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Newsletter of the Department of Anthropology, University of Sussex

A New Face



This year saw us say goodbye to **Professor Katy Gardner** who has moved to the LSE.

We wish her well.



In turn, in January we will welcome **Magnus Marsden** as a new professor in the department.

Magnus specialised initially in Islam in Central and South Asia and the lived experience of Islamizing processes in northern

Pakistan. Thereafter, with the aim of contributing to anthropological conceptualisations of 'the region', he has explored the Afghanistan-Pakistan-Tajikistan borderland as a setting for interactions between Muslims from across Cold War boundaries.

Having begun his research on this theme with mobile individuals and families within the region – ranging from traders, former mujahidin fighters, returnee refugees, religious pilgrims, and local development workers, he has since commenced a new project. This is a Leverhulme supported project on 'Islam, Trade and Citizenship Across the Frontiers of South and Central Asia', involving fieldwork on the values attached to

trade, as well as the complex relations that traders evince with the goods in which they deal, and the communities amongst whom they live. His fieldwork is with diasporic Afghan merchants, from a diverse range of social, ethnic and political backgrounds, who work in a range of settings across the breadth of the former Soviet Union.



The Chitral Police special branch attend the annual Shandur Pass Polo tournament

New Grants

Geert De Neve and Rebecca Prentice have received \$19,750



from the Wenner Gren Foundation for an international workshop at

Sussex in June 2014.

Accounting for "Health and Safety" in the Global Garment Industry

Participants will focus on the contradictions apparent in the free market governmentality of the global garment industry where risks of injury, ill health, and even death remain rampant despite more than 30 years of corporate self-regulation.

Anne-Meike Fechter has been awarded an 18-month Leverhulme Research Fellowship:

Alternative Actors in Development: Understanding the role of "Do-it-yourself Aid"

The project will focus on new actors in the global arena through investigating a recent phenomenon, described as 'Do-It-Yourself Aid'. This consists of individuals from the Global North who set up their own development initiatives in low-income countries. The project aims to assess their role as alternative actors on the margins of the established aid system, as well as probing their significance in the broader framework of neo-liberal development agendas and practices.



Dinah Rajak has been awarded an ESRC seminar series grant on the theme:

Doing Good by Doing Well: Capitalism, Humanitarianism

and International Development

The series is part of the Centre for New Economies for Development, a collaboration between Dinah, Sussex alumni Jamie Cross and Alice Street (now at Edinburgh) and Catherine Dolan at SOAS.



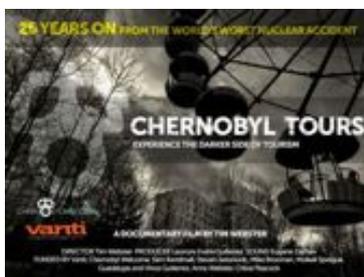
Our Students

Kachin Day of Solidarity and Celebration
A free family event at Brighton Museum & Art Gallery and Brighton Dome. 28 September 2013, 11am - 3pm.



Gumring Hkangda, ADST MA Student and James Henry Green Asia scholar, has helped to curate a celebration of the Kachin community from northeastern Burma.

Join in at the Brighton Dome on September 28th, 11am - 3pm



MA student **Tim Webster** has made a 20 minute ethnographic documentary on tourism in Chernobyl.

See the trailer at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HY6fvhUEug&feature=youtu.be>



MA Student **Chantel Ingarfield** was interviewed in the Indian press on her dissertation research in Goa.

Warrior for Weaving
Inspired by her family's love for traditional textiles, Chantel Ingarfield decided to do her final dissertation for her MA on the decline of the Goan handloom industry. She shares her findings.



Critical Debates With(in) Development: Power, Resilience and Change Post-Graduate Conference June 2013



Prof. Melissa Leach (IDS) introducing the conference

Critical Debates With(in) Development: Power, Resilience and Change was the theme of an inaugural post-doctoral development studies conference, hosted at Sussex on the 13th-14th June 2013. It was made possible through generous funding from the Doctoral School's Researcher-Led Initiatives Fund, as well as support from the School of Global Studies, the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), and the student branch of the Development Studies Association (DSA). Described as a "model for the future" by Professor Andrea Cornwall, the event reflected a collaboration between IDS and the Department of Development Studies at Sussex at all levels. This included the combination of faculty who acted as chairs and speakers, and the doctoral student organising team which bridged the two institutions (Althea Rivas and Suhas Bhasme, Development Studies; Anneke Newman and Ejiro Onomake, Social Anthropology; Shilpi Srivastava and Jennifer Pollex, IDS).

