

Third World Politics Research Group Programme 2010/2011

Semester 1

6 October: Reading Group

Theme: *Situating the Third World Politics Group.*

Reading: Satya P. Mohanty (1995) "Colonial Legacies, Multicultural Futures: Relativism, Objectivity, and the Challenge of Otherness" in PMLA (Special Topic: Colonialism and the Postcolonial Condition), volume 110, number 1, pp. 108-118, and Ben White (1999) "Defining the Intolerable: Child Work, Global Standards and Cultural Relativism" in Childhood, volume 6, number 1, pp. 133-144.

10 November: Reading Group

Theme: *The Challenges of Fieldwork, particularly the Interviewing Process.*

Reading: Wanda Vradi (2010) "Dr Strangelove, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying about Methodology and Love Writing" in Millennium 39 (1): pp. 79-88.

23 November: Presentation

Title: *The Origins of the Voluntary Sector and Non-Governmental Organizations in Africa.*

Speaker: Dr. Michael Jennings (School of Oriental and African Studies).

Semester 2

9 March: Reading Group Meeting

Theme: *Localism and Local Perspectives in Third-World Politics.*

Reading: Giles Mohan and Kristian Stokke (2000) "Participatory Development and Empowerment: The Dangers of Localism" in Third World Quarterly 21 (2): pp. 247-268.

11 May: Presentation

Title: *"Moral Hypochondria, Moral Responsibility and Fieldwork: Studying Local Politics in West Africa"*

Speaker: Prof. Richard Rathbone (School of Oriental and African Studies & Aberystwyth University)

10 June: Workshop

Theme: *Unpacking 'the Local' in Research and Practice.*

Guest speaker: Dr Devon Curtis (Cambridge University)

Inspired by the discussion of the Mohan and Stokke article in the March reading group, the aim of the event was to explore further the different meanings of, and ways in which, we use 'the local' in our research. The workshop consisted of two panels; Dr Devon Curtis was invited as a guest speaker, and she discussed the role of local knowledge in peace-building with a particular focus on the Great Lakes Region of Africa. Other speakers included Anja Gebel, Clare Paine, Carl Death and Sarah Jenkins who explored the meaning and role of 'the local' in their own research.