sussex undergraduate students to give a presentation on anthropological and phenomenological approaches to dwelling. Using the case study of my own experiences constructing a straw bale house in my garden, I proposed new ways in which students of the discipline may deconstruct their own experiences anthropologically.

Congratulations to **Lauren Greenwood, David Sancho & Miguel Loureiro** for passing their **PhD vivas** over the summer!

PhD Research

Amich Alhumami recently passed his viva with a thesis on 'Political Power, Corruption and Witchcraft in Modern Indonesia'. He was supervised by Anne-Meike Fechter & Geert De Neve.

The research examined the relationships between political power, corruption, and witchcraft in modern Indonesia through an analysis of the discursive construction of these concepts in Indonesian society. The central argument is that Indonesian society experiences contemporary politics in a context that combines values and practices of political modernity and secular rationality with those of witchcraft, sorcery, and the occult. The thesis demonstrates how Indonesian politics has been transformed into a modern-secular democracy by juxtaposing traditionalism and modernism. Both are interconnected features of contemporary Indonesian modernity.

Amich Interviewing in a Jakarta Café



The thesis focuses on corruption and sorcery discourses within the context of the political democracy that has been

established in Indonesia following the collapse of the New Order state. There is currently a great deal of expectation that the system of democracy will promote public participation—in the sense that people become involved in political processes, that civil society becomes more effective and that the holders of state powers become more accountable—which should in turn curb corruption. Unfortunately, corruption appears to be pervasive within the new democratic polity, and both corruption and sorcery persist alongside the dynamics of political contestations and power struggles.

In the light of continuing corruption practices, many groups of Indonesian society initiate anti-corruption movements by mobilizing social and political resources through collective action. Anti-corruption initiatives are taken by both state institutions and civil society associations, and seek to improve public governance and promote political reform.

Evi Chatzipanagiotidou also passed her viva. Her thesis was entitled: *The Conflicts of a Peaceful Diaspora*. She was supervised by Nigel Eltringham & Jon Mitchell.

The work focuses on issues of nationalism and anti-nationalism, peace activism in conflict affected contexts, social memory, politics and transnationalism through a multi-sited ethnographic study of the political connections between the Cypriot diaspora in the UK and Cyprus.

The fieldwork research was conducted in London and Cyprus, taking place at a very particular historical point, when a larger space apparently opened for British Cypriots' involvement in the politics 'at home'; following their modes of political engagement across a number of actual sites and 'imagined' social fields – from community associations in London to online Cypriot networks; and from the Cypriot Communist party in the UK to informal communal crossings of the Cypriot Green Line.



The thesis argues that 'peace politics' by UK Cypriots cannot be analysed without examining how they connect to particular cultural ideas and pre-existing power dynamics and struggles on inter-personal, intra-diasporic and transnational levels. It is suggested that 'peace', very much like 'conflict' has to be dissected and contextualised in the historical and socio-political specificities of different locales. Otherwise, internal power dynamics and struggles are masked in the process of (self-) representation and discourses of 'peace' contribute to reinforcing some of the conditions and ideologies that are in reality root causes of the conflict.

Hot off the Press!



James Carrier & Peter Luechford (eds.) *Ethical Consumption: Social Value and Economic Practice*. London: Berghahn Books.

Increasingly, consumers in North America and Europe see their purchasing as a way to express to the commercial world their concerns about trade justice, the environment and similar issues. This ethical consumption has attracted growing attention in the press and among academics. Extending beyond the growing body of scholarly work on the topic in several ways, this volume focuses primarily on consumers rather than producers and

commodity chains. It presents cases from a variety of European countries and is concerned with a wide range of objects and types of ethical consumption, not simply the usual tropical foodstuffs, trade justice and the system of fair trade.

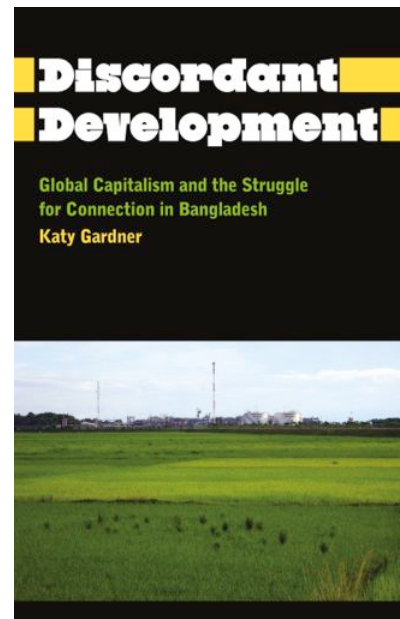
By locating consumers and their practices in the social and economic contexts in which they exist and that their ethical consumption affects, this volume presents a compelling interrogation of the rhetoric and assumptions of ethical consumption.

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Katy Gardner *Discordant Development: Global Capitalism and the Struggle for Connection in Bangladesh*. London: Pluto Press.

What happens when a vast multinational mining company operates a gas plant situated close to four densely populated villages in rural Bangladesh? How does its presence contribute to local processes of 'development'? And what do corporate claims of 'community engagement' involve? Drawing from Katy Gardner's longstanding relationship with the area, *Discordant Development* reveals the complex and contradictory ways that local people attempt to connect to, and are disconnected by, foreign capital.

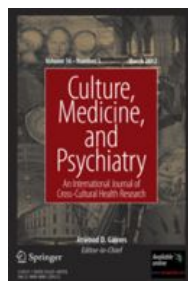
Everyone has a story to tell: whether of dispossession and scarcity, the success of Corporate Social Responsibility, or imperialist exploitation and corruption.



