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Conference on Health and Human Rights at Sussex

The Department of Anthropology at Sussex hosted an international conference on July 4th-5th 2011 entitled 'Global Flows, Human Rights, Sexual and Reproductive Health: Ethnographies of Institutional Change in the Global South.' The conference was organised by **Maya Unnithan** and **Carolyn Heitmeyer** (with assistance from doctoral students **Rachel Olson** and **Sajida Ally**), as part of their ESRC-funded research project, 'Realising Global Rights to Health.'



GLOBAL FLOWS, HUMAN RIGHTS, SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: Ethnographies of Institutional Change in the Global South

July 4th and 5th 2011
Department of Anthropology, School of Global Studies
University of Sussex

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
ROSALIND PETCHEVSKY, HUNTER COLLEGE; PAUL HUNT, ESSEX UNIVERSITY; JENKINS WARR, JACQUELINE CARAYOVS, LUCY DONOHUE, WALEYI MACHESWARI, IDS SUSSEX; STEPHANIE SCHULTZ, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL; CATHY CAMPBELL, LSE

Supported by:
ESRC, University of Sussex, Wellcome Trust

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Principles of human rights have increasingly come to pervade development policy, planning, and programmes especially in the countries of the global South. Focusing specifically on the globalising of facts around reproductive and sexual health, the conference brought together two dozen experts including scholars, activists, and policy makers to critically reflect on how human rights ideas and conventions are shaping development discourse and on-the-ground outcomes in sexual, maternal, and reproductive health in

Asia, Africa and Latin America. Supported by the **ESRC**, the **Wellcome Trust**, and the **University of Sussex**, this conference included participants from Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and the UK.



Above: Paul Boyce (IoE, Sussex) discusses sexuality, activism and rights. Also pictured are Kit Davis (SOAS), Akshay Khanna (IDS), and Carolyn Williams (LSE).

Class of 2011: Congratulations to Our Graduates!

This year has once again seen fantastic degree results for Sussex Anthropology students. In all, 73 students graduated with a BA degree in July, including 13 who achieved First Class honours. Three prizes were awarded for significant achievement. **Rachel Keane** was awarded the Anthropology Prize for the highest overall marks. The **David Pocock Prize** for the best Anthropology dissertation was jointly awarded to **Ella McNab** for 'The Search for Legitimacy: How does the

notion of mind-body separability impact on the illness experiences of those with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome?' and **Sarah Jane Gay** for her dissertation, 'Beyond the Barrier: Contraception and the reproduction of gender ideologies.' Congratulations to our July graduates who have successfully defended their doctoral theses: **Larissa Begley**, for 'Resolved to Fight the Ideology of Genocide and All of its Manifestations: The Rwandan Patriotic Front, vio-

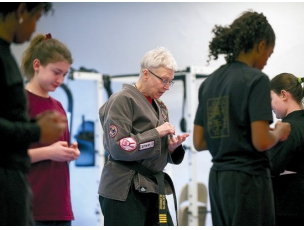
lence and ethnic marginalisation in Post-Genocide Rwanda and Eastern Congo'; **John Manley**, for 'The Material Culture of Roman Colonization: Anthropological approaches to archaeological interpretations'; **Ana Porroche**, for 'Listening to Women: Political ethnographic narratives of breast cancer in Spain'; and **Martin Webb**, for 'Boundary Paradoxes: The social life of transparency and accountability activism in Delhi.' Best wishes and good luck to all our graduates.



Seventy-three students graduated with Bachelor's degrees in Anthropology in the Brighton Dome in July.

Sussex Anthropologist

Latest News from the Department



Emilia Aaltonen's undergraduate dissertation on women's self-defense will be published in an upcoming issue of Journal of International Women's Studies.

This autumn four new lecturers join the Department of Anthropology: **Ramy Aly**, **Paul Boyce**, **Lyndsay McLean-Hilker**, and **Martin Webb**. Welcome to all!

Congratulations to **Ana Porroche**, who has been awarded the 2011 Barbara Rosenblum Cancer Dissertation Scholarship by the Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) for her doctoral thesis on narratives of breast cancer in Spain. The award was presented

in August at the American Sociological Association meeting in Las Vegas.

We are also proud of the achievements of two 2010 graduates: **Emilia Aaltonen**, whose undergraduate dissertation, 'Punching Like a Girl: Embodied violence and resistance in the context of women's self-defense' was short-listed for the Feminist & Women's Studies Association (FWSA) Essay Prize, and will be

published in the *Journal of International Women's Studies*. **Adom Philogene Heron's** undergraduate dissertation, 'Taming the Spider Man: From anticolonial hero to neo-liberal icon' has been awarded the Royal Anthropological Institute Student Essay Prize. Adom also presented this work at the International Society of Ethnography and Folklore conference in Lisbon in April.