The importance of engaging critically with international development theory and practice was highlighted in an opening speech by Prof Melissa Leach (IDS), tracing the history of debates in this field. In his introduction to the day, Prof Richard Black (Sussex) added the crucial role Sussex and IDS have played in contributing to this global literature and praised the role of PhD students in creating further spaces such as this for debate.



After the speeches, participants were free to attend concurrent panel sessions of presentations from Masters' and doctoral students, and early career researchers. All were challenged to consider their work with respect to fostering original ideas,

new narratives and alternative ways of thinking about the central concepts of Power, Resilience and Change. While in dominant development paradigms certain issues can be disregarded as peripheral and unimportant, speakers turned orthodoxy on its head, drawing out the potential of such marginal issues to contribute to processes of knowledge production and transformative practice.

Due to the large volume of abstracts the organising committee received for review, those accepted reflected a high standard of original, critical scholarship. Panels were organised around the themes of Knowledge, Technology and Society; Alternative Visions of Development; Locating Resistance and Resilience; Gender and Sexuality; Geographies of Development; Power and Politics; Challenging Knowledge, Reviewing Linkages; Methodology in Development Research; Violence, Conflict and After; and Religion and Relationships in Development.

The following day, attendees were invited to participate in one of three interactive workshops: Activism in Anthropology with Prof Andrea Cornwall (Sussex); Participatory Statistics with Robert Chambers (IDS); and

Creative Writing for Academics with Kim Lasky (independent). All workshops were widely praised for being engaging and thought-provoking, with requests to facilitators to organise further similar events.

The Critical Debates Conference was the largest post-graduate event of its kind organised on the theme of development studies at Sussex to date, with over 75 presenters and participants arriving from multiple departments and schools across Sussex and IDS; 16 higher education institutions in the UK; as well as further afield including France, Switzerland, Canada, the US, Egypt, Australia, Tanzania, and Ethiopia. After the conference closing remarks, participants adjourned to Koba Bar in Brighton, to continue debate and networking over drinks and dinner. Enthusiasm was high to consolidate the networks and relationships needed to ensure the continuation of the conference for following years, including the possibility of wider inter-institutional collaborations.

Anneke Newman



Albert Arhin, Kate Neely & Hanna Ruszczyk discussing resilience



Learning about multidimensional phase space with Kate Neely

Recent PhDs



Maria Abranches explored the importance of food and plants as vehicles through which to examine the reconciliation of people's localised intimate experiences with globalising forces in the context of migration from Guinea-Bissau to Portugal. Through ethnographic fieldwork conducted in both countries, Maria traced Guinean foodstuffs from their origin sites to spaces of exchange and consumption in Portugal. She examined, first, the significance of the Guinean land where the produce grows. Second, the adaptations that take place in Guineans' relationship with that land when it 'travels' – through its food and plants – to Portugal. Third, food-related ways in which the past, present and future of a Guinean life-world that is 'disrupted' by migration are brought together through memory practices and future projects of migration and return. Finally, she examined practices of food exchange as gifts and trade across borders. By starting with production and ending with exchange practices, her work emphasises that both are not necessarily alienated from each other, even when they are physically distant, and that the unique relationships they generate enable Guineans' local life-worlds to be connected in a transnational context.

For her research **Anna Stewart** conducted fieldwork in four Evangelical Christian congregations in Brighton, focusing particularly on the ways in which women in these Churches incorporated the internet into their religious lives. While all Evangelical Christians are highly concerned with the production and dissemination of inspired language, women are a group for whom verbal communication is fraught with spiritual hazard, as illustrated by the injunctions against female preachers upheld in many churches. In this context, women's spiritual communication is often tied to domestic contexts, personal narratives, and the unspoken testimony of daily life. The technologies of the internet, whose emerging genres challenge boundaries between public and private, bodies and texts, can cast a greater illumination on this inward-focused labour.



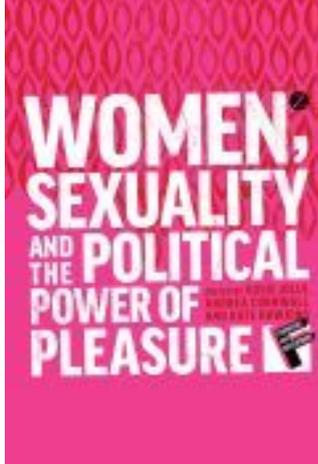
Anna has found that the extensive use of platforms like Facebook and Twitter by these women can be examined as part of a wider ritual habitus. Her work therefore merges online and offline research as she considers the various routes through which women both perform and resist their own marginality in the lives of their churches and the wider context of a fallen nation.