Yet as Gardner argues, what really matters in the struggles over resources is which of these stories are heard, and the power of those who tell them.

Based around the discordant narratives of dispossessed land owners, urban activists, mining officials and the rural landless, *Discordant Development* touches on some of the most urgent economic and political questions of our time, including resource ownership and scarcity, and the impact of foreign investment and industrialisation on global development.

Situating Suicide as an Anthropological Problem: Ethnographic Approaches to Understanding Self-Harm and Self-Inflicted Death - A Special Issue of *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry*, edited by James Staples and **Tom Widger**. June 2012.



More than a century after Durkheim placed the subject of suicide at the heart of social science this volume goes beyond the limited sociological and psychological approaches that currently define the field. Based on ethnographic and cross-cultural analyses the volume addresses suicide not as a social and psychological 'pathology' but rather as a kind of sociality, a special kind of social relationship, through which people create meaning in their own lives.

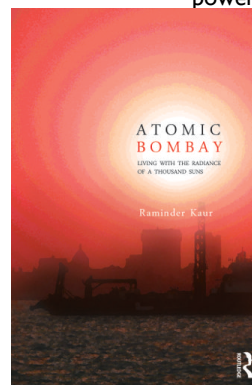
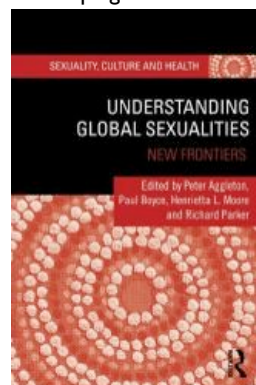
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Peter Aggleton, **Paul Boyce**, Henrietta L. Moore & Richard Parks (eds.) *Understanding Global Sexualities: New Frontiers*. London: Routledge.

Over the course of the past thirty years, there has been an explosion of work on sexuality, both conceptually and methodologically. From a relatively limited,

specialist field, the study of sexuality has expanded across a wide range of social sciences. Yet as the field has grown, it has become apparent that a number of leading edge critical issues remain.

This theory-building book explores some of the areas in which there is major and continuing debate, for example, about the relationship between sexuality and gender; about the nature and status of heterosexuality; about hetero- and homo-normativity; about the influence and intersection of class, race, age and other factors in sexual trajectories, identities and lifestyles; and about how best to understand the new forms of sexuality that are emerging in both rich world and developing world contexts.



Raminder Kaur. *Atomic Bombay*. Routledge India.

How is nuclear power imagined? How does ionising radiation affect our lives? Where is it, what is it, how is it conceptualised and to what ends? Based in the vibrant city formerly known as Bombay, such questions are addressed through the experiences, thoughts and feelings of its residents, many of whom were based in close proximity to a nuclear research centre in the north east of the city.

From the fictionalised superpowers of atomic energy, to its commercial applications to sell commodities such as nasal sprays and pesticides, to the detrimental associations of nuclear power to genetic mutation and death, the book provides a historical and ethnographic study on how ideas about nuclear science and bombs are entangled in a range of topics to do with the body, gender, nation class, knowledge and power. Altogether, It provides a penetrating and original lens into the intricate ways power seeps through popular culture and urban lives entwined in the rivulets of nuclear cultures in this city on the sea and beyond.

Dispatch from the Field: Roadside Fieldwork



In November-December 2011, **Geert De Neve** spent 5 weeks in Tamil Nadu, Southern India, where he carried out field research with **Grace Carswell** from the Geography Department. Their research focused on the social and economic impacts of India's NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) on the rural poor in three villages of Tamil Nadu.

NREGA forms an unprecedented nationwide employment guarantee scheme that seeks to provide basic social security to India's rural poor by providing 100 days of guaranteed waged employment to every rural household, currently at a wage of around Rs 120 (£1.50) per day in Tamil Nadu. The public works for which villagers are employed consist of clearing village roads, canals and ponds. Geert therefore conducted 'roadside fieldwork', accompanying NREGA workers on their work sites along the road, interacting with workers during tea and lunch breaks, and observing the daily registration of workers,

the on-site allocation of work, and disputes between supervisors and labourers. Most of the fieldwork was literally spent on the road, moving along with the workers as the work progressed day after day, and using breaks in the work routines to engage villagers in focus groups and participatory exercises.

While the qualitative material and survey data are still being analysed, the research seeks to understand the ways in which the 'success' of this scheme is perceived and defined by different social actors as well as to assess its wider impacts on village life. Initial findings certainly reveal that in this part of India the scheme is very well implemented and that it primarily benefits the most poor and vulnerable rural citizens, including the old, the divorced and separated, and those whose domestic responsibilities prevent them from taking up any other form of paid employment. It is also enormously important in providing an income for agricultural labourers during low seasons.

In June, Geert is co-organising a workshop at Sussex that will bring together scholars from across the social sciences studying the impacts and implementation of NREGA across different regions of India. The project is funded by a British Academy Small Grant. More to follow after the workshop...



Sussex Anthropology: Who We Are



Sussex Anthropology is a vibrant community of students, teachers, and researchers with a strong commitment to an

engaged anthropology that addresses contemporary social and political problems.

Contact Us:

Department of Anthropology
School of Global Studies
University of Sussex

Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9SJ

Phone: +44 (0)1273 877185

E-mail: anthoffice@sussex.ac.uk
www.sussex.ac.uk/anthropology

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