Top: The Balkan region. **Above:** Participants in the Balkan Connections Conference in June. For more information, go to <http://balkanconnections.wordpress.com>

Balkan Connections Conference

by Vessi Ratcheva

On 2nd-3rd June, Sussex hosted the Balkan Connections Conference, organised by four anthropology doctoral students: **Deniz Duru**, **Ali Huseyinogluand**, **Vesselina Ratcheva**, and **Andrea Szkil**. Its aim was to promote this area of regional studies at Sussex and beyond.

After **Eugene Michail** (History) provided introductory remarks reflecting on the complicated positionality of the region and the need to develop a compara-

tive history, the first day saw a set of papers that reflected on the Balkans' Ottoman heritage. Invigorated by **Russell King's** (Geography) reflections on migration, the participants re-treated to a Brighton restaurant appropriately named Ottoman Cuisine for an evening meal.

The second day addressed tough issues in the post-Yugoslav, post-genocide context, with strategies of recovery from such divisive histories. The day's papers dealt with community relations, as well

as the dramas of families who have lived through these events. This was followed by papers that spoke to the ongoing status of minorities, their problems as well as delightful and encouraging examples of co-existence.

The event culminated in a discussion of the various actors who contribute to building up the potential stored in the Balkans: NGOs and political parties. Sussex anthropologist **Jane Cowan** described her own journey in scholarship across the region.



Pilgrimage in the Holy Land was among the ethnographic topics discussed at the recent Sussex workshop on cognition, performance and the senses.

Workshop on Cognition, Performance and the Senses

Cognitive anthropology, anthropology of the senses, and performance anthropology are often considered as distinct and discrete sub-fields of anthropology. Yet they share substantive objects of study, with their focus on experience, the body, and the relationship between perception and conception. On April 14-15th, the University of Sussex hosted a workshop, 'Cognition, Performance, and the Senses: Workshop on Anthropological Theory' to bring together scholars from

these three sub-fields to explore the analytical potential of acknowledging and interrogating this shared territory. Participants included **David Howes** (Concordia), **Phillip Zarrilli** (Exeter), **Greg Downey** (Macquarie), **Robert Turner** (Max Planck Institute), and **Sarah Pink** (Loughborough).

Hosted by **Jon Mitchell** (Anthropology) and **Michael Bull** (Media and Film) and funded by the **Wenner Gren Foundation**, the workshop focused on

empirical contexts of religious transmission, and included papers on vocal performance in Jerusalem's places of worship, Catholic prayer, pilgrimage in the Andes and the Holy Land, and the everyday sensorium of the British household. There were also more theoretically-oriented papers, focusing on contemporary performance theory, neurology and cognitive science.

The participants are currently working on publication of the workshop's results.

New Research on Belonging, Philanthropy, and Education

Sussex Anthropologists **Raminder Kaur** and **Kaveri Qureshi** are working with **Ben Rogaly** (Geography) on his new two-year Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)-funded Fellowship, based in Peterborough, England. The project is entitled, 'Places for All?: A multi-media investigation of citizenship, work and belonging in a fast-changing provincial city'. The research, which runs until March 2013, forms part of the Royal Society of Arts' Citizen Power in Peterborough programme. In collaboration with arts practitioner colleagues, they are exploring the commonality of multiple place attachments within and across national borders, using ethnography, oral history, film, photography, and theatre. The research also involves an



A faded mural of the local community of Gladstone Street, Millfield, Peterborough, painted in the 1980s.

investigation of changing employment patterns in Peterborough, in the context of the building of new residential areas and relatively high levels of migration.

Roderick Stirrat and **Filippo Osella** have received a two-year ESRC-DfID research grant to study charity and charitable organisations in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Focussing on the role that local philanthropy does and can play in the development process, the project is concerned with who gives, how much, for what

purpose, and to whom. The study will also investigate the role of the Sri Lankan diaspora (in Europe and the Gulf) in not only supporting charitable activity in Sri Lanka but also in changing it. Beginning in December 2011, this project will serve as a pilot study for future research into indigenous philanthropy at Sussex.

Filippo Osella has also received a research grant from the British Council and Higher Education Commission of Pakistan as part of the International Strategic Partnerships in Research & Education. Based on field research in three different districts in Pakistan and in Birmingham (UK), the project explores links between migration and education in collaboration with researchers at three universities in Pakistan.



Snapshots from the AHRC-funded research project in Peterborough currently being undertaken by Ben Rogaly, Raminder Kaur, and Kaveri Qureshi. For more information, visit: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/research/globaltransformations/projects/placesforall>

Nicola Anderson Memorial Bursary: Buduburam, Ghana

by *Charlie Witzel (BA Anthropology and Development Studies, 2011)*

I was one of the very lucky recipients of the Nicola Anderson Memorial Bursary in 2010. The award enabled me to travel to Ghana and undertake development work in Buduburam Refugee Settlement. I volunteered for my friend's charity Eat to Feed Liberians, which runs a feeding program at a school for disadvantaged children. I was involved in providing support for a chronically underfunded and rather chaotic lunch program called The

Wonderful Kids for children affected by HIV/AIDS. We helped the Liberian women who had set up the program extend the meal provision from one to six days a week. Despite challenges and a few setbacks, the program is still running strong.