Jonathan Newman's ethnographic research in Colombia sought to understand how coffee farmers live with high levels of violence and impunity, and how ethical trading companies that work with coffee producers integrate strategies to deal with the violence into their programmes. Coffee is produced in many of the countries that have the world's highest homicide rates and ethical trading companies are operating in most of these locations. Yet, despite representing the marketing of morality in production and exchange, ethical trading companies do not directly deal with the issues of violence that are so prevalent in many places of production. Jonathan's thesis argues that when interventions based on an economic morality are made in local economies in violent places there needs to be a more informed understanding of the violence and security in production.



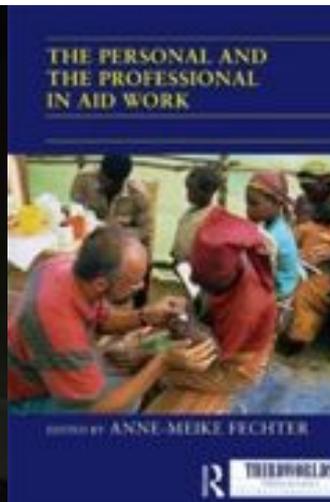
Hot Off the Press!



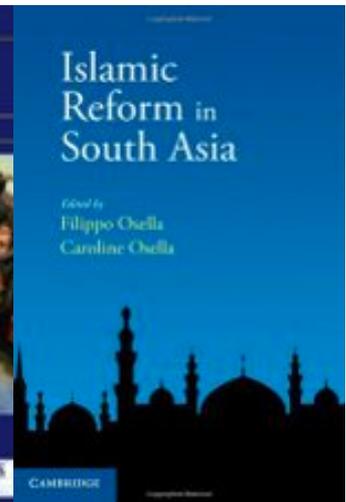
Women, Sexuality, and the Political, Power of Pleasure, edited by Susie Jolly, **Andrea Cornwall** & Kate Hawkins (Zed Books, 2013)



Framing Africa: Portrayals of a Continent in Contemporary Mainstream Cinema, edited by **Nigel Eltringham** (Berghahn, 2013)



The Personal and the Professional in Aid Work, edited by **Anne-Meike Fechter** (Routledge, 2013)



Islamic Reform in South Asia, edited by **Filippo Osella** & Caronline Osella. (Cambridge University Press, 2013)

Places for All? A Multi-Media Investigation of Citizenship, Work and Belonging in a Fast-Changing Provincial City



Ben Rogaly



Raminder Kaur

With residents of Peterborough as its focus, the Sussex University based project 'Places for All?' explores the multiple and diverse place attachments and work and migration histories of people of all ethnic backgrounds, from people born in the city to those who arrived very recently.

Oral history and residential fieldwork are at the heart of the work, which draws on the stories of over one hundred people and it turns on their head narratives that posit long-settled ethnic majority communities as 'indigenous' and understandably resentful of the presence of ethnic minorities and the arrival of international migrants.

Transcripts from life history interviews are being prepared for deposit in the city archives; research participants and other residents have been involved with the production of film, theatre and photography that has engaged non-traditional arts audiences at locations including an historic Sunni mosque, Peterborough United Football Club stadium, a weekly car boot sale, an Anglican church, and a community allotment initiative.

Collaborating closely with Peterborough-based grass-roots organisations, individual artists and community activists, the project has explored some of the possibilities of working across boundaries of belonging to particular neighbourhoods, ethnic and faith groups. Taken as a whole it offers critical analysis of how contemporary capitalism sustains and exacerbates class inequalities.

At a time of massive spending cuts, including cuts to welfare benefits,

increasing inequality, and growing workplace precarity, the project thus works against tendencies that seek to divide people experiencing various forms of dispossession.

For more information see:

<http://placesforall.co.uk>



Paul Boyce and **Elizabeth Engebretsen** have set up the

European Network for Queer Anthropology (ENQA)

For more information see:

<http://www.easaonline.org/networks/enqa/index.shtml>

European Network for Queer Anthropology (ENQA).



Sussex Anthropology: Who We Are

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