The bursary provided me with an incredibly valuable experience alongside my degree. Not only did I learn a lot of skills (and a lot about myself), I also gained a grounded, real world experience to help me better understand the concepts being explored in class.

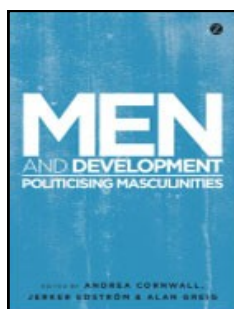
I was fortunate to work with an inspiring community and have formed meaningful bonds as well as strong working relationships. I am looking forward to returning to Buduburam in the autumn. I'm eternally grateful to the Anderson family for having such dedication to the School of Global Studies and its students, and for helping to provide me with this experience.

For more information about the bursary including eligibility, please see the *Global Studies* website.

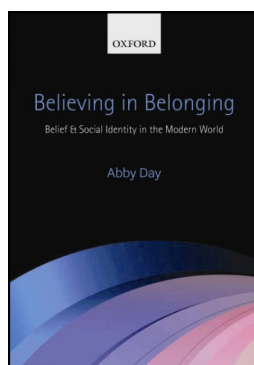


Charlie Witzel with one of the children in Buduburam.

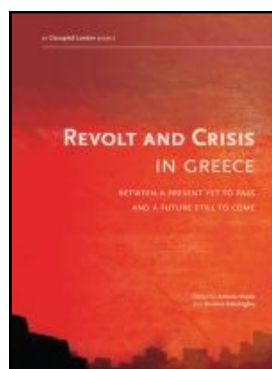
Hot Off the Press! New Titles by Sussex Anthropologists



Men and Development: Politicising Masculinities (Zed Books, 2011) is a collection of leading scholarship in the field of men, masculinities and development. Co-edited by **Andrea Cornwall** (with Jerker Edström and Alan Greig), *Men and Development* challenges the neglect of the structural dimensions of patriarchal power relations in current development policy and practice, and the failure to adequately engage with the effects of inequitable gender orders on men's and women's lives.

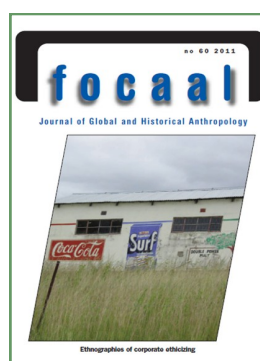


Abby Day's book, *Believing in Belonging: Belief and Social Identity in the Modern World* (Oxford 2011) explores mainstream religious belief and identity in Euro-American countries. Starting from a qualitative study in the north of England, Day argues that people 'believe in belonging,' choosing religious identifications to complement other social and emotional experiences. Her work helps explain how otherwise non-religious people can bring into being a Christian identity related to social belongings.



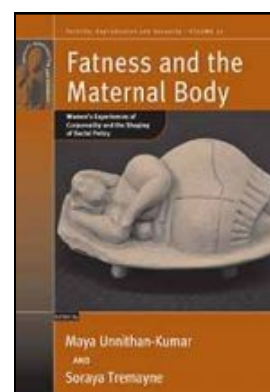
How does a revolt come about and what does it leave behind? What lessons from the Greek revolt of December 2008 can we bring to bear on social action around the globe? *Revolt and Crisis in Greece: Between a Present Yet to Pass and a Future*

Still to Come (AK Press, 2011), edited by Antonis Vradis and Sussex anthropologist **Dimitris Dalakoglou** is a collective attempt to grapple with these questions. This timely volume traces Greece's long moment of transition from the revolt of 2008 to the economic crisis that followed.



Dinah Rajak has co-edited (with Catherine Dolan and Christina Garsten) a themed issue of *Focaal* (No. 60, Summer 2011), 'Ethnographies of Corporate Ethicizing.' The volume ethnographically explores the meanings, practices, and impact of corporate social responsibility in a variety of locations. Its authors ask whether embedding ethics within commercial rationalities blurs the boundaries between moral and market forms of exchange, and consid-

ers how systems of ethical and environmental governance introduce new forms of management, control, and discipline that alienate rather than empower.



Maya Unnithan's new volume (Berghahn 2011, co-edited with Soraya Tremayne) explores the concept of obesity as a global health problem through the lens of the maternal body. *Fatness and the Maternal Body: Women's Experiences of Corporeality and the Shaping of Social Policy* focuses on fatness in the context of human reproduction to offer instructive insights into the global circulation of biomedical facts. This volume challenges the connection made in scientific and popular understanding between fatness and ill health.

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.

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